

**DEVALL-HYAMS FAMILY PAPERS AND PHOTOGRAPHS**  
Mss. 4242

Inventory

Compiled by  
Luana Henderson

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

2009

## CONTENTS OF INVENTORY

SUMMARY .....	3
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE .....	4
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE .....	4
LIST OF SERIES.....	5
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS .....	6
INDEX TERMS.....	8
CONTAINER LIST .....	9

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	1.5 linear ft., 1 v.
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	West Baton Rouge Parish, La., New Orleans, La., Georgia.
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1824-1825, 1897-1977.
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	1906-1913, 1918.
<b>Languages</b>	English.
<b>Summary</b>	The Devall-Hyman family papers and photographs consist of personal correspondence, legal documents, genealogies, and family photographs that reflect family matters, personal activities, financial affairs, and to a lesser degree sugarcane and Orange Grove Plantation in West Feliciana Parish, La.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Photographic negatives in box 7 are not to be accessed.
<b>Reproduction Note</b>	May be reproduced.
<b>Copyright</b>	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
<b>Related Collections</b>	Thomas Devall Act of Sale, Mss. 850; Buhler Family Papers, Mss. 1210, 1311.
<b>Citation</b>	Devall-Hyams Family Papers and Photographs, Mss. 4242, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack Location</b>	T:31-32, J:20.

### **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

David Devall, born in 1842, was a Confederate soldier, politician, and sugar planter of Orange Grove Plantation, West Baton Rouge, La. He was one of several children born to Charles Devall and Elizabeth Taber of West Baton Rouge Parish. Among his siblings was sister, Lillie, who in 1869 married Charles H. Dickinson of Iberville Parish. David Devall married Amelia Cobb (b. 1848) in 1868, the daughter of Stephen C. Cobb and Elizabeth Edith Devall of West Feliciana Parish. Together they had thirteen children, several of which died young. Their eldest son, David, Jr., married Susie L. Patrick of New Orleans, La. Other children included Benjamin, who served in the military during World War I. Daughters, Charlotte, married Charles H. Dickinson of Iberville Parish, and Sarah (Sadie) married Henry Comer of Vicksburg, Miss. Amelia died in 1910. David followed her three years later. The Hyams and Devall families were related by marriage through Edith Hyams. They are also related by marriage to the Smith, Buhler, and Taber families.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Devall-Hyman family papers and photographs consist of personal correspondence, legal documents, genealogies, and family photographs. Papers reflect family matters, personal activities, financial affairs, land transactions, and to a lesser degree Orange Grove Plantation and sugarcane. Letters of Lillie Dickinson and Susie Devall comprise a large portion of the correspondence (1904-1913), as do the letters of Benjamin Devall (1918).

**LIST OF SERIES**

**Series I. Genealogical material, 1824-1977.**

**Series II. Personal papers, 1874-1942 (bulk 1906-1913).**

**Series III. Photographs, ca. 1880-1923, 1972, undated.**

**Subseries 1. Hyams family photographs, 1915, undated.**

**Subseries 2. Devall family photographs, ca. 1880-1923, 1972, undated.**

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

### **Series I. Genealogical material, 1824-1977.**

This series relates to the family history of the Devall and related Hyams, Smith, and Taber families. Material is comprised of records [photocopies], newspaper clippings [photocopies], notes, and a death notice for David Devall (1913). Records include a typed translation of David Devall's 1804 baptismal certificate [photocopy] (Feb. 17, 1977), marriage bonds for Frances Taber (June 24, 1824), Emily Taber (Jan. 12, 1825), pages from Emily Taber's bible containing family births, marriages, and deaths (1812). Clippings report on the deaths Sue Devall, Amelia Louise Cobb Devall, Mary Hyams, Edith Hyams Devall, and Abraham Cohn Labatt (undated). A newspaper photograph shows Leah, Amelia, and Page Devall (Nov. 3, 1964). Papers relating to the Hyams family consist of a few genealogical notes (undated) and newspaper clippings (undated). A published article, *Guide to Your Own Roots* (1977) written by Jere Duvall is also present.

### **Series II. Personal papers, 1874-1942 (1906-1913).**

Papers consist of family correspondence and legal documents. Correspondence written to David Devall from his sister and children comprises a large part of this series, relating family news, health concerns, and financial affairs. In her letters from New Orleans, Sue Devall, the widow of David Devall, Jr., frequently requests funds from a financial account that is apparently controlled by her father-in-law, David Devall (1904-1913). Letters also comment on the presidential election (Sept. 28, Dec. 1, 1912) and possible flooding (Apr. 15, 1913). In his letters, Devall offers financial advice to family members, and he comments on planting and cutting sugarcane. He explains to his aunt the best course of action to take in a property transaction [photocopy, no original] (Feb. 15, 1874). Correspondence of Benjamin Devall describes his activities while training at Camp Gordon, Ga. (1918). He remarks that because of the decrease in flu cases the quarantine will be lifted (Oct. 27, 1918). Mary Randall, a friend, writes about of her father's participation in the Civil War (Mar. 22, 1912).

Legal documents relate to Boykin family land transfers (Mar.-Apr. 1913, June 29, 1928), the succession of Arthur P. Devall (June 30, 1937), and assigning power of attorney to Frank N. Boykin for Charlotte Devall Boykin Alleman (Sept. 19, 1942). An address book lists businesses and individuals (1896).

### **Series III. Photographs, ca. 1880-1923, ca. 1972, undated.**

#### **Subseries 1. Hyams family photographs, 1915, undated.**

Hyams family photographs contain portraits of Inez Hyams (undated), her husband Albert Kidder (1915), Joseph Hyams, and Elizabeth Hyams (undated), Leadaeg (?) Hyams Starr (undated) and her husband, David Starr (undated)

**Subseries 2. Devall family photographs, ca. 1880-1923, 1972, undated.**

Devall family photographs consist of tintypes (ca. 1880-1900), card photographs, photographic postcards, studio portraits, snapshots, and negatives of snapshots in the collection [access restricted]. The majority of photographs depict unidentified persons, structures, buildings, and locations. Photographs of identified Devall family members include David Devall (undated), his children, David, Jr. (undated), Benjamin (undated), and Charlotte (undated), and his sister Lillie Dickinson (undated). Other photographs include the Devall family gathered on the plantation house porch (undated), Orange Grove Plantation sugarhouse and Ione Burden (May 1914), and an unidentified African American sugarhouse worker (undated).

**INDEX TERMS**

<b>Index Terms</b>	<b>Series</b>
Buhler family.	<b>I</b>
Camp Gordon (DeKalb County, Ga.)	<b>II</b>
Decedents' family maintenance--Louisiana.	<b>II</b>
Devall family.	<b>I-III</b>
Devall, David, 1842-1913.	<b>I-III</b>
Genealogies.	<b>I</b>
Hyams family.	<b>I, III</b>
Influenza--Georgia--DeKalb County.	<b>II</b>
Land titles--Registration and transfer--Louisiana.	<b>II</b>
Louisiana--History--19 <sup>th</sup> century.	<b>II</b>
Louisiana--History--20 <sup>th</sup> century.	<b>II</b>
New Orleans (La.)--Social life and customs--20 <sup>th</sup> century.	<b>II</b>
Orange Grove Plantation (La.)	<b>II-III</b>
Plantation owners--Louisiana--West Baton Rouge Parish.	<b>I-III</b>
Quarantine--Georgia--DeKalb County.	<b>II</b>
Smith family.	<b>I</b>
Sugar plantations--Louisiana--West Baton Rouge Parish.	<b>II-III</b>
Sugarcane--Louisiana--West Baton Rouge Parish.	<b>II</b>
Taber family.	<b>I</b>
United States. Army. Military life.	<b>II</b>
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Veterans.	<b>I-II</b>
Widow's allowance--Louisiana--20 <sup>th</sup> century.	<b>II</b>
Women--Louisiana--Social life and customs--20 <sup>th</sup> Century.	<b>II-III</b>
World War 1914-1918--United States--Georgia--Personal narratives.	<b>II</b>



CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
T:31	1	1-3	<b>Series I. Genealogical material (1824-1977, undated).</b>
T:31	2	1-12	<b>Series II. Personal papers (1874-1942, undated).</b>
J:20			v. 1. Address book (1896).
			<b>Series III. Photographs (1910-1923, 1972, undated).</b>
T:31	3	1-4	Hyams family photographs (1915, 1927, undated).
	3	5-14	Devall family portraits, snapshots (1910-1923, 1972, undated).
T:32	4	1-10	Devall family cabinet photographs, photographic postcards, snapshots (undated).
	5		Devall family tintypes (undated).
	6		Devall family snapshots (undated).
	7		Photographic negatives (undated) [access restricted. Do not page].
	8		Hyams family photographs tintype (undated).