

**ELIZABETH TROWBRIDGE HENSLEE COLLECTION**

Mss. 5154

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

2021

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	1.85 linear feet
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Baton Rouge, La., Franklin, La., Youngsville, La.
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1876-2004
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	1899-1960
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Summary</b>	The Elizabeth Trowbridge Henslee Collection contains personal papers, family photographs, political campaign ephemera, newspaper clippings, and cookbooks collected by the Henslee, Trowbridge, and Foster families. A significant component of the collection is the papers and correspondence of Elizabeth's grandfather, U.S. Senator and former Governor of Louisiana, Murphy J. Foster.
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<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>	Murphy J. Foster and Family Papers, Mss. 4710, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Citation</b>	Elizabeth Trowbridge Henslee Collection, Mss. 5154, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack Location(s)</b>	118:1, OS:H

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

**Mary Elizabeth Trowbridge Henslee** was born on December 8, 1915, at Dixie Plantation, the Foster family home, on the banks of Bayou Teche in Franklin, Louisiana. She was the granddaughter of Louisiana Governor and U.S. Senator Murphy J. Foster and Rose Routh Ker. Her mother, Mary Foster, was married to Dr. Paul W. Trowbridge, a dentist from Franklin who served on the Saint Mary Parish School Board. Her father was known as “Dr. Paul” and helped many Franklin residents with their dental issues for free. Elizabeth had a younger sister named Routh, born in 1922. She was a cousin of former Louisiana Governor M. J. “Mike” Foster Jr., who served two terms from 1996 to 2004.

An avid tennis player, she played in high school, where she was state champion, and in college at the Southwestern Louisiana Institute of Liberal and Technical Learning—now known as the University of Louisiana at Lafayette—where she earned her bachelor of arts degree. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

She married Harry Loraine Henslee of Nacogdoches, Texas, a graduate of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, on June 6, 1936, at Dixie Plantation. Elizabeth and Harry had two sons: Harry Loraine (Lorrie) Jr., born in 1941, and Paul, born in 1948. She was an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and when her father died on December 10, 1965, she took his place on the school board, becoming the first woman to serve on the board. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Franklin for her entire life. Elizabeth died in Baton Rouge on May 13, 2011, at the age of 95. Former LSU coach and current University of Alabama coach Nick Saban served as a pallbearer at her funeral.

**Murphy James Foster** was born on January 12, 1849, in Franklin, Louisiana. He was an attorney, Louisiana state senator from 1881 to 1892, Governor of Louisiana from 1893 to 1900, and United States Senator from 1901 to 1913. He attended college at Washington and Lee University in Virginia and Cumberland University in Tennessee, graduating in 1870. He went on to study law at the University of Louisiana—now known as Tulane University—and passed the Louisiana bar examination in 1871. He married Rose Routh Ker in 1881 at Ouida Plantation in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

Some of Foster’s main political concerns during his career were the outlawing of the Louisiana Lottery Company, efforts to protect sugar growers, flood control, and the regulation of railway rates. Many of these issues gained national attention in part thanks to his efforts. He was appointed head of the customs house in New Orleans when he completed his two Senate terms. He died in his home at the Dixie Plantation on June 21, 1921, at the age of 72.

**Dixie Plantation**, the Foster family home, built in 1835 in the Greek Revival style, is located in Franklin, Louisiana, at 11278 W. Main Street. Confederate General George Pickett (of Pickett’s Charge at the Battle of Gettysburg) was married at the home in 1851. It was purchased by Murphy J. Foster in 1883 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places on May 29, 1987.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of the personal papers and family records of Elizabeth Trowbridge Henslee. Additionally, there is correspondence and papers from her maternal grandfather, Murphy J. Foster.

The Elizabeth T. Henslee & family materials consist of baby books, wedding items, news clippings, and her college diploma. The family photographs are mainly of herself, her husband and children, other family members, pets, family vacations, and holidays.

The Murphy J. Foster materials include correspondence from before and during his time as a U.S. Senator, copies of his speeches, a list of bills he introduced in the U.S. Senate, and materials related to his travel to the Philippines as a legislator and diplomat. Most of the correspondence is from 1911 and is related to his senate re-election campaign. There are also financial records and documents concerning his estate following his death.

The collection also contains political campaign ephemera items, including buttons, magnets, and signs from statewide and national campaigns ranging from 1888 to 2004. Most of the ephemera is from Elizabeth's cousin, Mike Foster, and his campaigns for governor in 1995 and 1999.

The collection is arranged into five series: Elizabeth T. Henslee and family materials, Murphy J. Foster papers, photographs, political campaign ephemera, and miscellaneous materials. Each series is arranged chronologically for the most part.

**LIST OF SERIES**

- I. Elizabeth T. Henslee & Family Materials, circa 1881-2002, undated**
- II. Murphy J. Foster Papers, 1880-1927, undated**
- III. Photographs, 1881-1993, undated**
- IV. Political Campaign Ephemera, 1888-2004**
- V. Miscellaneous Materials, 1885-1988, undated**

**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

**I. Elizabeth T. Henslee & Family Materials, circa 1881-2002, undated**

This series contains materials that were created by or are about Elizabeth Trowbridge Henslee as well as records of the Foster, Trowbridge, and Henslee families. These materials include Elizabeth's baby book, wedding materials, college and high school items, and a baby book from her son Paul. The series also includes materials from Elizabeth's christening of the dredger ship *USS Langfitt* in Pascagoula, Mississippi, in 1946. Also included is a draft copy of an essay on Dixie Plantation (the traditional Foster family property) written and edited by her two sons in 1971, as well as various Foster family papers. Correspondence and news clippings from the Foster, Trowbridge, and Henslee families are also present. Folder 15 holds the inauguration materials from Elizabeth's cousin, M. J. "Mike" Foster, Jr., who served as governor of Louisiana from 1996-2004.

**II. Murphy J. Foster Papers, 1880-1927, undated**

This series is comprised of the papers of Elizabeth Henslee's grandfather, Murphy J. Foster, the former U.S. Senator and governor of Louisiana. Most of the correspondence included here is from April through August 1911, which was during Foster's senate re-election campaign. Also contained in the series are financial records for the Foster family, including documents pertaining to the late governor's estate. Folders 16-18 contain a copy of the senate re-election speech Foster gave in October 1911, bills he introduced in the Senate, and invitations to inauguration balls for both him and President Wilson. The series also holds materials related to Foster's visit to the Philippines as part of the delegation that traveled with Secretary of War William H. Taft to accept the key to the city of Manila in 1905. Finally, there are four publications that were owned by Murphy J. Foster stored in box 3. See the container list for exact titles.

**III. Photographs, 1881-1992, undated**

This series contains family photographs collected by Elizabeth Henslee or members of her family. Some limited family photos date back to 1881, but the bulk of them range from Elizabeth's own childhood in the 1920s to her two sons' teenage years in the 1960s. The photo albums are mostly from the 1920s and 1930s and include pictures of family members, pets, trips, and Elizabeth's home. The Henslee family photos begin after the birth of Elizabeth's oldest son Lorrie in the mid-1940s and are mostly of Lorrie and younger son Paul, family vacations, holidays, her sister Routh's visit to post-war Japan in 1947, and their home in Youngsville, La. There are also various photographs of Foster family members, a daguerreotype of Murphy J. Foster taken in Cuba, and an undated oversize photograph of the Dixie Plantation.

**IV. Political Campaign Ephemera, 1888-2004**

This series contains campaign buttons, magnets, signs, and a t-shirt from Mike Foster's political campaigns in the 1990s as well as signs, postcards, etc. for former governor Edwin Edwards. The earliest campaign buttons are from Grover Cleveland's presidential campaign in 1888 and William McKinley's presidential campaign in 1900. Also included are buttons from the 1979 Dave Treen for governor campaign, the 1960 Kennedy/Johnson

campaign, and buttons supporting Reagan/Bush and Clinton/Gore. There is also a guest pass from the Republican National Convention in New Orleans in 1988.

**V. Miscellaneous Materials, 1885-1988, undated**

This series contains a photocopy of an issue of *The University Record* from 1900 featuring a story on John Ker, the first president of The University of North Carolina (and Elizabeth Henslee's relative). Also included is a photocopy of *War Boy* by Benjamin Harrison Wilkins (1938), and an essay written about King Louis XV by an unknown author. Folder 8 contains printed materials such as an LSU commencement program from 1894, a pamphlet for a Tulane tennis tournament (1932), and a guide to the Natchez Pilgrimage for 1937. There are also unused postcards (some featuring Louisiana) and several cookbooks within this series, all of which can be found in box 3. See the container list for publication titles.



**INDEX TERMS**

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

<b>Campaign paraphernalia--Louisiana.</b>	<b>IV</b>
<b>Dixie Plantation (La.)</b>	<b>I-III</b>
<b>Edwards, Edwin W.</b>	<b>IV</b>
<b>Foster, Mike, 1930-2020.</b>	<b>I, IV</b>
<b>Foster, Murphy J. (Murphy James), 1849-1921.</b>	<b>I-III</b>
<b>Franklin (La.)</b>	<b>I-III</b>
<b>Governors--Louisiana.</b>	<b>I-IV</b>
<b>Henslee, Elizabeth Trowbridge, 1915-2011.</b>	<b>I, III, V</b>
<b>Ingalls Shipbuilding.</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Legislators--United States.</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>Louisiana. Legislature.</b>	<b>II, IV</b>
<b>Louisiana--Politics and government.</b>	<b>I-IV</b>
<b>Louisiana State Capitol (Baton Rouge, La.)</b>	<b>I-IV</b>
<b>McKinley, William, 1843-1901.</b>	<b>IV</b>
<b>Pascagoula (Miss.)</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930.</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>Southwestern Louisiana Institute.</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>United States. Congress. Senate.</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>Youngsville (La.)</b>	<b>III</b>

CONTAINER LIST

Stack

Location   Box   Folder   Contents (with dates)

<b>Series I. Elizabeth T. Henslee &amp; Family Materials, circa 1881-2002, undated</b>			
118:1	1	1	Foster family papers, miscellaneous, circa 1881-1924
		2	Foster family correspondence, 1885-2002; undated
		3	Family-related news clippings, 1886-1973, undated
		4	Trowbridge and Henslee family correspondence, 1900-1999, undated
		5	Elizabeth Trowbridge baby book, 1915
		6	Elizabeth's high school and college materials, 1931-1935
		7-9	Trowbridge-Henslee wedding, 1936
		10-11	Elizabeth's christening of the <i>USS Langfitt</i> , 1946-1947
		12	Paul Henslee baby book [w/enclosures], 1948-1963, undated
		13	Dixie Plantation, 1971, undated
		14	M. J. "Mike" Foster, Jr. inauguration materials, 1996-2000
		15	First United Methodist Church (Franklin, La.) Directory, 1997

**Series II. Murphy J. Foster Papers, 1880-1927, undated**

2	1	1	Financial records, 1887-1920, 1927
		2	Bills Introduced by Senator Foster, 56-57 <sup>th</sup> , 60 <sup>th</sup> Congress, 1899-1909
		3	Correspondence, 1880-1910
		4-11	Correspondence, March-July 1911
		12	Correspondence, August 1911-December 1920
		13	Correspondence, undated
		14	Telegrams, circa 1890-1899
		15	Telegrams, May-August 1911
		16	Speech, Foster opening his campaign for re-election to U.S. Senate, October 3, 1911
		17	Inauguration invitations [some photocopies], 1892-1913
		18	Materials re: visit to Manila, Philippines with Secretary of War William H. Taft, 1905, 1910
	3	11	Publications once owned by Murphy J. Foster, 1884-1904:

*Some Late Words About Louisiana* by T.W. Poole (May 1889)

*Supreme Court of Louisiana, Appeal from the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court for the Parish of St. Mary* (March Term, 1891)

*Rules of Order of the Senate, Regular Session of 1884* (1884)

*Prayers in the Senate of the United States* by E. E. Hale (1904)

**Stack**

<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Contents (with dates)</u></b>
<b>Series III. Photographs, 1881-1993, undated</b>			
118:1	4	--	Photograph Album, 1881-1947
	5	--	Photograph Album, 1947-1960
	6	--	Family photographs, framed photograph of Murphy Foster in Cuba, undated
		1-2	Family photographs, Foster family, circa 1885-1899
		3	Family photographs, miscellaneous, 1939-1958
		4	Family photographs, miscellaneous, circa 1993
		5	Family photographs, miscellaneous, undated
OS:H	--	OS1	Oversize photograph of Dixie Plantation, undated
<b>Series IV. Political Campaign Ephemera, 1888-2004</b>			
118:1	3	1	Campaign materials, miscellaneous, 1888-1992
		2	Edwin Edwards campaign materials, 1972-1991
		3-4	M. J. "Mike" Foster, Jr. campaign materials, 1987-2004
	7	--	"Foster for Governor" t-shirt, 1995
<b>Series V. Miscellaneous Materials, 1885-1988, undated</b>			
	3	5	Research re: Ker Family, <i>The University Record: University of North Carolina</i> , 1900 [photocopy]
		6	<i>War Boy</i> by Benjamin Harrison Wilkins, 1938 [photocopy w/handwritten notes]
		7	Writing: "King Louis XV, Madame de Pompadour, Madame du Barry," undated
		8	Printed materials, miscellaneous 1894-1937, undated
		9	Postcards, undated [some Louisiana]
		10	Cookbooks, 1885-1982, undated:
			<i>Evangeline's Creole Recipes</i> (circa 1950-1959)
			<i>Fifty Salads</i> by Thomas J. Murrey (1885)
			<i>Freddie Bailey's "Favorite" Southern Recipes</i> (undated)
			<i>A Book of Famous Old New Orleans Recipes Used in the South for More than 200 Years</i> (undated)
			<i>Mammy's Kitchen Kapers</i> (circa 1946)
			<i>Cooking Up a Campaign</i> by Thomas G. Clausen (1982)
7	--		Charm, "Key to the City of Baton Rouge," circa 1981-1988