

ALEXANDER PIERRE (A. P.) TUREAUD, JR. AND FAMILY PAPERS
Mss. 5401
Inventory

Compiled by
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Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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SUMMARY

Size	4.5 linear feet, 2 vols., 3 OS folders
Geographic Locations	New Orleans, La., Baton Rouge, La.
Inclusive Dates	1900-2023, undated
Bulk Dates	1953–2023
Languages	English
Summary	Papers related to Alexander Pierre Tureaud, Jr., first Black undergraduate to attend LSU. Papers include correspondence, the Tureaud family history, photographs, articles, and materials concerning his father, Alexander Pierre Tureaud, Sr., a prominent civil rights lawyer.
Access Restrictions	None
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	A. P. Tureaud Collection, Mss. 5222, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
Citation	Alexander Pierre Tureaud, Jr. and Family Papers, Mss. 5401, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	17:2-4, OS:T, AA:

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1953, Alexander Pierre Tureaud, Jr. became the first Black undergraduate student to attend Louisiana State University. Tureaud, Jr.'s application was initially rejected by LSU, however, with the help of his father, Alexander Pierre Tureaud, Sr., a noted civil rights lawyer from New Orleans, he was able to file a petition against the LSU Board of Supervisors and gain admission. The Board of Supervisors at the time were led by notorious segregationist lawyer Leander Perez. After an unpleasant experience coupled with an injunction from the court, Tureaud, Jr. left LSU for Xavier University of New Orleans after 55 days.

Tureaud, Jr. was born in 1936, to Alexander Pierre (A. P.) Tureaud, Sr. and Lucille Dejoie Tureaud. He grew up one of six children at 3121 Pauger Street in New Orleans' 7th Ward, now a historic landmark. Tureaud Jr.'s childhood was a lively one in their Creole neighborhood and his family entertained a diverse group of guests in their home from various walks of life, including famous civil rights lawyer and first African American Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall. Throughout his early years, Tureaud, Jr. and his family traveled all over the United States with their father, getting exposed to diverse places and experiences that would shape his curiosity and intrepidity. Tureaud, Jr. attended Valena C. Jones Elementary in New Orleans and graduated from Joseph S. Clark High School in 1953. After his short stint at LSU, he enrolled at Xavier University of New Orleans where he was president of the sophomore, junior, and senior classes and graduated in 1957 with a B.A. in Education. He then went on to earn a master's degree in Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling from Columbia University in 1958.

Tureaud, Jr. taught in New Orleans and Washington, D.C. before settling in White Plains, NY in 1960. There, he became a special education teacher and one of the first Black educators in the area. He became Assistant Director of Pupil Services in 1968, and ten years later became the Director of Special Education for White Plains Public Schools, a position he held for 18 years until his retirement in 1996. During this time he also taught at various universities as an adjunct and traveled throughout the United States and Europe on sabbatical studying different education systems.

Tureaud, Jr. did not return to LSU until the 1980s, after which he finally began to speak about his experience integrating the university and has since helped charter the university's first Black Alumni Association, the A.P. Tureaud, Sr. Chapter. He received an honorary doctorate from LSU in 2011 and continues to shepherd his father's legacy of equality and tolerance through various endeavors such as his work with Dr. Rachel L. Emanuel on his father's biography, *A More Noble Cause*. Tureaud, Jr. is a frequent lecturer on civil rights and education topics.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Alexander Pierre Tureaud, Jr. and Family Papers contain records documenting the life of Tureaud, Jr. and the history of the Tureaud family. Papers emphasize Tureaud, Jr.'s experience as the first Black undergraduate at LSU and on his father's legacy. Materials pertaining to Tureaud, Jr. include correspondence, photographs, articles, newspapers, memorabilia, and biographical materials such as scrapbooks, personal narratives, oral histories, diplomas, and honors. Records pertaining to the Tureaud family's history and genealogical origins are also present. Materials pertaining to Tureaud, Sr. include articles, an oral history transcript, and records that document the preserving of his legacy, such as honors, designations, and the A.P. Tureaud, Sr. Chapter of the LSU Alumni Association.

Also in these papers are materials from Dr. Rachel L. Emanuel's work about Tureaud, Sr., such as her master's thesis, the documentary film *Journey for Justice*, and the book co-authored with Tureaud, Jr., *A More Noble Cause*.

LIST OF SERIES, AND SUBSERIES

Series I. Correspondence, 1985–2023, undated

Series II. Photographs, circa 1900–2023, undated

Series III. Biographical and Genealogical Materials, 1921–2023, undated

Subseries 1. A. P. Tureaud, Jr. Biographical Materials, 1953–2023, undated

Subseries 2. Family History, 1921–2023, undated

Series IV. Alexander Pierre (A. P.) Tureaud, Sr. Materials, 1949–2023, undated

Subseries 1. Biographical and Legacy Materials, 1949–2020, undated

Subseries 2. *A More Noble Cause* Book Materials, 1998–2023, undated

Subseries 3. A. P. Tureaud, Sr. Black Alumni Chapter Records, 1988–2020, undated

Series V. Printed Materials, 1953–2023, undated

Series VI. Memorabilia, 1936–2023, undated

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Correspondence, 1985–2023, undated

This series consists of general, family, and professional correspondence. General correspondence includes letters and emails congratulating A.P. Tureaud, Jr. on articles about him and his father; commending him for returning to LSU and his honorary degree inviting him to speak at events about his experience integrating LSU as well as his experience as an educator.

Family correspondence relates to general updates from family members such as travel, graduations, and weddings.

Professional correspondence topics cover his role in special education, including workshops and thank-you letters for his involvement in events, fundraising, and training.

Series II. Photographs, circa 1900–2023, undated

This series is comprised of photographs of Tureaud, Jr. and his family. Photographs of just Tureaud, Jr. include baby photos, photos of him in high school, portraits, and photos of him in front of the Bagatelle plantation, the Tureaud ancestral home. Tureaud family and friends photographs show Tureaud, Jr. and other family members and friends at various events together, showcase milestones such as graduations, and also contain portraits of Tureaud ancestors. Photographs of Tureaud, Jr. at events show him and his father at a 1958 Teachers Association conference in Louisiana, him at a documentary screening for *Journey for Justice*, and him with the A.P. Tureaud, Sr. Black Alumni Chapter at LSU.

Series III. Biographical and Genealogical Materials, 1921–2023, undated

Biographical and genealogical materials cover A.P. Tureaud, Jr. as well as Tureaud family history.

Subseries 1. A. P. Tureaud, Jr. Biographical Materials, 1953–2023, undated

This subseries focuses on A.P. Tureaud, Jr. and contains his curriculum vitae and biography; diplomas from Joseph S. Clark High School, Xavier University of New Orleans, Columbia University, and LSU; two scrapbooks made by Tureaud, Jr., including one documenting his time at LSU; articles about Tureaud, Jr.; and materials relating to Encampment for Citizenship.

Honors and certificates from Mayor Melvin “Kip” Holden name Tureaud, Jr. Honorary Mayor-President of Baton Rouge and May 19th as A.P. Tureaud, Jr. Day, while one from Senator Mary Landrieu recognizes his work advancing civil rights. Another from Governor John Bell Edwards recognizes his role as the first African American undergraduate at LSU. Others are for his work in special education and his induction into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame.

This subseries also has the full oral history transcript done for the Historic New Orleans Collection, excerpts from an oral history for the Teaching American History in Louisiana Grant Program, and personal narratives by Tureaud, Jr. The preface and notes for the play “Emmett, Down in My Heart” by Clare Coss that contains a reference to Tureaud, Jr. and a StoryCorps interview on CD that aired on NPR’s Morning Edition in 2011 are also present.

Subseries 2. Family History, 1921–2023, undated

This subseries concerns Tureaud family history and contains an excerpt from *Creole Families of New Orleans* by Grace King detailing information about the Tureaud family; a family tree; materials on Tureaud, Jr.’s mother, Lucille Dejoie Tureaud; obituaries for other Tureaud family members; *The Tureaud Legacy* by Ingrid R. Stanley; and a condensed version of the article “Reconstruction Warrior: Adolphe Tureaud and His Fight for Equality in the Louisiana Legislature, 1868–1874.” Also included are materials concerning the Tureaud family’s donation to the Historic New Orleans Collection.

Series IV. Alexander Pierre (A. P.) Tureaud, Sr. Materials, 1949–2023, undated

This series contains materials pertaining to Tureaud, Jr.’s father and civil rights lawyer, Alexander Pierre (A.P.) Tureaud, Sr.

Subseries 1. Biographical and Legacy Materials, 1949–2020, undated

Legacy materials include articles about Tureaud, Sr.; a transcript of a 1968 oral history from the University of New Orleans; the draft and typescript of Rachel Emanuel’s Master’s thesis, “A Louisiana black weekly’s coverage of Alexander Pierre Tureaud, Sr., 1950–1953;” materials related to Rachel Emanuel’s documentary film *Journey for Justice*; and the chapters regarding Tureaud, Sr., in *The Second Battle of New Orleans: The Hundred-Year Struggle to Integrate* by Liva Baker.

This subseries also contains materials associated with the naming and dedication of landmarks to the legacy of Tureaud, Sr. such as Tureaud Hall at LSU, the A.P. Tureaud Elementary School, the A.P. Tureaud Civil Rights Memorial Park in New Orleans, the A.P. Tureaud American Inn of Court, and the Tureaud residence in New Orleans. Also included are documents pertaining to the unveiling of Tureaud, Sr.’s portrait at the Louisiana Supreme Court and the A.P. Tureaud, Sr. Legacy Committee founded in Washington D.C.

Subseries 2. *A More Noble Cause* Book Materials, 1998–2023, undated

This subseries is comprised of materials related to the book *A More Noble Cause: A.P. Tureaud and the Struggle for Civil Rights in Louisiana* co-authored by Rachel Emanuel

and Tureaud, Jr. such as correspondence, publishing agreements, reviews and articles, drafts and proofs, royalty statements, events, and publicity.

Subseries 3. A. P. Tureaud, Sr. Black Alumni Chapter Records, 1988–2020, undated

A. P. Tureaud, Sr. Black Alumni Chapter Records concern LSU's first Black alumni association and contain correspondence; organizational records such as bylaws, meetings minutes, member lists, and nominations; materials related to reunions and sponsored events; and articles highlighting the chapter. Publications include several issues of *Alumni Triumphs*, the official newsletter of the chapter, and *LSU Today*.

Also included are materials related to Justice Bernette Johnson, who became the first African American Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court in 2013.

Series V. Printed Materials, 1953–2023, undated

This series contains printed materials such as the 1984 "Etches of Ebony" Louisiana calendar, and various flyers, pamphlets, and brochures for events. Books include a signed copy of *African Americans in New Orleans (Images of America)* by authors Turry Flucker and Phoenix Savage, *Family Legacies* by the Louisiana Creole Research Association, Inc., LSU's *College of Art + Design - Commencement 2018*, and *This Louisiana Thing that Drives Me: The Legacy of Ernest Gaines*. Newspapers regarding Tureaud, Jr. show coverage of the Tureauds' case against LSU in 1953 as well as more recent articles on his reflections on integration and legacy. Newspapers regarding Tureaud, Sr. show coverage of the 1956 Louisiana Gridiron Show put on by Capital Correspondents Association in which politicians mocked Tureaud, Sr. in blackface as well as more recent coverage of the naming of Tureaud Hall at LSU.

Of special note are three court record books in box 2, folder 15 on the case of *Alexander P. Tureaud, Jr., a Minor, by Alexander P. Tureaud, Sr., his father and friend, Versus Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, Et Al.*

Series VI. Memorabilia, 1936–2023, undated

This series includes various memorabilia collected by Tureaud, Jr. such as his LSU commencement stole and hood, commemorative Tureaud, Sr. pins, awards and plaques, and his baby shoes.

INDEX TERMS

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

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CONTAINER LIST

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