



## FINDING AID

# **CARI 0004: Assembled Collection of Documentary Materials Relating to Cane River Sites 1908-1971, UNDATED (bulk dates: 1957-1971)**

Prepared by  
History Associates Incorporated  
2013

National Park Service

Catalog Number: CARI 35006

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## ***HISTORY***

Cane River National Heritage Area (CRNHA) was established in 1994 by Public Law 103-449; 16 U.S.C. 410 and includes historical, agricultural, architectural, cultural and natural features in northwestern Louisiana. The heritage area includes Cane River Creole National Historical Park, seven National Historic Landmarks, three State Historic Sites, and other historic plantations, homes, and churches.

Included in CRNHA is the Lambre Bros. Gin, across from the north end of Oakland Plantation along Louisiana Highway 494, where the Lambre Family operated a cotton gin and store, which previously served as a school. Jules Murray Lambre (1912-1975) and Alton James Lambre (born 1940) operated the gin beginning as early as 1951, ginning locally grown cotton for planters from the 1950s to the 1970s. The gin building and property was later acquired by Willie Rush (born 1930) who operated “Bermuda Forge and Metalworks,” a blacksmith shop, until approximately 1990 on the premises.

Approximately one half mile northwest of the Lambre Bros. Gin, the Ducournau Family historically owned land known as “Hope Plantation” or “The Old Plauche Place.” J.A. Ducournau, Sr. (1812-1905) was born in France, and later immigrated to Louisiana. He married Appoline Castenado of New Orleans in 1849, and the couple had two children: Estelle (1850-1926), who married A.J. Plauche, and J.A. Ducournau, Jr. (1851-1906). J.A. Ducournau, Sr. and Jr. owned and operated a general merchandise store on Front Street in Natchitoches, Louisiana, and had land holdings along Cane River. John Adolph Ducournau (1893-1979), a descendant of J.A. Ducournau, Sr., married Josephine “Jo” Bryan (1899-1996) on March 1, 1931 in Natchitoches, and owned and operated Hope Plantation during the mid-twentieth century. During their marriage, Josephine lived at least part-time in Louisiana, while John lived in and San Francisco, California, where he served as a Vice President of Wells Fargo Bank until his retirement in 1979.

## ***SCOPE AND CONTENT***

CARI 0004: Assembled Collection of Documentary Materials Relating to Cane River Sites 1908-1971, UNDATED (bulk dates: 1957-1971)

CATALOG NUMBER      CARI 35006

VOLUME                      3.5 LF

DESCRIPTION              Assembled Collection of Documentary Materials Relating to Cane River Sites is a group of records and photographic materials donated by Willie Rush, the owner of the Lambre Brothers Gin and Store/School in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana until 2010. Records span from 1908 to 1971.

Records were created by members of the Ducournau and Lambre families of Natchitoches Parish and primarily reflect the personal lives of John Adolph Ducournau and Josephine Bryan Ducournau, and the business operations of the Lambre Brothers Gin and Store.

Correspondence, booklets, pamphlets, catalogs, postcards, invoices, newspaper clippings, photographs, photographic negatives, and ledgers.

ORGANIZATION              Organized into two subgroups: Subgroup 1: Willie Rush Collection of Ducornau and Lambre Family Papers; Subgroup 2: The Lambre Brothers Gin and Store Collection. Additional Subgroups can be added for future accessions.

PROVENANCE              Materials were donated by Willie Rush to the National Park Service in 2010 and accessioned as CARI-00148: "The Willie Rush Collection" and "The Lambre Bros. Gin and School/Store Collection."

RESTRICTIONS              NO

PREFERRED CITATION      [Identification of Item], Box [#], Folder [#], CARI 0004: Assembled Collection of Documentary Materials Relating to Cane River Sites, Cane Rive Creole National Historical Park, Natchitoches Parish, LA.

ASSOCIATED MATERIALS

CARI 0002: Magnolia Plantation Records. Curation Facility, Cane River Creole National Historical Park, Natchitoches, Louisiana.

CARI 0003: Oakland Plantation Records and Prud'homme Family Papers. Curation Facility, Cane River Creole National Historical Park, Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Judge Henley Hunter Papers. Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Natchitoches, Louisiana.

J.A. Ducournau Collection. Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Melrose Collection. Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Prudhomme Family Papers, 1765-1997, Collection Number: 00613. The Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

## ***HIERARCHY***

### **I. SUBGROUP 1: WILLIE RUSH COLLECTION OF DUCOURNAU AND LAMBRE FAMILY PAPERS, 1908-1965, UNDATED**

A. SERIES I: CORRESPONDENCE, 1908-1965, UNDATED

B. SERIES II: EPHEMERA, 1919-1963, UNDATED

C. SERIES III: INVOICES, 1925, UNDATED

D. SERIES IV: NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, 1932-1933

E. SERIES V: PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS, 1937, UNDATED

### **II. SUBGROUP 2: THE LAMBRE BROTHERS GIN AND STORE COLLECTION, 1957-1971**

A. SERIES I: LEDGERS, 1957-1971

B. [SERIES II: ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO BE ADDED FROM FUTURE ACCESSIONS]

## ***SERIES DESCRIPTIONS***

### *I. SUBGROUP 1: WILLIE RUSH COLLECTION OF DUCOURNAU AND LAMBRE FAMILY PAPERS, 1908-1965, UNDATED*

Organized into five series: Series I: Correspondence; Series II: Ephemera; Series III: Invoices; Series IV: Newspaper Clippings; Series V: Photographic Materials.

A collection of materials attributed to the Ducournau and Lambre families of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. Records include some documentation of Cane River life, and also relate to the extensive domestic and international travel of by the Ducournau family.

Correspondence, ephemera, invoices, newspaper clippings and photographic materials.

#### *A. SERIES I: CORRESPONDENCE, 1908-1965, UNDATED*

Arranged alphabetically by recipient and thereunder chronologically.

Letters received by various members of the Ducournau and Lambre families, including: G. Brevelle, Josephine Bryan, K.S. "Kippie" Cocran, Mr. and Mrs. John Adolph Ducournau, Rita Lambre, and others. Topics include: courtship, local events and news, family and friends, invitations, thank-you letters, and business matters.

#### *B. SERIES II: EPHEMERA, 1919-1963, UNDATED*

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Musical, religious, school related, travel and other ephemera, most of which was probably collected by the Ducournau family.

Songbooks, catalogs, pamphlets, booklets, poetry, notebooks, postcards, and a certificate to John A. Ducournau for his military service.

#### *C. SERIES III: INVOICES, 1925, UNDATED*

Arranged chronologically.

Invoices from Venice and Florence, Italy, and various envelopes from American companies.

#### *D. SERIES IV: NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, 1932-1933*

Arranged chronologically.

Newspaper clippings from "Farm and Ranch," and other unidentified newspapers.

E. *SERIES V: PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS, 1937, UNDATED*

Arranged by format, and thereunder by size.

Photographic materials including negatives and photographic prints, created by the Ducournau family. No persons are identified, and only a small group of prints are dated. Subjects include portraits, home scenes, general family pictures, Cane River and Natchitoches Parish life, the Kaffie family of Natchitoches Parish, and foreign travels.

II. *SUBGROUP 2: THE LAMBRE BROTHERS GIN AND STORE COLLECTION, 1957-1971*

Organized into two series: Series I: Ledgers; [Series II: Materials to be Added from Future Accessions].

Document the operation of the Lambre Brothers Gin and Store. Includes ledgers used for wages, tracking of livestock and crops, expenses, ginning of cotton, and other miscellaneous transactions. Entries generally pertain to the title given on the ledger, though some were used for multiple purposes.

A. *SERIES I: LEDGERS, 1957-1971*

Arranged chronologically, and thereunder alphabetically.

Records of the operation of the Lambre Brothers Gin and Store. Includes ledgers used for wages, tracking of livestock and crops, expenses, ginning of cotton, and other miscellaneous transactions. Entries generally pertain to the title given on the ledger, though some were used for multiple purposes.

B. *[SERIES II: ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO BE ADDED FROM FUTURE ACCESSIONS]*

## ***CONTAINER LIST***

### **SUBGROUP 1: WILLIE RUSH COLLECTION OF DUCOURNAU AND LAMBRE FAMILY PAPERS, 1908-1965, undated**

#### **SERIES I: CORRESPONDENCE, 1908-1965, undated**

##### Box 1

Folder 1: Letters to G. Brevelle, 1940

Folder 2: Letters to Josephine Bryan, 1919-1928, undated

Folder 3: Letters to K.S. Cocran, 1925

Folder 4: Letters to John Adolph Ducournau, 1954-1965, undated

Folder 5: Letter to John Adolph and Jo Bryan Ducournau, 1908

Folder 6: Letter to Rita Lambre, 1919

Folder 7: Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1918-1950, undated

#### **SERIES II: EPHEMERA, 1919-1963, undated**

Folder 8: Music Ephemera, 1919, undated

Folder 9: Religious Ephemera, 1929, undated

Folder 10: School Ephemera, undated

Folder 11: Travel Ephemera, undated

Folder 12: Miscellaneous Ephemera, circa 1940-1963, undated

#### **SERIES III: INVOICES, 1925, undated**

Folder 13: Invoices, 1925

Folder 14: Related Materials, undated

##### Box 2

#### **SERIES IV: NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, 1932-1933, undated**

Folder 1: Newspaper Clippings, 1932-1933, undated

#### **SERIES V: PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS, 1933, undated**

Folder 2: Negatives and Prints, 1937, undated

Folder 3: Envelopes, undated

### **SUBGROUP 2: THE LAMBRE BROTHERS GIN & STORE COLLECTION, 1957-1971**

#### **SERIES I: LEDGERS, 1957-1971**

Folder 4: Customer Book, 1957  
Folder 5: Murray Lambre Ledger, 1957  
Folder 6: Cattle and Sheep Book, 1958  
Folder 7: Expense Book, 1958  
Folder 8: Gin Customers Book, 1958  
Folder 9: Gin Expense Book, 1958  
Folder 10: Murray Lambre Book, 1958

Box 3

Folder 1: Crop Book, 1959  
Folder 2: Murray Lambre Cotton Book, 1959-1965  
Folder 3: Murray Lambre Cotton Book, 1960  
Folder 4: Expense Book, 1961  
Folder 5: Lambre Brothers Gin Expense Book, 1961  
Folder 6: Crop Book, 1962-1965  
Folder 7: Farm Expense Book, 1962

Box 4

Folder 1: Lambre Gin Book, 1962  
Folder 2: Customer Book, 1963  
Folder 3: Farm Expense Book, 1963  
Folder 4: Gin Expense Book, 1963  
Folder 5: Customer Book, 1964  
Folder 6: Farm Expense Book, 1964  
Folder 7: Lambre Gin Expense Book, 1964  
Folder 8: Customers Cotton Book, 1965  
Folder 9: Farm Expense Book, 1965

Box 5

Folder 1: Lambre Gin Expense Book, 1965  
Folder 2: Cotton Book, 1966  
Folder 3: Farm Expense Book, 1966  
Folder 4: Lambre Gin, 1966  
Folder 5: Cotton Book, 1968  
Folder 6: Cotton Book, 1968  
Folder 7: Cotton Book, 1969  
Folder 8: Gin Book (Expense), 1970  
Folder 9: Customers Cotton Book, 1971  
Folder 10: Murray Lambre Cotton Book, 1971

**SEPARATED MATERIAL:**

Photo Binder Box 1

**SUBGROUP 1: WILLIE RUSH COLLECTION OF DUCOURNAU AND LAMBRE  
FAMILY PAPERS, 1908-1965, undated**

**SERIES V: PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS, 1937, undated**

Negatives and Prints, 1937, undated