

**BASS-FARRAR FAMILY PAPERS**

Ms. 4907

Inventory

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

2004  
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**SUMMARY**

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Size</b>                 | 0.5 linear ft.   |
| <b>Geographic Locations</b> | Louisiana, Mississippi   |
| <b>Inclusive Dates</b>      | 1827-1918  |
| <b>Bulk Dates</b>           | 1829-1843, 1858-1867   |
| <b>Languages</b>            | English  |
| <b>Summary</b>              | Family papers of the Bass and Farrar families primarily include correspondence, legal documents, and financial records related to family matters, plantation management, life along the Mississippi River, the Civil War, and slavery. |
| <b>Access Restrictions</b>  | A curator's permission is required to access the item in the vault.  |
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| <b>Related Collections</b>  | Henry Brown Richardson and Family Papers, Ms. 2987, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.  |
| <b>Citation</b>             | Bass-Farrar Family Papers, Ms. 4907, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.   |
| <b>Stack Locations</b>      | OS:B, R:41, VAULT:4  |

### **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

This collection contains papers from three related and allied families, the Bass, Farrar, and Richardson families, all of which lived in or near Tensas Parish, Louisiana.

Elijah (1793-1835) and Elizabeth Bass (died approximately 1858) lived on and operated Myrtle Grove Plantation near Waterproof, Tensas Parish and had two children who lived into adulthood: Job (October 20, 1826-May 23, 1857) and Augustus E. (Elijah) Bass (1834-approximately 1905). After Elijah's death and some time before May 16, 1836, Elizabeth married Dr. Jacob H. Foreman (sometimes spelled as Forman), who died before March 1844. Augustus inherited Myrtle Grove from Elizabeth when she died. Augustus served as a private in the Confederate Army as a member of a battery of light artillery until January 12, 1863, when he was discharged by providing a substitute soldier.

The Bass family was related to the Farrar family through the marriage of Augustus and Jane Kempe (called Jenny or Jennie) Farrar (died 1918), daughter of Anna Marie Girault (died 1885) and Thomas P. (Prince) Farrar. Jenny and Augustus lived most of their lives on Myrtle Grove. Thomas was an attorney of Vidalia and later St. Joseph, Louisiana. In addition to Jenny, Anna and Thomas had at least one other child, Anna (called Nannie or Nanny) Farrar. She married Henry Brown Richardson. The Farrars were also connected to Plassy Plantation, which was owned by Jane Kempe, the mother of Anna Marie Girault.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The family papers of the Bass and Farrar families concern family matters, personal and professional activities, maintenance and overseeing of cotton plantations before and after the Civil War, life along the Mississippi River in Tensas Parish, Louisiana and Adams County, Mississippi, life in Louisiana during the Civil War, and slavery. Included within the collection are letters between family members and between owners of plantations and their business partners, lists of slaves working on plantations, land deeds and mortgages, wills and testaments, and plantation receipts and inventories. Also within the collection is a reception card for Confederate States president Jefferson Davis and Varina Davis.

**LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES**

**Series I. Correspondence, 1829-1906, undated**

**Series II. Legal and Financial Papers, 1827-1918, undated**

**Subseries 1. Legal Papers, 1827-1918**

**Subseries 2. Financial Papers, 1830-1918, undated**

**Series III. Ephemera, circa 1840-1864, undated**

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Series I. Correspondence, 1829-1906, undated**

This series contains the correspondence of Jane Kempe, Thomas P. Farrar, Anna Girault Farrar, Elizabeth Foreman, Augustus E. Bass, and others, such as extended family members and business associates. These letters concern the families' personal affairs such as death, marriage, and inheritance; health; finances; politics; and the operation of their cotton plantations, Myrtle Grove Plantation and Plassy Plantation in Louisiana. Also, the correspondence provides information about life and agricultural production along the Mississippi River in Tensas Parish, Louisiana and Adams County, Mississippi. The bulk of the early materials are letters to Thomas P. Farrar when he lived in Washington, Mississippi and to Elizabeth Foreman while she oversaw Myrtle Grove after the deaths of her husbands. During the period just prior to and during the Civil War, there is a series of letters from John Francis Girault to his aunt Jane Kempe while John lived in New Orleans working as a cotton factor. The letters to Augustus E. Bass at Myrtle Grove make up the majority of the material during and following the Civil War. This includes a letter discharging him from service in the Confederate Army in 1863.

### **Series II. Legal and Financial Papers, 1827-1918, undated**

#### **Subseries 1. Legal Papers, 1827-1918**

This subseries contains legal documents related to the Bass and Farrar families' financial transactions, such as land deeds, land transfers, mortgages, lease agreements, and loan agreements. In addition, this subseries contains records of purchase and transfer of slaves by Elizabeth Foreman, Augustus E. Bass's substitute soldier contract, and a Reconstruction-era laborers' contract.

#### **Subseries 2. Financial Papers, 1830-1918, undated**

This subseries includes financial records of the Bass and Farrar families, including shipping records, receipts, and plantation inventories. Included among these are two inventories of slaves on Jane Kempe's Plassy Plantation, made in 1854.

### **Series III. Ephemera, circa 1840-1864, undated**

This series includes a reception card for Confederate States president Jefferson Davis and Varina Davis, poetry written by Thomas P. Farrar and S. Sprague, a Confederate States of America \$100 bill, and other ephemera.

**INDEX TERMS**

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers.

**Terms**

Adams County (Miss.)--History.  
Agriculture--Louisiana.  
Bass, Augustus E. (Elijah), 1834-1905?  
Bass, Elijah, 1793-1835.  
Bass, Jane Kempe, -1918.  
Bass, Job, 1826-1857.  
Bass family.  
Cotton growing--Louisiana.  
Cotton trade--Louisiana.  
Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889.  
Davis, Varina, 1826-1906.  
Freedmen--Employment--Louisiana.  
Farrar, Anna Marie Girault.  
Farrar, Thomas P. (Prince), -1880.  
Farrar family.  
Foreman, Elizabeth, -1858.  
Foreman, Jacob H., -1840?  
Girault, J. F. (John Francis)  
Inheritance and succession--Louisiana.  
Kempe, Jane, -1882.  
Letters (correspondence)  
Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.  
Louisiana--Social life and customs--19<sup>th</sup> century.  
Myrtle Grove Plantation (Tensas Parish, La.)  
New Orleans (La.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.  
Nugent, John.  
Plassy Plantation (La.)  
Plantations--Mississippi.  
Plantations--Louisiana.  
Plantation owners--Louisiana.  
Practice of Law--Louisiana--19<sup>th</sup> century.  
Slave bills of sale.  
Slaves--Louisiana.  
Soldiers--Louisiana.  
Richardson, Anna Farrar.  
Tensas Parish (La.)--History--19<sup>th</sup> century.  
Tensas Parish (La.)--History--20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Series**

I  
I, II.1, II.2  
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CONTAINER LIST

| <u>Stack</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Box</u> | <u>Folders</u>   | <u>Contents</u>   |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|--|---|
|              |                 |            | <b>Series I. Correspondence 1829-1906, undated</b>               |   |
| <b>R:41</b>  |                 | 1          | 1-11   | Correspondence, 1829-1850   |
|              |                 | 2          | 1-7  | Correspondence, 1851-1906, undated  |
|              |                 |            | 8  | Fragments of letters, undated   |
|              |                 |            | <b>Series II. Legal and Financial Papers, 1827-1918, undated</b> |   |
|              |                 |            | <b>Subseries 1. Legal Papers, 1827-1918</b>                      |   |
|              |                 |            | 9  | Elijah Bass land deed, lease, transfer, and bond; Elizabeth Foreman tutrix appointment, 1827-1836 |
|              |                 |            | 10   | Thomas Farrar and John Nugent loan agreement, circa 1835  |
|              |                 |            | 11   | Jacob H. Foreman bank note and bank agreement, 1838-1839  |
|              |                 |            | 12   | Elizabeth Foreman slave transfers, 1837-1844  |
|              |                 |            | 13   | Elizabeth Foreman land transfer (typescript copy), 1846   |
|              |                 |            | 14   | Jane Kempe's will, 1855   |
|              |                 |            | 15   | A. E. Bass financial contracts and mortgages, 1856-1866   |
|              |                 |            | 16   | A. E. Bass laborers' contract, 1867   |
|              |                 |            | 17   | A. E. Bass commission as police juror, 1865   |
|              |                 |            | 18   | A. E. Bass and Michael Lewis substitute soldier's contract, 1863                                  |
|              |                 |            | 19   | Jennie Bass leases and land transfers, circa 1902-1918  |
|              |                 |            | 20   | Announcement of the "Game Law," 1877  |
|              |                 | 3          | 1  | Blank government documents, circa 1835, 1865  |
|              |                 |            | <b>Subseries 2. Financial Papers, 1830-1918, undated</b>         |   |
|              |                 |            | 2  | Cotton bale count, Sept.-Nov. 1830  |
|              |                 |            | 3  | Elijah Bass shipping record, 1832   |
|              |                 |            | 4  | Elijah Bass estate receipts and inventory, circa 1835   |
|              |                 |            | 5  | Thomas Farrar bank note, 1835   |
|              |                 |            | 6  | Jacob H. Foreman receipts, 1835-1837  |
|              |                 |            | 7  | Elizabeth Foreman receipts, circa 1840  |
|              |                 |            | 8  | Elizabeth Foreman receipts and inventory, circa 1845  |
|              |                 |            | 9  | Jane Kempe plantation records and slave inventory, 1854   |
|              |                 |            | 10   | Job Bass estate inventory lists and account statement, circa 1855-1857                            |
| <b>OS:B</b>  | --              |            | 1  | Job Bass estate inventory lists and account statement, circa 1855-1857                            |
| <b>R:41</b>  |                 | 3          | 11   | A. E. Bass tax assessments, 1836, 1850-1859   |
|              |                 |            | 12   | A. E. Bass inventories and receipts circa 1860, 1880  |
|              |                 |            | 13   | Loan agreements of A. E. Bass, Elizabeth Foreman, and Job Bass, circa 1860                        |



**Stack**

**Location**

**Box**

**Folders**

**Contents**

**R:41**

3

14

Jennie Bass receipts, 1910-1918, undated

15

Unidentified receipts, undated

**Series III. Ephemera, circa 1840-1864, undated**

16

Poetry by Thomas P. Farrar and S. Sprague, circa 1840

17

Newspaper clipping regarding a fire that destroyed some of Jane Kempe's property, circa 1850

18

A. E. Bass invitation to Washington Birthday Ball, 1856

19

Reception card for Jefferson Davis and Mrs. Davis and calling card for Jane Kempe, circa 1860

20

Confederate States of America \$100 bill, 1864 (removed to VAULT:4)

21

Other ephemera, undated

**VAULT:4**

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1

Confederate State of America \$100 bill, 1864

**APPENDIX: Correspondence Index To and From Listed Individual**

| <b>Name</b>                        | <b>Box-Folder</b><br><b>(first number indicates box, second number</b><br><b>indicates folder)</b> |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Alexander, C. L.                   | 1-9  |
| Bark, Bayly N.                     | 1-10   |
| Bass, Augustus E.                  | 2-1; 2-2; 2-4; 2-5; 2-7  |
| Bass, Jane Kempe "Jenny or Jennie" | 2-6; 2-7   |
| Bass, Job                          | 1-9; 2-3; 2-5  |
| Bass, Randolph                     | 2-5  |
| Blount, Chad                       | 1-10   |
| Bradford, A. B.                    | 1-5  |
| Buckley, Martha                    | 1-10   |
| Buckley, Theo M.                   | 1-10   |
| Cabby, Lou M.                      | 1-1; 1-4   |
| Caldwell, Issac                    | 1-3; 1-5   |
| Callaghar, John                    | 2-5  |
| Canna, Wm.                         | 1-10   |
| Clark, George S                    | 1-5  |
| Crawford, A. P.                    | 1-4  |
| Cronly, Laurie                     | 1-6  |
| Cotton, P.                         | 1-3  |
| Dudley, N. A.                      | 2-6  |
| Dupey, L.                          | 1-3  |
| Farrar, Anna Marie Girault         | 1-9; 2-1; 2-2; 2-3; 2-5; 2-6   |

| <b>Name</b>           | <b>Box-Folder</b><br><b>(first number indicates box, second number</b><br><b>indicates folder)</b> |
|-----------------------|--|
| Farrar, Ned           | 2-6  |
| Farrar, Thomas Prince | 1-1; 1-2; 1-3; 1-4; 1-5; 1-6; 1-7; 1-8; 1-9; 1-10; 1-11;<br>2-4; 2-7                               |
| Foreman, Elizabeth    | 1-9; 1-10; 1-11; 2-5   |
| Foreman, Dr. Jacob H. | 1-8; 2-7   |
| Forman, S.            | 1-6; 1-7   |
| Gillard, Angilica     | 1-9  |
| Grims, P. A.          | 1-8  |
| Girault, J. F.        | 1-8; 1-9; 2-4; 2-5   |
| Harmon, George        | 1-2; 1-10  |
| Henderson, Wm.        | 1-4  |
| Howell, Margaret      | 2-1  |
| Hunter, Rob           | 1-10   |
| Hurst, Randall        | 2-5  |
| Jones, [J. F.]        | 1-8  |
| Kempe, Jane           | 1-8; 1-9; 2-1; 2-2; 2-3; 2-4; 2-5  |
| Louis, J. R.          | 2-1  |
| Maske, Wm.            | 2-7  |
| Mason, Jason          | 1-3  |
| Matthy, M. J.         | 2-1; 2-3; 2-4  |
| McCaleb, David        | 1-2; 1-3; 1-4; 1-6; 1-7  |
| Miller, A.            | 1-3  |

| <b>Name</b>                                    | <b>Box-Folder</b><br><b>(first number indicates box, second number indicates folder)</b> |
|--|--|
| Montgomery, Louisa Mary                        | 2-3; 2-5   |
| Morris, Sarah                                  | 1-10   |
| Morton, John M.                                | 1-1  |
| Nugent, John                                   | 1-3; 1-4; 1-5; 2-7   |
| Nugent, Rich                                   | 1-4  |
| Owens, Rebecca                                 | 1-10   |
| Parker, Ellethea? (Sister of Thomas P. Farrar) | 1-2  |
| Regan, Ralph                                   | 1-1; 1-3   |
| Richardson, Henry B.                           | 2-5  |
| Richardson, Anna "Nanny or Nannie" Farrar      | 2-3; 2-6   |
| Robertson, John                                | 1-2; 1-3; 1-6  |
| Roman, Caddy                                   | 2-2  |
| Rotchford, John W.                             | 2-4; 2-5   |
| Scott, James                                   | 1-6  |
| Smith, Ben O.                                  | 1-2; 1-4; 1-7; 1-8   |
| Stacy, D. F.                                   | 1-10   |
| Stillman, L. H.                                | 1-9  |
| Stone, A. B.                                   | 2-1  |
| Stringer, F.                                   | 1-9  |
| Strisyer, M. P.                                | 2-1  |

| <b>Name</b>   | <b>Box-Folder</b><br><b>(first number indicates box, second number</b><br><b>indicates folder)</b> |
|---|--|
| Wailey, Lorin   | 1-4  |
| Whitney, A. N.  | 1-1; 1-2; 1-3; 1-9   |
| Willey, Geo. (U.S. District Attorney,<br>Cleveland, Ohio) | 1-11; 2-7  |
| Windus, William   | 1-8  |
| Young, [M. T.]  | 1-8  |