

MELANCON FAMILY PAPERS

Mss. 5182

Inventory

Compiled by
Christopher Bienvenu

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

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SUMMARY

Size	0.3 linear ft., 1 vol., 1 OS folder
Geographic Locations	Ascension Parish, Louisiana
Inclusive Dates	1857-1993, undated
Languages	English and French
Summary	The Melancon Family Papers include family documents, correspondence, notes & writings, financial records, genealogy, and printed & graphic material. Most of the papers date from the late nineteenth century and were created or collected by Victorin Melancon, Jr. or his daughter Marguerite Marie Melancon (Landry) of Ascension Parish, Louisiana.
Access Restrictions	No restrictions. Fragile items should be examined carefully.
Reproduction Note	May be reproduced
Copyright	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
Related Collections	Victorin Melancon, Jr., Papers, Mss. 4227, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Citation	Melancon Family Papers, Mss. 5182, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	U:237, OS:M

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

The Melancons (Melansons) were among the exiled Acadian families that settled along the Mississippi River in St. James Parish, Louisiana in an area that became known as the Acadian Coast. The family later made their home in Darrow, an unincorporated community in Ascension Parish, Louisiana, across the Mississippi River from Donaldsonville. The Melancon Family Papers pertain to the descendants of Louis Etienne Melancon and Marie Louise Lanoux, specifically Victorin Melancon, Jr. and his daughter Marie. [For comprehensive genealogical information on the Melancon family, see folders 9 and 10 of box 1.]

Victorin Melancon, Jr., (1835-1914) was the son of Victorin Melancon, Sr. and Marie Sylvanie Boudreaux. He served in the Confederate Army for a short time but was discharged due to his poor health. He was a brick mason for many years and served as the chief sugar boiler of Godchaux Refinery at Reserve, Louisiana. He was married to Felicie Perpetue Melancon, and they had seven children: Constant, Gustave, Edme, Leo, Sylvanie, Marie, and Ada. He is buried in the Ascension of Our Lord Catholic Church cemetery at Donaldsonville.

Marguerite Marie Melancon (1873-1956), known as “Marie” to her family and friends, was the second youngest child of Victorin Melancon, Jr. and Marie Sylvanie Boudreaux. She lived with her family in Smoke Bend, Ascension Parish before she married Auguste Jean Baptiste Landry, who was from Darrow. The couple had five children: Edme (Mike), Gustave (Gus), Marie-Louise, Felicie, and Celine.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Melancon Family Papers include family documents, correspondence, notes & writings, financial records, genealogy, and printed & graphic material. Most of the papers date from the late nineteenth century and were created or collected by Victorin Melancon, Jr. or his daughter Marguerite Marie Melancon (Landry) of Ascension Parish, Louisiana. The collection is arranged chronologically, and some materials are in French.

Of note in folder 2 is a copy of Victorin’s discharge from the Confederate Army and a copy of his will. There is correspondence between Marie and her mother Felicie among the letters in folder 3. The school notes included in folders 4 and 5 cover the subjects of French and chemistry and were written by Marie and (most likely) her brother Constant, respectively. The published material in folder 6 includes two of Marie’s school books and a French phrasebook for American soldiers from World War I. Some of the genealogical notes (OS folder 1) were written on the reverse of three Huey P. Long flyers from 1932. There are also newspaper clippings pertaining to relatives of the Melancon family in folder 11, including several obituaries. The family photographs in folder 13 are labeled with a date (1956), but unidentified.

Note: Many of the items in this collection are fragile, specifically the song lyrics, school notes, and many of the writings. These items have been marked accordingly on the container list and should be examined carefully.

INDEX TERMS

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

Melancon, Victorin, Jr. 1835-1914.
Landry, Marguerite Marie Melancon, 1873-1956.
Letters (correspondence)
Ascension Parish (La.)—History
Ascension Parish (La.)—Genealogy
Darrow (La.)
Donaldsonville (La.)
Melancon (Family: Ascension Parish, La.)

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
U:237	1	1	Song lyrics and musical score, 1857 and undated [FRAGILE]
		2	Victorin Melancon, Jr.'s military documents and will, 1862, 1914
		3	Correspondence, 1877-1993, undated
		4-5	School notes, 1885-1888, undated [FRAGILE]
		6	Published material, 1885-1918 [FRAGILE]
	--	Vol.1	Account book, Victorin Melancon, Jr., 1878-1890
		7	Ledger pages, 1889-1890
		8	Writings and speeches, 1892-1930, undated [FRAGILE]
		9-10	Melancon family genealogy, 1914-1989, undated
OS:M	--	OS 1	Melancon family genealogy oversize, 1932
U:237	1	11	Newspaper clippings, 1935-1978, undated
		12	Prayer cards, 1956-1971
		13	Family photographs, 1956