

**MONGET (JOSEPH WILLIAM) PAPERS**

Mss. 2929

Inventory

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections  
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library  
Louisiana State University Libraries  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

Revised 2008, 2021

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**Use of manuscript materials.** If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please place a request via the Special Collections Request System. Consult the Container List for location information.

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**Publication.** Readers assume full responsibility for compliance with laws regarding copyright, literary property rights, and libel.

Proper acknowledgement of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

**SUMMARY**

<b>Size.</b>	0.5 linear feet and 13 manuscript volumes
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Louisiana, particularly near New Orleans
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1898-1944
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1912
<b>Language.</b>	English
<b>Summary.</b>	Photographs of the flood of 1912 and of dam construction near New Orleans on the Mississippi River. Also contains diaries from 1898 through 1919, survey notebooks, and a guest register for the Riverside Lodge in Baton Rouge.
<b>Organization.</b>	Chronological
<b>Restrictions on access.</b>	None.
<b>Related collections.</b>	None.
<b>Copyright.</b>	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
<b>Citation.</b>	Joseph William Monget Papers, Mss. 2929, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack location(s).</b>	W:16, J:29

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Joseph William Monget, born in 1897, was a civil engineer and surveyor from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He was also a State River Engineer and a member of the Louisiana Board of Engineers.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Contained in the collection are Monget's photographs of the Mississippi River flood of 1912 and the subsequent damming of the river. Other papers include receipts, advertisements concerning the construction of mounds in the Lafourche and Pontchartrain Levee Districts, and specifications of work and materials for repair work to an iron bridge in Port Hudson, La.

Manuscript volumes include diaries (1898-1919), survey notebooks (1899, 1906, 1919), an unbound account book (1899-1905), and a guest register for Riverside Lodge in Baton Rouge, a hotel owned by H. Shorten Monget (1923-1938, 1943-1944).

### **COLLECTION DESCRIPTION**

The collection contains advertisements concerning the construction of mounds on levees in the Lafourche Levee District (October 2, 1899) and the Pontchartrain Levee District (October 1899), receipts for payment on the purchase of a lot in Ascension Parish (August-November 1911), a notarized statement by Monget's sister acknowledging that her brothers are not responsible for payment of a debt (March 1929), and specifications of work and materials for repair work to an iron bridge in Port Hudson, La. (undated). Also included are 170 photographs of the Mississippi River flood of 1912 and efforts at flood control near New Orleans. Monget himself was the engineer in charge of the project, and several of the photographs contain his image and the images of workers, foremen, and supervising contractors (detailed list of photographs follows).

Manuscript volumes include diaries containing scant information on Joseph Monget's whereabouts and appointments. The diaries often list where Monget was traveling, how long he was staying, and sometimes the purpose of his travels (1898-1919). Also included are survey notebooks containing calculations and figures (1899, 1906, 1919), an unbound account book (1899-1905), and a guest register for Riverside Lodge in Baton Rouge, a hotel owned by H. Shorten Monget (1923-1938, 1943-1944). The register contains signatures of guests attending specific parties.

#### List of Photographs:

1. Men unloading piling and lumber, machinery, and nails. Taken at 10:45 am July 17, 1912.
2. Looking from north side to south side. Taken at 10:55 am July 17, 1912.
3. Men constructing electric light plant with men in rear building camp, kitchen, and dining rooms. Taken at 12:12 pm July 17, 1912.
4. Unloading piling from barge *King Alfred*, using mules. Taken at 3:30 pm July 17, 1912.
5. Pile driver men arrived at dam from pile drivers. Taken at 12:00 pm July 17, 1912.
6. Pile drivers arrived on north shore and two barges of lumber. Taken at 4:15 pm July 18, 1912.
7. Unloading barge of lumber. Taken at 5:25 pm July 18, 1912.
8. Progress made in construction of kitchen and dining rooms. Taken at 11:00 am July 19, 1912.
9. Looking directly north from south end of dam location. Taken at 1:25 pm July 19, 1912.

10. Looking directly west from east side of levee. Taken at 1:30 pm July 19, 1912.
11. Looking directly east from top of levee. Taken at 1:45 pm July 19, 1912.
12. View of four pile drivers USA barge loaded with piles. USA barge with pile drivers on left and barge with air compressor on right. Camera pointed southwest. Taken 11:45 am July 23, 1912.
13. View of piling, pile, and barges. Camera pointed south. Taken at 11:50 am July 23, 1912
14. View of USA barge loaded with heavy timber and USA barge partly loaded with piling; also lumber yard and sheet piling. Camera pointed about east. Taken at about 11:55 am July 23, 1912.
15. View of air compressor barge on north shore of upper gap, near lumber yard. Camera pointed southeast. Taken at 12:00 pm July 23, 1912
16. View of officers and foremen's mess rooms. W. M. Wren, S. G. Crosserx, Mr. Baldwin, and A. W. Jackman and foremen at dinner. Taken from window in office. Camera pointed north. Taken at 12:10 pm July 23, 1912.
17. View of land driver at lumber yard. Camera pointed south. Taken at 1:20 pm July 23, 1912.
18. View of center of dam taken from moving gasoline launch. Camera pointed east. Taken at 3:25 pm July 23, 1912.
19. View of center of dam looking south. Deck of driver #4 and driver #3 hoisting a pile. Taken at 4:00 pm July 23, 1912.
20. General view in vicinity of dining room. Camera pointing northeast. Taken at 4:15 July 23, 1912.
21. Piling being pulled preparatory to bracing and deck of driver #4. Camera pointed south. Taken at 4:40 pm July 23, 1912.
22. View unloading barge and piling lumber in yard. Camera pointing east. Taken at 5:20 pm July 23, 1912.
23. Starting bracing at north end of work. Camera pointing south. Time 5:35 pm July 23, 1912.
24. Blacksmith shop and electric light plant. Camera pointed west. Time 6:39 am July 24, 1912.

25. Mike Florane and his crew of pile drivers who arrived this morning. Camera pointed north. Taken at 7:55 am July 24, 1912.
26. Piling near center of dam, north side drivers 3 and 4 driving US barge loaded with piling. Camera pointed southeast. Time 9:20 am July 24, 1912.
27. Making sheet piling. Camera pointing southeast. Time 11:45 am July 24, 1912.
28. Colored men's mess hall. Camera pointing south. Time 12:00 pm July 24, 1912.
29. East portion of lumber yard with gang of laborers at work. Camera pointed west. Time 1:00 pm July 24, 1923.
30. Showing progress of pulling piles. View from north to south. Time 1:45 pm July 24, 1912.
31. Kitchen and cooks. Time 3:30 pm July 24, 1912.
32. Portion of dam braced with 8x10 beams and portion of US barge loaded with 8 x 10 timbers. Workmen unloading and bracing. Camera pointed south. Time 8 am July 25, 1912.
33. Unloading 8x10 timbers into water to be used for bracing. Camera pointed southeast. Time 8:20 am July 25, 1912.
34. Unlabeled, undated.
35. Driver #1 hoisting 8x10 timber and workmen bracing. Camera pointing north. Time 10:00 am July 25, 1912.
36. Captain M. P. Doullut and photographer Rojas. Undated
37. View from rear of dam showing bracing. Undated
38. Using compressed air borer, preparatory to bolting 8x10 timber and piles. Camera pointing southwest. Time 11:10 am July 25, 1912.
39. Mr. W. H. Williams and photographer Schnetzler. Undated
40. Showing progress of bracing north end of dam. J. W. Monget, State Engineer in charge to left inspection details. Also barge loaded with bracing. Time 2:35 pm July 25, 1912.
41. General view of dam looking from north to south, showing progress of bracing. J. W. Monget, State Engineer in charge, Asst. Engineer Jackman, and Superintendent Crossen to the right of photos. Time 2:55 pm July 25, 1912.

42. Taken from large pile of sheet piling showing barges loaded with lumber and drivers in operation of bracing. J. W. Monget, State Engineer in charge on barge. Camera pointing southwest. Time 4 pm July 25, 1912.
43. Taken from US barge #28 about 300 ft from north bank, showing bracing and workmen on raft between piling. Time 4:20 pm July 25, 1912.
44. Reel of 1" wine rope. Time 4:55 pm July 25, 1912.
45. Bolts 36" long to be used for bracing. Time 5:15 pm July 25, 1912.
46. J. W. Monget, State Engineer in charge inspecting newly arrived materials on board barge Wren of Mobile. Time 8 am July 26, 1912.
47. Bracing on south side of dam with driver #1 at work. Time 8:45 am July 26, 1912
48. Tug *Polo* preparing to tow barge load of sheet piling.
49. Showing sharp-cut end of levee on south bank of Hymelia crevasse and entrance of crevasse on Mississippi River. Camera pointing south east. Time 9:35 am July 26, 1912.
50. Barge *S. B. & L.* of the Salmen Brick & Lumber Co., of Slidell, La. Loaded with lumber and landing at lumberyard on north bank of crevasse. Towed by gasoline launch *Cannon Ball*. Time 9:55 am July 26, 1912.
51. J. W. Monget, State Engineer in charge, directing beginning of sheet pile driving on north bank. Drivers #4 and 5. Time 11:55 am July 26, 1912.
52. Driver #4 driving sheet piling at north end of dam. J. W. Monget, State Engineer in charge, inspecting work. Time 1:30 pm July 26, 1912.
53. Driver #4 at work on north end of dam driving sheet piling. Time 1:40 pm July 26, 1912.
54. Contractor W. M. Wren, J. W. Monget, State Engineer in charge and Supt. Crossen inspecting driving of sheet piling on north end of dam. Driver #4 at work. Time 2:20 pm July 26, 1912.
55. East section of lumberyard showing men at work unloading barge *S. B. & L.* #4
56. Placing 10x12 timber for waling. Time 4:30 pm July 26, 1912.
57. Section of sheet piling showing tongues and grooves. Time 6:10 am July 26, 1912.
58. Unloading barge of lumber near dam. Time 7 am July 27, 1912.



59. Placing timber for track of driver #4 on north shore of crevasse. Time 7:50 am July 27, 1912.
60. Making sheet piling in lumber yard on west side of ditch. Time 8:15 am July 27, 1912.
61. Placing rail for driver #4 on north shore of crevasse. Time 8:35 am July 27, 1912.
62. Gang of workmen rolling sheet piling preparatory to rafting and towing to dam. Lumber yard east side of ditch. Time 8:55 am July 27 1912.
64. Driver #4 at north end of dam hoisting first sheet piling from water. J. W. Monget, State Engineer in charge and W. M. Wren directing work. Time 9:15 am July 27, 1912.
65. Driver #4 swinging around, showing full view of sheet piling. J. W. Monget State Engineer in charge and W. M. Wren watching. Time 9:17 am July 27, 1912
66. Driver #4 driving first sheet piling at north end of dam. W. M. Wren and J. W. Monget directing. Time 9:20 am July 27, 1912.
67. Showing heads of several sheet piling driven at north end of dam. Time 11am July 27, 1912.
68. Driving sheet piling, showing how closely connected. Time 11:05 am July 27, 1912.
69. Driving sheet piling. Time 11:10 am July 27, 1912.
70. Driving sheet piling at north end of dam. Time 11:50 am July 27, 1912.
71. Taken from dam about 300' from north shore showing part of heavy timber bracing. Time 1:30 pm July 27, 1912.
72. Showing sharp-cut end of levee on south bank of Hymelia crevasse and entrance of crevasse of Mississippi River. Time 9:55 am July 26, 1912. Shows break in levee through which crevasse flowed. To right 600' is steam derrick 75' tall used by U.S. government in attempt to close crevasse. X shows gauge 12' tall used by engineer to determine rise and fall of crevasse. On horizon is opposite bank of Miss. River 2 mi. away. Crown of levee about 25' above water at that time.
72. Barge *Bisso* #4 loading sheet piling to be carried to south side of dam. Time 1:50 pm July 27, 1912
73. Front view of *Polo* unloading ice and supplies on north shore. Time 10:50 am July 28, 1912
74. Side view of *Polo* unloading ice supplies on north shore. Time 10:50 am July 28, 1912.

75. General view of lumberyard, dining quarters, loaded barge and part of dam. July 28, 1912.
76. Partial view of crevasse lake back of dam. Camera pointing southwest. July 28, 1912.
77. General view of dam looking from north to south. July 28, 1912.
78. Driving last sheet piling on Aug. 4, 1912 at 8:55 am.
79. View of dam with bracing completed and driving of sheet piling started. Camera pointed south.
80. End of levee and remnants of cribbing built by U.S. government on south bank of lower channel. Taken from moving barge. July 28, 1912.
81. General view of west side of dam looking south. J. W. Monget directing driving of sheet piling. Time 2:10 pm July 28, 1912.
82. Showing portion of cribbing built by U.S. government on south side of upper channel. July 28, 1912.
83. End of levee on north side of upper channel. July 28, 1912.
84. Placing rail for driver on north shore of crevasse.
84. View of gap, upper channel, Hymelia crevasse. East bank of Mississippi River in background. July 28, 1912.
85. Remains of cribbing built by U.S. government on south bank of lower channel. July 28, 1912.
86. View of gap in lower channel looking out toward Mississippi River. July 28, 1912.
87. Group of engineers and contractors at Hymelia crevasse. From left to right: J. W. Monget, engineer in charge; W. M. Wren, contractor; W. H. Williams, contractor; M. P. Doullut, contractor; A. W. Jackman, Assistant Engineer. July 28, 1912
88. Unlabeled, undated.
89. Sheet pile driving at north end of dam. Driver #4 at work. Time 7:35 am. July 29, 1912
90. Sheet pile driving at south end of dam. Pile driver #1 at work. Time 8:15 am. July 29, 1912.

91. Stopping leaks in sheet piling. Aug. 5, 1912.
92. Looking in from lower channel; dam in background. July 29, 1912.
93. View of dam taken from top of levee on south side of channel. Discharge pipe of United States Engineers dredge, *Pascagoula*, passing over dam.
94. Looking west in lower channel. Shows dam which closed crevasse in the distance. July 29, 1912
95. River entrance to upper channel taken with camera pointing obliquely up-river. July 29, 1912
96. Tug *Polo* towing barges loaded with sheet piling from lumberyard on north shore to south end of dam. W. M. Wren directing operations. Time 2:30 pm. July 27, 1912
97. Upper bank of upper channel looking out toward Mississippi River. July 29, 1912.
98. View of bank in upper channel. July 29, 1912.
99. View of bank in upper channel, upper bank, looking east. July 29, 1912.
100. View of channel on west side of dam. Camera pointing southwest. July 30, 1912.
100. Upper channel looking toward Mississippi River. Undated.
101. Driver #4 changing steam hammer for drop hammer. Time 7:00 pm, July 29, 1912.
102. Front of dam. Camera pointing northwest. July 30, 1912.
103. Driver #1 which drove 120 sheets piling in 12 hours. Foreman Charles Foght in charge. Crew composed of 10 men. South end of dam. July 30, 1912.
104. Sheet piling in position at south end of dam. Dr. Burch's residence on left. July 30, 1912.
105. General view of dam taken from an elevation on north shore. July 30, 1912.
106. Pile drivers at work and inner entrance of lower channel. Camera pointing southeast. July 30, 1912.
107. Lumber yard, dining quarters and inner entrance to upper channel. July 30, 1912.
108. Remains of cribbing built by U.S. government on south bank of lower channel.
109. Sheet piling on north end of dam. Driver #4 hoisting sheet piling out of water. Time

5:25 pm, July 30, 1912.

110. Shore of island. Camera pointed north-east. July 30, 1912.
111. Shore of island. Camera pointed south-east. July 30, 1912.
112. Shore of island with barge at inner entrance of lower channel. July 30, 1912.
113. View of dam taken from elevation of 50' on north shore showing construction and pile drivers at work. July 31, 1912.
114. Taken from elevation of 50' on north shore pointing southeast. Showing lower channel and Mississippi River in background. July 31, 1912.
115. General view of sleeping quarters for officers and men of Doullut and Williams. Taken from elevation of 50'. Camera pointing northwest. July 31, 1912.
116. Lumber yard and upper channel. Taken from an elevation of 50 feet. Camera pointing northeast. July 31, 1912.
117. Front view of dam. J. W. Monget, State Engineer in Charge, inspecting. Camera pointing southwest. Time 6:55 am. Aug. 2, 1912.
118. Full general view of dam looking south from north bank. Time 7 am. August 2, 1912.
119. Partial view of lumber yard. Unloading barge and dining quarters in background. Time 7:45 am. Aug 2, 1912.
120. View made from top of dam about 500 feet distant from north bank showing flooring and braces. J. W. Monget inspecting. Time 8:10 am. Aug. 2, 1912
121. Pile driver #2 driving sheet piling at about 550 feet from north bank. W. M. Wren directing. Time 8:25 am, Aug. 2, 1912
122. U.S. tugs. *Tuscaloosa* and *Morganza* and sections of pipe on pontoons. South section of dam in background. Time 9:05 am. Aug. 2, 1912.
123. U.S. tugs. *Tuscaloosa* and *Morganza* and sections of pipe on pontoons. South section of dam in background. Time 9:05 am. Aug. 2, 1912.
124. Showing south end of dam, loaded barge, and contractors. M. P. Doullut and W. M. Wren inspecting. Time 9:05 am. Aug. 2, 1912.
125. Sheet pile driving at south end of dam. July 29, 1912.
126. General view of dam looking south. T. J. Sellers, W. M. Wren, and M. P. Doullert.

- Time 12:40 pm. August 2, 1912.
127. Section of stack of sheet piling showing tongues and grooves. July 27, 1912.
  128. General view of dam taken from an elevation on north shore. July 30, 1912.
  129. Starboard view of U.S. dredge *Pascagoula* and tug *Morganza*. Taken from island and showing part of dam. Time 2:10 pm, Aug. 2, 1912.
  130. Stern view of U.S. dredge *Pascagoula* and tugs *Tuscaloosa* and *Morganza*. Pontoons with pipe in foreground. Camp and portion of dam in background. Time 2:30 pm, Aug. 2, 1912.
  131. 400 feet of north end of dam. Camera pointed southeast. Time 3:00 pm Aug. 2, 1912.
  132. Rear view of north section of dam showing construction. Aug. 2, 1912.
  133. Driver #3 stacking sheet piling on barge at head of lumber yard. Aug. 2, 1912.
  134. W. M. Wren and M. Baldwin in office of camp. Aug. 2, 1912.
  135. Unloading barge *Wren* of Mobile. Aug. 3, 1912.
  136. Driver #3 and barge loaded with sheet piling being towed by gasoline launch *Cannon Ball*. W. M. Wren on barge directing. Time 7:20 am. Aug. 3, 1912.
  137. Force of men making sheet piling. Time 9:00 am. Aug. 3, 1912.
  138. Unlabeled, undated.
  139. End of levee and remnants of cribbing unsuccessfully built by U. S. Government on south bank of crevasse, undated.
  140. Showing current on west side of dam near center. Opening between sheet piling 150 feet. Time 2:05 pm. Aug. 3, 1912.
  141. Upper bank near river entrance of lower channel. Camera pointing north. Time 2:25 pm, Aug 3, 1912.
  142. Looking directly east from top of levee. Taken 1:45 pm. July 19, 1912
  143. Unlabeled, undated.
  144. View of dam taken from elevation of 50 feet on north shore. Shows construction and pile drivers at work. Hammer weighing 10,000 pounds, undated.

145. East side, center of dam, showing timber and workmen in current. Time 3:55 pm, Aug. 3, 1912.
146. Center of dam at 4:25 pm Aug. 3, 1912.
147. Unlabeled, undated.
148. Unlabeled, undated.
149. Unlabeled, undated.
150. Men making sheet piling in lumber yard. July 27, 1912
151. Showing current through opening. Time 6:10 am, Aug 4, 1912
152. Unlabeled [Starboard view of U. S. dredge *Pascagoula* and tug *Morganza*. Taken from island and showing part of dam. Time 2:10 pm, Aug. 2, 1912].
153. Rafts ready to be towed by gasoline launch *Cannon Ball* from lumber yard on north shore. Time 9:05 am, July 27 1912.
154. View taken from braces middle rear of dam. Camera pointed down. Elevation about 5'. Opening between sheet piling about 10 feet. Current about 14 miles per hour. Time 7:35 am, Aug. 4, 1912
155. Placing 10"x12" timber for walling. July 26, 1912
156. Unlabeled [men on barges].
157. Starting bracing at north end of work. Camera pointing south. Time 5:35 pm, July 23, 1912
158. Unlabeled [view of river].
159. Pile driver which drove 120 heavy sheet piling in 12 hours. Crew composed of 10 men, undated.
160. Unlabeled [W. M. Wren and M. Baldwin].
161. Gasoline launch *Cannon Ball* used for towing.
162. Unlabeled [front view of dam].
163. Unlabeled [opening between piling].
164. Unlabeled [men working on dam].

165. Showing portion of unsuccessful cribbing built by U.S. Government on south bank of crevasse, undated.
166. View of gap, upper channel, Hymelia crevasse. East bank of Mississippi River in background, undated.
167. Placing timber for track of driver on north shore of crevasse. July 27, 1912.
168. Driving sheet piling, showing how closely connected, undated.
169. Unloading barge of lumber near dam. July 27, 1912.

**INDEX TERMS**

**Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found throughout the entire collection.**

Bridges--Design and construction--Louisiana.

Dams--Design and construction--Mississippi River--Photographs.

Flood control--Louisiana.

Floods--Mississippi River.

Lafourche Basin Levee District.

Levees--Louisiana.

Monget, Joseph William, 1897-

Pontchartrain Levee District.

Riverside Lodge (Baton Rouge, La.)

Surveyors--Louisiana.



**CONTAINER LIST**

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
<b>W:16</b>	1	1a-1b	Photographs 1-10;
		2a-2b	Photographs 10-20;
		3a-3b	Photographs 21-30;
		4a-4b	Photographs 31-40;
		5a-5b	Photographs 41-50;
		6a-6b	Photographs 51-60;
		7a-7b	Photographs 61-70;
		8a-8b	Photographs 71-80;
		9a-9b	Photographs 81-90;
		10a-10b	Photographs 91-100;
	2	11a-11b	Photographs 101-110;
		12a-12b	Photographs 111-120;
		13a-13b	Photographs 121-130;
		14a-14b	Photographs 131-140;
		15a-15b	Photographs 141-150;
		16a-16b	Photographs 151-160;
		17a-17b	Photographs 161-169;
		18	Items removed from Vol. 1 (2 letters discussing late payment, 1909, 1 check, 1916) and Vol. 10 (Advertisement discussing construction of mounds on levees in the Pontchartrain Levee District, 1899) 1899-1929, undated
		19	1899-1929, undated
		20	Unbound account book, 1899-1905
<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Manuscript</u> <u>Volume</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
<b>J:29</b>	3	1	Diary, 1898
		2	Diary, 1909
		3	Diary, 1910
		4	Diary, 1912
		5	Diary, 1913
		6	Diary, 1915
		7	Diary, 1916
		8	Diary, 1918
		9	Diary, 1919
		10	Survey notebook, 1899
		11	Survey notebook, 1906
		12	Survey notebook, 1919
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