Federal Writers Project Collection

Scope and Content

Included in the collection is correspondence by Federal Writers Project Director of Louisiana, Lyle Saxon dated from 1935 through 1943. The bulk of the collection is typed accounts based on hundreds of interviews conducted with residents between the years of 1937 and 1941.

Though many areas of Louisiana are covered in the interviews, the majority concerns New Orleans and its vicinity. Some of the subjects covered include religion, past and present social conditions, ethnic customs, song lyrics, folkways and remedies, occupations, folklore and slave narratives. Also present are some typed copies of legal records and published works. For more on the slave narratives, see The Ronnie Clayton Collection, also contained in The Cammie G. Henry Research Center.

The Louisiana Writers Project employed out-of-work journalists and other white-collar workers. The Works Progress Administration implemented it during The Depression as a part of the New Deal. Lyle Saxon served as the project's director. The project was active in Louisiana from 1935 until 1943.

Inventory

Folders

1 New Orleans Negro folklore and charms. Unpublished includes charms, voodoo and dream divination, list of miscellaneous folklore and contents of FWP file 66. Dillon notes on Marie Laveau for “Voodoo Documentary,” probably Voodoo in New Orleans. Laveau was a free woman of color noted for introducing Catholic symbolism to voodoo practice.

2 Negro religious and secular songs (words only) collected in various areas. Original.

3 Creole songs (words only) in French and English translation. Music included for “Song Sung by LaLa, the Voodoo Queen” and “Carnival Song.” Original.

4 Creole songs (words only) in French and English translation. Games. These are Arguedas (an interviewer) versions of songs in file 3a unpublished.

5 French and Creole songs (words only) in French and English by Arguedas. Also includes children’s ring games and “The Crocodile” manuscript.

6 Negro blues songs (words only) collected in New Orleans. Includes Junker man songs (drug culture). Original.

7 Negro children’s’ games, songs (words only) and rhymes. Includes children’s stories, play party games and nursery rhymes. Original.

8 Negro work songs (words only). Music included for “Cane Song.” Original.

9 Negro miscellaneous songs (words only). Subjects include gambling, humorous, drinking, Junker man, blues, economic conditions, slavery, an love. Poem “I'm Here to Stay” (Shreveport). Comments on songs. Original.
10 White miscellaneous songs from various locations. Original.

11 Negro “pseudo science” (cures, sayings and superstitions) collected in New Orleans includes birthing, religious experience, resurrection, haunted mirror, spirits and witch-riding. Unpublished

12 Unusual words and phrases (Houma). Original.

13 Poems, songs similes and salutations from New Orleans. Original

14 Animal husbandry (how to care for animals) and farm folklore. Unpublished

15 Negro narratives about divining the future, dream interpretation, treasure hunting, horoscopes and palmistry. New Orleans unpublished.

16 Folk medicine from various areas and ethnic groups. New Orleans unpublished.

17 Domestic lore including household hints, recipes and predictions. Items are from Natchitoches, Plaquemines, Avoyelles, Tangipahoa and Delta Parishes. Collected by Antony and Huguenot. Unpublished original.


19 Ex-slave tales and interviews including a poem “A Voice From the Tombs” by Watts, a Lafon Old Folks Home spelling bee, songs, Marie Laveau stories and several un-attributed manuscripts. Interviewees are Spotfore, Reed, Jackson, Dietz, (White), Stewart, Gordon, Verreth, Bell, Banjo, Cornelius, Patterson, Brown, Johnson, Flowers, Hite, Kelly, George, Wall, Parcanses, Ashley, Turner (2), Doby (2), Stafford, Lewis (2), Fletcher, Harris, Gray, Waters, Wilson, Broomfield, Love, Brundy and Genevr, Hunter, Web, CeBview, John, Smith, Butler, Woodrich, Barber, Prim, Sienette, Moss and Russell. Interviewers include McElwee, Arguedas, Wallace, Breaux, McKinney, Michinard, Posey Arguedas and Burke. Unpublished Original.

20 Negro animal tales, superstitions, ghosts and jokes mostly from New Orleans. Unpublished original.


22 White supernatural tales (ghosts, spirits and witches. Includes miscellaneous manuscripts such as poem titled “Pere Dagobert” for the Christmas Mass at St. Roch in New Orleans, a narrative titled “The Pirate Ghost of L’isle de Gombi” (Cajan), “The Dominno Man,” two manuscripts on the Mafia and one on a “Downtown Murder—World Ward Period.” These narratives were written by Breaux, Wright, Huguenot and Posey. Unpublished original.

23 Negro supernatural tales (ghosts, spirits and witches). Also includes miscellaneous narratives (treasure hunting) written by Posey, Wright, Scott, Breaux, Forgotson and Tatum, Posey and McElwee. First carbon.

24 Marie Laveau. Documentary material including tombstone inscription and legal matters. Original.

25 Tales about Marie Laveau and voodoo. Negro, White, and Native American tales from New Orleans. Unpublished. Includes many miscellaneous manuscripts and reports such as Mother Catherine Seal’s will, chronology of Laveau, list of voodoo queens and doctors, Lafon Old Folks Home, St. John’s Eve (voodoo festival), “Fe Chofe” dance, St. Louis Cemetery 1 and 2 folklore, sketch of a voodoo altar, the “Wishing Spot,” lottery, charms, map of Bayou Cochon, exslave tales (Patterson and another unidentified), Civil District Court research, fashion for men and city directory records.
Material collected and written by McKinney, Breaux, Michinard, Dillon, Villere, Posey, Wallace, Burke, Huguenot and McColloster.

26 Treasure tales collected by McElwee. Original.

27 Negro Spiritualist tales including Mother Catherine Seal’s will, funeral and statistics from public records. Also includes an interview with Mother Rita (successor to Mother Catherine) and four versions of Mother Catherine manuscripts. Various Manuscripts were written by Burke, McKinney, Dillon, LeGallais, Scott, Michinard, Hunter, Breux, Logan, Jackson and Lear. Collected in New Orleans. Unpublished, original.


29 Spiritualism including manuscripts about Black Hawk, and Indian spirit. Written by McKinney. Unpublished, original.


31 Negro Omens, tokens and luck (gambling and lottery) signs. Also contains some voodoo material. Mostly from New Orleans but also Natchitoches, Tangipahoa and the Delta Parishes. Collected by Guardia. Unpublished.

32 Negro social occasions such as dances, parades, weddings, McDonough Day (for school children), clubs and marches. Also includes a ghost manuscript called "The Ghostuses Footprints." This material mostly from New Orleans and collected by Breaux, McKinney, Burke and Huguenot. Unpublished, original.

33 Negro social occasion such as house rent parties (to collect donations for rent), shakedown dances, fish fries and jam sessions (music). This material was collected in New Orleans by McKinney. Unpublished, original.

34 Negro baptism in the river or church pool. Also includes an account of plantation baptism. Collected by McKinney, Burke, Breaux and Wright mostly in New Orleans. Unpublished.


36 Fanatic cults and Spiritualism form Negro churches (some published accounts and interviews.) File includes the following miscellaneous manuscripts: phases of mediumship, the Divine Spiritualist Church of the Southwest, Council of God, The Devil Man, Mother Dora Tyson and the Eternal Love Christian Faith No. 1 Church, St. Magnolia, Peter Palao (Spiritualist statue maker), the Jeff Horn Spiritual Catholic Church, the Emperor Haile Selassi Nu-way Ethiopia Mystic Light Baptist and Spiritual and Kingdom Church (Prophet Joseph Lyons), Helping hand Spiritual Church of Christian Love (Pastor Mamie Reason), St. Paul Spiritualist Temple No. 1 (Pastor Loyd Thomas), Triumph the Church and kingdom of God in Christ. (Sanctified), Mother Brown and the Church of God and Christ Faith Tabernacle, Mother Shannon (St. Joseph's Altar), the Daniel Helping Hand Spiritual Church, Blanc (medium, clairvoyant and singer), Mother Hydes' Spiritual Temple, Church of God in Christ Sanctified (Rev. Feltus), Mother Augusta's St. Expedite Temple (St. Joseph's Altar) and Mother Verret. Interviews conducted by McKinney, Posey, Breaux, Cherrie, Lemelle, Arguedas, Burke and Peterson. Unpublished, first carbon.

37 Negro Protestant churches containing miscellaneous manuscripts of interviews mostly from New Orleans people. Unpublished Gospel music narratives include accounts of a singing contest, Jubilee hymns and the New Orleans Spiritual Quartet Association conference with groups such as the "Four Great Wonders" "Rose Hill Harmonizers," "Friendly Four" an "Crescent City Four." Sermons, speeches, praise sessions, gifts, of the spirit, annual
speakers meeting, soul saving campaigns, revivals and river baptisms are also included. Many of these documents are about Progressive Baptist Churches or the Church of God in Christ. Other miscellaneous items include a Negro wood carver, published material, a Baptist Home Mission meeting, a meeting of the Women's Relief Corps #4 Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, A.M.E. Sewing Circle, an religious poems. These manuscripts were written by Breaux, McKinney, Wright, Barkle, Ballord and Cherrie.

38 White religious cults in New Orleans. Unpublished, original. Includes narratives about a statue sent from heaven (Catholic); Brother Isaiah's miracle healing; the Psychic Light Mission; Mr. Giuffre's St. Joseph's Chapel (visions of God and the shroud of Turin); St. Raymond's Chapel (statue of St. Peter with key offerings); Zatarain's Garden, healing root beer and Sanctuary of Christian Divine: Pauline Therral, spiritual healer; Mother Philip's Church; Rev. Lena Scovotto’s Sacred

Folder 38 continued

38 Heart Spiritualist Church charter and services; Prophet St. Rita, healer; Rev. Alice Mancuso, ordainment classes.

39 Negro religious cults. Mother Kate Francis’ St. Michael’s Temple No. 1 and 2 (voodoo and songs). Interviews with people who went to the church. Death and burial place of Mother Kate. Interview with Ellen Fairwell, nicknamed “Affectionate,” who is Mother Kate’s successor. Interviews by McKinney. Unpublished, original.

40 Negro wakes and burials (includes some White customs as well.) New Orleans unpublished original. Narratives include Louis Williams, professional mourner; the wake and songs at funeral of Mother Hyde, healer and prophesier, at St. James Temple of Christian Faith No. 1; funeral of Progressive Baptist Church members; marching bands; embalming method; funeral of a River Front foreman; funeral of a man who belonged to 21 clubs and benevolent societies; lottery superstitions related to funerals; Hebrew Rest Cemetery; St. Louis No. 2; and funeral of Rev. Seibel of St. Helena’s Spiritualist Church. See descriptions of activities of various benevolent societies throughout Negro narratives. Manuscripts written by McKinney, Breaux, Wright and Posey.

41 Catholic and Protestant customs on holidays such as Christmas morning, Good Thursday, (Creole) and Friday, Easter egg coloring and fights, New Years Day (Negro) and Creole New Year’s cabbage, Memorial Day cemetery visit and Decoration Day, Memorial Day Parade, Palm Sunday (Creole). Wedding customs such as dropping pins, rice in shoe, staying indoors. Miscellaneous customs such as cockfights. Collected by Antony, Wallace and Posey.

42 Negro proverbs used in New Orleans. Unpublished original.

43 Laure Hopkins, called LaLa, who is a voodoo queen in New Orleans. Marie Comtesse, student of Marie Laveau. McKinney writes “St. Peter and Black Cat Opening” in which he visits LaLa with Life Magazine reporters. Also includes a “Hoodoo Price List” and four versions of manuscripts on LaLa. Written by McKinney, Breaux and Wallace. Unpublished original.

44 Negro voodooism in New Orleans and other areas. Unpublished. Includes manuscripts on séances, hoodoo victims, types of gris gris (spells), congo Square, voodoo drug stores which sell potions and powders, Johnny the Conqueror Root, lore on cemetery magic (St. Roch), hoodoo opening ceremony, mail scams, and use of voodoo by slaves. Some of these key figures are Dr. John R. Hall, voodoo doctor; Madame Ducoyielle, Hoodoo Queen; Mother Hester; Mrs. Mary Johnson, fortune teller an oil sales; Aunt Babe; Madame Lavine; Joseph Melon; Dr. Shaw, spiritualist; Dr. Rockford Lewis; Frank Walker, murder detective; Madame Maika and Black Hawk; Madame Brent; Dr. James Alexander; and Madame Folder 44 continued

44 Charles DeGruy (Point Coupee). Also Irish Channel (White) healer man Winding. City Hall records of names of registered free persons of color (1840-1864) and old city directories in the State Library. An investigation into the power of snake venom. Voodoo activities in Burus
about a voodoo victim. List of important supplies for voodoo doctors. Interviews with people whose parents were slaves. Written by McKinney, Dillon, Breaux, Wright, White, Villere, Brown, Posey, Jameson, and Michinard.


46 Miscellaneous New Orleans negro religious material including a script of a pageant at a Seventh Day Adventist Church; Baptist Preachers Conference (2); stories of religious conversion; history of growth of Protestant religions in Negro churches; sermons and speeches; Catholic-Baptist; Mother Shannon’s St. Joseph’s Day Feast; and an ex-slave narrative by Victoria Williams about a “shout.” Material written by McKinney, McElwee, Breaux, Huguenot, Posey, and Wallace. Unpublished original.

47 Negro lodges. Original list of negro benevolent (burial) societies by Breaux and McKinney.


49 A series of interviews with Negro Luella Johnson, member of the Progressive Baptist Church, about gris gris used at St. Roch’s cemetery, the Needle Man (medical students who steal bodies), the Waffle Man (street vendor), the Black Bottle (medicine at Charity Hospital), religion, ghosts, benevolent societies, dream divination, Easter Eve fish fries, Round the World parties (house to house) and marriage. Interviews by Breaux and Arguedas. Original.

50 Origin of street names and places in New Orleans such as the Irish Channel, Gert-town, Pailet Lane, Carrolton and Bloodweeds. Original.


52 Material on Catholic institutions in New Orleans. Includes Mother Cabrini’s Missions and first Feast Day (1938), Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy

Folder 52 continued

52 Family, Holy Family convent, St. Roch’s cemetery, annual novena and candle march for St. Ann, Pere Adrian Rouquette (missionary) to Indians), Emblem of Eucharistic Church, St. Mary’s Dominican College oak tree shrine, Guadalupe Church, Cure of St. Augustin, Corpus Christi Feast and Procession, the Ursuline Nuns, Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor and St. Louis Cathedral. Material written by Dillon, Michinard, McKinney, Breaux, and Posey. Unpublished original.

53 Riverfront. Folklore on the Negro culture of the Riverfront including blues and work songs, a ghost story and superstitions. Written by McKinney. Unpublished original.

54 Riverfront. Folklore on the White culture of the Riverfront including interviews with cotton loaders, workers and captains. Includes information on Barracks street, ships, slang, Mandeville street wharf, superstitions, barber shop under Nuns street wharf, medical students, All Saints Night, Oyster wharf, customs, jokes and the Screwmen (cotton loaders) Union’s Annual Ball. Also includes Negro blues, cotton press songs and special work step. Material collected by Wright. Unpublished original.

55 Riverfront Negro and White lore. Interviews with longshoreman and blues, foreman, shore pilot, steamboat workers and songs. Also includes tale of Annie Christmas (“bucket woman” who brought lunches to workers), superstitions, expressions, memories of a woman.
about her childhood on the River, promenade on docks, tub races and swimming contests. Written by Huguenot. Original.

56 Carnival and Zulus. Unpublished original. Narratives written about the Negro Zulu Aid and Pleasure Club which has a float in the New Orleans Mardi Gras Parade. Interviews with the King, Queen, clown and torchbearer and descriptions of street characters. Written by Breaux, McKinney, Jacobson and Huguenot.

57 New Orleans Street characters. Unpublished original.

58 Avoyelles Parish folklore including games, dances parties, building chimneys, typical lifestyles, wedding feast, treasure and ghosts by Antony. Unpublished original.


60 Dialect file which includes difference between uptown and downtown New Orleans people, the French language, glossary of stevedore words, Creole and Acadian words. Written by Arguedas. Unpublished original.

61 Lottery and Gambling. Original material on Louisiana gambling strategies and superstitions, including slang. Written by McKinney, Lamelle, Huguenot and Cherrie.


63 Natchitoches Parish folklore including ghosts, coffee time, Cane River, Magnolia Plantation, brush arbors and fishing rodeo by Antony and Dunn. Unpublished original.

64 St. Mary Parish folklore including the Cane Festival, cock fights, Grand Isle trips, altars and stories about characters by Antony. Unpublished original


66 Terrebonne Parish folklore including sugar house parties, a slavery song, games, making sugar and syrup, weddings, well making, legends, haunted camp, treasure and characters by Antony. Also includes manuscript. “Life in Terrebonne parish” by Covington Hall and copy of 1858 legal papers #3847 on the unlawful assembly of Negroes. Unpublished, original.

67 Washington parish folklore includes an interview with a fortune teller, the daily life of a rural family and foodways by Antony. Unpublished, original.

68 Native occupations. Negro and White native occupations including moss work, mattress maker and trapper. Mattress maker interview includes voodoo; legend of blue jays; and gospel, work, dance, and steamboat songs. Tabasco information copied from an advertisement. Notions and White religious shop items such as candies, St. Joseph statues and St. Peter pictures. Interview with cabinet maker John H. Belter. Written by Breaux, McKinney, Posey, and Wallace. Unpublished, original.

69 “Jargon” file which contains sugar cane workers oil refinery, farming an railroad terms; an sugar cane cutter songs. Written by Antony, Breaux and McKinney. Unpublished, original

70 Creole customs including St. Marie Day (August 15) and songs; New Years Day and songs; Alliance wedding rings; proverbs; folk medicine; weddings; funerals; season of house visits; carnival; godparents; Christmas; expressions; operas and balls; bead and porcelain
flowers at cemetery; courting rules; parlors; Sunday dinner and charivari (wedding night visit to newlyweds). Also covers stores, French market items, street vendors and characters. Unpublished, original.


72 West Florida Parishes folklore includes ghost stories, customs, “Hugging Milly” (man who dressed in sheets and hugged women), folk medicine, characters, superstitions, animal husbandry, voodoo and legends. Written by Forgotson, Tatum, Guardia and Huguenot. Original

73 File one of two titled “Creole New Orleans,” the personal recollections of Michinar. Contains information on Creole houses, folk medicine, Mammys, training of young ladies, charivari, food ways, opera, New Years Day, Mardi Gras, parades, parties, cemetery lore, Lent, All Saints Day, funeral notices, St. Marie Day (August 15), Crowing Ceremony of Mary (May 31), fishing and hunting in the city, legends, floods, Maison Hospitaliere, Civil War, place names, ghost, songs and games. Also includes street characters, songs, shops and Marie Laveau. Original.

73 Part Two of Two “Creole New Orleans” by Michinar. Contains Creole tales (Lafitte and Napoleon), sayings, “bougalie” term to denote “cajen”, “cajean” jokes, and superstitions.


76 Bayou St. John folklore includes tales about Choctaw Indians, a beauty parlor, Spanish fort, crab fishing, Soldiers Home, Paillet Lane, superstitions and the Catholic church. Also two interviews with ex-slave Robert St. Anne. Written by Posey, Wallace and Michinar. Original.

77 Germans in New Orleans on the German Coast. File contains information on the Sockserhauser Gang, legend of “Long Nose”, Gambling, barber shop talk, Shoemaker, sanitary conditions, picnics, legend of Lena Muller, food ways, victim of voodoo and street characters. Written by Huguenot. Unpublished, original.

78 St. Joseph’s Day (March 19); in New Orleans. Contains interviews with Italians who hold altars and feasts in their homes and in churches. Includes an altar by Rev. Maude Shannon (Negro) at Daniel Helping Hand Mission. Also, contains lists of churches and individuals with altars. Discusses preparation, ceremony, feast for poor and food ways. Dispute about changing celebration to April 2 in 1940 due to conflict with Lenten week. Connection with swallows returning to Capistrano. Written by Antony. Original.

79 Vignettes. Unpublished, original. File covers a wide range of topics about people in New Orleans (vignettes and customs. Subjects include White, Creole and Negro interviewees. Covers John Love, born after slavery; white social customs; changes in drug stores; a Greek peanut vendor; Negro songs; legends of Jean Lafitte and Andrew Jackson; ghosts; Irish immigrants; Dr. Tichnenor’s Antiseptic; Charity Hospital; Marie Laveau; Metairie Cemetery; Congo Square; mixed blood; wakes; voodoo charms; John McDonough, philanthropist; a “weather sniffer;” folk medicine; squatters’ area; quarteroon balls; street vendors; Riverfront characters; the old Carrolton area; Civil War; moss and
mattress workers; French Market; Bienville street warehouse fire; gutter cleaners; iron worker and food ways. Material was written by Huguenot, Dillon, Posey and Wallace.


81 Irish Channel. Unpublished, original. “Irish Channel” manuscripts (white) interviews with inhabitants in this section of New Orleans about bars, gangs, fights Catholics, volunteer fire department, Father Fagan, Street characters folk cures, wakes, mattress making, St. Mary’s market, and the park. Contains some bibliographies. Probably written by Dillon.


83 Creoles. Prefinal version of ”Creoles in Old Louisiana”. File covers Creole history, social life, weddings, funerals, changes in language, slang, Catholic faith, food ways, folk medicine. Includes versions by Gaulke and Sciarra. No bibliographies.

84 Folklore from Plaquemines, St. Bernard and Jefferson parishes. “Cane Parishes Folklore’ prefinal version by Antony. File covers divination on St. John’s Eve, sugar cane plantations, loup garou tales, and faith healers. “Lower River Parishes” by Antony (about Plaquemines, St. Bernard and Jefferson Parishes) includes information on various peoples (Spaniards, Germans, Acadians, English, Canary Islanders) with regard to voodoo, shrimping, legends, funerals. No bibliographies.

85 “Animal stories” prefinal version by Dillon. This file contains Negro animal tales from interviews at Lafon Home and published sources bibliography.


88 Cajuns. “Cajuns” manuscript by Tate. Includes the history of these people who came from Nova Scotia, preserving the French language, folk medicine, pirogue races, blessing the shrimp fleet, social life, alligator and frog hunts, nicknames, list of “Cajun” names, and published sources bibliography.

89 Folklore of Calcasieu Parish DeQuincey section. Prefinal “De Quincey section” manuscript on Calcasieu parish Folklore. Includes descriptions, customs, legends, buried treasure, expressions fiddle stick player; hard-shell Baptists, Catholics, play parties, log rolling, legend of town of wild people, characters. Charms, folk medicine and “Redbones”. Written by Antony. No bibliographies.

90 Catholic customs and traditions. File one of two: “Catholic customs and traditions”. This file contains many manuscripts including the origin of the French word “lagniappe”, Pere Antoine (Spanish Priest), Our Lady of Prompt Succor (history of Ursuline Nuns), Chata-Ima (story of Pere Rouguette, priest who lived with Choctaw Indians in St. Tammany Parish and wrote poetry), the miracle of Grand Coteau (sacred spot and cures). These manuscripts are typically histories of the indicated subjects and include bibliographies. They are a mixture of field worker interviews and published material revised by Dillon.

90 File two of two: “Catholic customs and traditions” continued. Manuscripts include history of Saint Rosalie Feast (Italian event which began due to livestock epidemics), a search for the origins of St. Expedit (Catholic Saint of quick action also used by Spiritualist churches),
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Mother Cabrini (Saint of Italian immigrants), St. Amico’s Chapel in Donaldsonville (Italian Saint healed boy-chapel and parade), mother Juliette (colored Congregation of the Holy Family manuscript contrasts negro nuns and quadroon balls) and Mother Cabrini’s missions including The Sacred Heart Orphanage. Manuscripts are a mixture of fieldworker interviews and published material reworked by Dillon. Most contain bibliographies.

91 Fanatic cults. Original. File one of three: Prefinal manuscripts compiled by Dillon: “Negro Fanatic cults.” File includes manuscripts on the history and folklore surrounding the following subjects; the “Council of God” (Negro radical religious group 1907-1912 which created a race riot in New Orleans), “Batture Prophet” (1920s healer John Cudney who may have originally been a Seventh Day Adventist preacher who lost his memory), Leafy Anderson (1927 spiritualist). Bibliographies are included.

91 File two of three: “Negro Fanatic cults” compiled by Dillon. Includes history and oral traditions about Mother Catherine (1930s spiritualist and owner of The Manger of True Light), Father James Joseph (1930s voodoo doctor and minister of the Jerusalem Temple Baptist Church), Mother Dora Tyson and Father Thomas (students of Leafy Anderson), and Mother Kate Francis Wilson (1920s voodoo and spiritualist leader). Lesser leaders include Hyde (palm reader), Crozier (fortune teller), Keller-Morris (student of Mother Hyde), Dupont (Mother Kate Francis’ brother), Mother Reason (educated voodoo leader), Sister Haywock (student healer), Elder Johnson (used “prayer book”), Mother Estelle (student Mother Catherine)< Morris (seamstress and medium, student of Ermine Cadiz of national chain “Light of Wisdom Circle”). “Holy Rollers” manuscript about a sanctified sect which used snakes as proof of faith (White Holiness Sect of Church of God) in Hammond, Morgan City, Folsom, Bogalusa and New Orleans. Most subjects include bibliographies.

91 File three of three: Prefinal versions of “Fanatic Cults” includes “white spirit raisers” Scovetto (Sacred Heart Spiritual Church), Mancuso (St. Rita Church), Lilly, (Italian) Guiffre (St. Joseph’s Chapel), Zatarain and the Papoose Food Product Company (Black Hawk devotee), Mother Phillip, Black Hawk, sanctified churches (no candles and a band for a choir), of Rev. Feltus and Rev. B. Hawkins, healer Rev. Treadwell (songs). The story of Black Billy Sunday, Rev. J. Gordon McPherson. Negro Baptist traditions: baptism at Plymouth Rock Baptist Church, Speakers meeting (confessions) at the Progressive Baptist Church, open air revival, weddings, singing contest, wakes, funeral sermons. These manuscripts have some bibliographies and were compiled by Dillon.


93 Charivari. Prefinal “Charivari” by Larson. No bibliography

94 Holidays. Prefinal manuscripts on “Holidays”. Some published sources indicated. Covers the Battle of Mansfield, Rice Carnival (Crowley), St. Joseph’s Day; All Saints Day; King’s Day, Blessing The Shrimp Fleet, Columbus Day, Christmas, slavery Christmas, annual pirogue races, Easter, New Years Day, Twelveth Night, St. Rosalie Day (Kenner), New Orleans cemetery lore, oyster season, confederate Memorial Day or Decoration Day, cane parades, annual return of ex-slaves to harvest cane, Sugarcane Festival in New Iberia, diamond Jubilee (September 22, day of Emancipation) and other celebrations. Written by Larson and Dunn.

95 Indians. “The Indians of Louisiana” essays and bibliographies. Manuscripts include Pere Rouguette, missionary to Choctaw in St. Tammany Parish, legends and observations of Indians in New Orleans around 1850, customs of Indians Chitimacha tribe (crafts, religion and legends), Atakapa tribe, Caddo, games (stick ball, chungke and dice), Indian place names. Includes a very rough version. Probably compiled by Dillon.

96 Irish Channel. “Irish Channel” manuscript by Anthony includes settlement in New Orleans, Lafayette history, customs of Lafayette residents plant lore and cures, bibliographies, life histories, the wellborn family, Irish death customs, charms, omens, St.
Patrick’s Day, music. “Irish Channel” manuscript by Young includes history, architecture, bibliography and poem titled “The Irish Channel” by Dandy Flynn.

97 Louisiana cemeteries. “Louisiana Cemeteries” prefinal by Dunn. Manuscript may have been used in State Guide because it lists cemeteries on tour routes. Includes Pineville National Cemetery, Russell Cemetery at Grand Encore, Berhoud Cemetery near Lafitte (an Indian mound) (Page four of manuscript calls this “Cagent country”). Use of porcelain and bead flowers on tombs by French. Poems from Louisiana Courier, Chinese burials, bibliography, and extra copies of manuscript.

98 Louisiana legends. “Louisiana legends” manuscript prefinal by Dillon. Includes “Singing River” (Pearl River, Choctaw Stores, Bogue Chitto, Pontchatoula, Pontchatalawa, Abita, bibliography; “Tales of Two Corners” (legend of palm tree in New Orleans); “Lovely lady legends” (Manon LeScout and Princess Charlotte); “Lake Fort Legends” (Chef Menteur, Spanish Fort); and “Lower Coast Stories” (Oyster trade, Lafitte Cemetery). Most contain bibliographies.

99 Loup-Garou “Loup-garou stories” prefinal manuscript by Bridgeman. Two versions.
100 Mississippi River. “Mississippi River” prefinal manuscript by Gaulke. Includes history, legends, accidents on flatboats and steamboats, the naming of the Mississippi, blues, work chants, toasts, weather signs and bibliographies.

101 Peculiar characters. “Peculiar characters” prefinal version by Gaulke and Antony (2 versions).

102 Odd characters. “Odd characters” file contains pieces of an essay by Dunn much crossed out with many quotes from newspaper articles.

103 Pirates and their gold. “Pirates and Their Gold” prefinals manuscript by Dunn includes the history and legends of Jean Lafitte, Dominick you, U. S. Coast Guard, buried treasure and bibliography.

104 Shrimp fleet. “Shrimp Fleet” prefinal manuscript. By Breaux includes religious songs, music, blessing of the fleet and newspaper clippings.

105 Songs. “Songs” prefinal by Dillon and Gaulke. File contains the words to all sorts of songs and some interpretation: Negro folk songs, history of spiritual songs, slavery days songs, junkerman blues, cane cutter work songs, railroad songs (hobo), Louisiana and Arkansas Rail Road, Depression and Works Progress Administration songs, Lafon Old Folks songs, play party, rhyme, children games (Mother Goose), counting rhymes, ring songs.

106 Street names in New Orleans. “Street Names” prefinal version by Sciarra. Includes history of names, group (French, Catholic, Spanish, American), pronunciation and bibliography.

107 Street merchants and their cries. “Street Merchants and their Cries” prefinal manuscript by Dillard includes two versions by Gaulke and one by Antony. Includes bibliographies.

108 Wakes and funerals. “Wakes and Funerals” perfinal manuscript includes negro benevolent societies, uniforms, bands, a professional mourner, and Major Osey, member of 21 societies. Material written by Bridgeman.

109 Life Histories. Life histories recorded by McElwee (handwritten versions). White and Negro narratives including a domestic, Manda Cooper (ex-slave), truck farmer, Italian cook, retired worker, white dairy farmer.

110 Slaves. “Slaves II” life and welfare (treatment, housing, privileges, amusements and religion). Bits and pieces of published material and handwritten slave interviews. Most identify the informants’ names. Backs of some sheets are typed copies of negro work songs, spirituals, rhymes and animal tales. Collected by Dillon.
111 White Odd Occupations. Original. “Odd Occupations” Manuscript about life histories of Cajans, Whites, Negroes and Native Americans. Includes material about a candy vendor, "Cadian Settlement" manuscript (near Michaud), cook, French opera, trappers, food ways, clay sculptor, Civil War, plantation life, crab picker, woman who lives in the “Dead House. “ Marie Laveau, Choctaw customs, St. Joseph House of Hospitality (hoboes), forest saw mill worker, Lily of the Valley Lodge, Carpetbagger Era, manager of Cosmopolitan Hotel, preacher who runs the Baptist Rescue mission. Histories were recorded by Posey, Breaux, Arguedas, Jameson, Tate, Gaulke, Antony.

112 Slaves. Rough manuscript. “Slaves III” characteristics of slaves (loyalty, superstition and susceptibility to influence. Contains bits and pieces of published material and handwritten interviews with ex-slaves. Collected by Dillon.


114 Slaves. “Slaves V” Emancipation. Same form as file 112


116 Negro supernatural tales (ghosts, spirits, witches) Negro tales about these subjects collected by Scott, Posey, Wright, Breaux, Forgotson, Tatum and McElwee.

117 Slaves. Rough manuscript. “Slaves I” Importation and Plantation System. Same form as file 112


118 Part two of five. “Voodoo” prefinal version by Dillon. “Place Congo” manuscript about voodoo practices and celebrations of St. John’s Eve (June 23) in New Orleans Congo Square. Some Marie Laveau material.

118 Part three of five. “Stuff and Nonsense” manuscript of “Voodoo” prefinal version by Dillon. Covers charms, druggists, cures and John The Conqueror Root. “Hoodoo Jambalaya” manuscript discusses charms, spells, incantations, songs, dances and candles.

118 Part four of five. “Voodoo” prefinal version by Dillon manuscript “The Law’s Long Arm” about the suppression of voodoo. Includes cases and voodoo personalities of modern times such as LaLa.

118 Part five of five. “Voodoo” prefinal version by Dillon. Contains “Modern Voodoo II” and “Conjer ways: Louisiana Voodoo outside of New Orleans” (Barnabette case and Shreveport murder of 1937). Also an extensive bibliography is included.

119 Miscellaneous Saxon correspondence and drafts of short pieces to be published. Includes a letter to New Orleans; Item about the upcoming New Orleans City Guide, draft of a pamphlet on Gwen Brustow (writer), appeals on behalf of The Community Chest for funds for an orphanage and Maison Hopitaliere, overview of the Louisiana oyster industry, article for Item about tearing down The Jesuits Church, a report by Tate on early oil leases in Louisiana, oyster "wars", history of Item by Riley, history of absinthe Liquor, introduction written for “Jambalaya,” Tulane University yearbook, information on a speech about early light sources and auction, letter to Item to save (restore) to Vieux Carre, manuscript on how French Quarter should be preserved, critique of Dr. Kendall’s manuscript, response to English novelist’s (J.W. Priestley) article in Harper Magazine on New Orleans (unfavorable), call for restoration of Jackson Square, article on restoration of Madison Street, article on a house in Vieux Carre, book review on Roark Bradford’s The Three-Headed Angel, manuscript on “Evolution of the Louisiana Plantation House”, editorial for Little Theatre, memo on Works Progress Administration progress for crutcher speech, and memo from Dreyer on status of
Louisiana State Guide.

120 Pailet Lane. Private. Negro and white interviews (handwritten) on Pailet Lane. Includes 3 photos of Pailet Lane residents; information of St. Joseph’s Day, Laveau and Bayou St. John. Written by Wallace.


122 Lyle Saxon personal correspondence 1941-1942. Mostly Works Progress Administration material. Contains 5 small and 1 8 x 10 photos; responses on Fabulous New Orleans; poem by Garber about Melrose Yucca House; letter from Lois Lenski, author of Indian Captive, book plans for children on Louisiana Houma Indians; America Eats responses; George Tucker of Associated Press goes to the Riverfront for book ideas; “no” Knopf on Cecil Wright’s “Mama Was a Hobo”; mention of Madison Tensas, author of Leaves from the Notebook of a Louisiana Swamp Doctor; Margaret Anderson’s autobiography; Leon Wallace’s race.

123 Lyle Saxon’s personal correspondence. Contains 8 photos; Saxon article in Time-Picayune (8/25) “Cane River Superstitions”; bank statements; Susan F. Freeman re. Slave story in Town Talk; article on a Natchez plantation; article on Doris Ulmann, photographer; and a handmade book written in 1928 by “R.F.” called “Rhymes.”

124 George Kirby. Poems by George Kirby (some handwritten copies) and a short story “The Night.”

125 Undated letters from Saxon to Mrs. Cammie Henry. Includes mention of his manuscript “Trick Nigger”; meeting with Mrs. Fiske, actress in play “The Rivals”; discussion of Fabulous New Orleans and new book on Came River mulatto culture (became Children of Strangers).

126 Saxon miscellaneous manuscripts. Lyle Saxon autobiography sketch; manuscripts (rough drafts): “Free Mulattoes of Cane River”, “The Hills and the River Lands,” “Architecture on Red River” “English Community at St. Francisville; and “Dusky Nuns and Ball room.”

127 Lyle Saxon file on Julius Rosenwald Fund and recommendations by Saxon for applications of Federal Writers Project, writers Marcus Christian and Dreyer.


129 Lyle Saxon’s personal correspondence Q-Z. Contains announcement by Picayune of Saxon’s series of articles on Mardi Gras, letter to Louisiana State University press about reprinting short story “Cane River”, review of Food for Gourmets by Usher and Gray, letters of appeal for speeches and other favors, unofficial letter from Workers Progress Administration office alluding to questionable material in the State Guide, letter on Dreyer receiving a Julius Rosenwald grant to write book on philanthropist John McDonough, Dillon manuscript on art chinaware. Also contains three manuscripts pulled from the Writers Project material on the Uncle Sam Plantation #622, Academy of The Sacred Heart and Barataria.


131 Lyle Saxons personal correspondence E-J. Memo about Saxon receiving German propaganda mailings, speaking engagements, telegram about changing authorship of “New
Orleans Picture Book."

132 Saxon speaking engagements.

133 Lyle Saxon’s personal correspondence A-D. Includes manuscript on Jefferson Parish by Saxon, information on possible Marie Laveau informant, letter about preserving Ormand Plantation.

134 Lyle Saxon’s correspondence with Mrs. Cammie Henry 1923-1943. Includes printed booklet Saxon wrote about Gwen Bristow, author of Deep Summer (1937) and The Handsome Road (1938); letters to Henry discussing Works Progress Administration job.

135 Lyle Saxon’s personal correspondence A-D 1939. Letters about Works Progress Administration accused of by press of printing communistic material (Governor Leche testifies in behalf of the Louisiana project), copy of Roark Bradford’s avant garde short story “The Projeckin’ Son,” membership list of The Authors Guild in N. Y. C., poem to Saxon re the Works Progress Administration and letter of resignation from Robert Andrews, regional director of the Federal Art Project.

136 Lyle Saxon’s personal correspondence E-J 1939. Contains letters and reviews of Children of Strangers, Saxon mentions that his phonograph record is suppressed in New Orleans and reports of continued Works Progress Administration problems with the press (un-American activities).

137 Lyle Saxon’s personal correspondence K-P. Contains Works Progress Administration letters, copies of House bill 9102, Senate Bill S. 3296 and Joint Resolution H.J. Res. 79 providing for an Executive Department of Science, Art and Literature passed January 3, 1937.

138 Correspondence between Saxon and his agent on Cecil B. DeMille contract to the rights of a movie, “The Buccaneer,” based upon Saxon’s novel Lafitte.

139 Children of Strangers correspondence, reviews and radio show scripts.

140 Correspondence from President Smith at Louisiana State University requesting a portrait of Grace King from E. Fairfax Davenport.

141 Letter from Paul Streger at Leland Hayward declining idea of making Children of Strangers into a play.

142 Saxon correspondence 1937-1939, Contains request for information from clubs and individuals.

143 Mardi Gras correspondence following Saxon’s series of articles in Picayune. Letters from clubs and individuals thanking Saxon for articles, poems by Allen and Paquet, letters about costumes and masking.

144 Farrar and Rinehart, publishers, correspondence. Saxon was contracted to D. Appleton-Century Company, but had agreed to work on a book on the lower Mississippi River for Farrar and Rinehart as a part of their Rivers in America Series. Letter to Mrs. Henry 1946.

145 Requests for magazine articles from Saxon. Subjects include review of Caroline Gordon’s “The Garden of Adonis,” request from Saxon for a list of Butcher photographs, refusal to Holt and Company request to buy Children of Strangers, request for Federal Writers Project article, and copy of article from London Times (1939) on “Federal Art.”

146 Correspondence with D. Appleton Century Company. Includes request to draw on royalty to cover renovating Saxon’s New Orleans apartment, requests from Century for extra chapters and a letter from illustrator Suydam re Fabulous New Orleans new edition.
147 Correspondence with Houghton-Mifflin Publishing Company about the “New Orleans Picture Book;” “Uneasy Blood,” a proposed new book; check stubs; Farrar an Rinehart proposal for book on the lower Mississippi and request for advance; request to H. M. to publish Saxon’s short piece “The Centaur Plays Croquet” which is declined; recommendation to publish Fleta Campbell Springer’s novel; proposal for book on Natchez.


149 Letter to Saxon about the history of the town of Bunkie.

150 Lyle Saxon’s personal correspondence L-Z 1941 and an autobiographical sketch.

151 The New Orleans City Park: It’s First Fifty Years, a typescript manuscript compiled by Federal Writers Project workers, Gulf Printing Company, New Orleans, 1941, by Robert Tallant. File includes two versions (heavily edited), correspondence and editorial comments.


153 Life histories of residents of an apartment building called “The Green Lizard.” Interviews with negro residents by McElwee.

154 Robert Tallant’s “Irish Channel” manuscript. For Gumbo Ya Ya.

155 Robert Tallant’s “Irish Channel” manuscript first and second carbons.

156 Negro folk charms. New Orleans unpublished, second carbon. File contains many items pulled from interviews (man do not state interviewee or interviewer): cures, animal husbandry, love charms, omens tokens of luck, signs, spells, special prayer, gambling luck signs.


158 Negro religious songs. First carbon. These copies have been edited by hand and contain plantation songs, blues, gospel, spirituals (no music). Collected by various writers.

159 Negro religious songs. Second carbon. Many of the same items as file 158; some different.

160 Creole songs in French and English (no music). First carbon. File includes some notation on meaning and origin of songs.

161 Creole songs in French and English (no music). Second carbon. File contains different selections from those in file 160.


163 Creole songs in French and English by Arguedas. Same as file 162. First carbon.

164 French and Creole songs apparently learned as a child by Mrs. Arguedas. Includes songs, stories ad descriptions of games that accompany songs. First carbon.

165 French and Creole songs by Mrs. Arguedas. Second carbon.. File is same as 164.
166 Negro blues songs. Second carbon. Contains words to songs only, some extracted from interviews.

167 Negro blues songs. First carbon. Same as 166 but also contains some Junkerman blues.

168 Negro children’s games and rhymes. File includes numbers game, various songs, ring games, play party songs, fruit basket turn over, nursery and nonsense rhymes, minstrel song, French games, jingle, shadow walk, garden gate, folksongs such as Mr. Frog’s Courtship and Marriage, and extracts of published articles. First carbon.

169 Negro children’s games and rhymes. Most material is a duplicate of file 168; some new.

170 Negro work songs (no music). First carbon. Contains songs about working in field, railroad blues roustabout, timber workers, longshoremen an steamboat workers.

171 Negro work songs. Second carbon. Same material as file 170.

172 Negro gambling, blues, drinking, Junkerman blues and Depression songs (no music). Second carbon.

173 Negro songs (no music). First carbon. Includes gambling, drinking, blues, Depression, possible Mardi Gras Indian song "The Black 400s,' fiddler (square dance) songs, poem "I'm Here to Stay" (Shreveport), and John Henry.


175 White songs. First carbon. Same as file 174.

176 Negro "pseudo science." New Orleans unpublished. First carbon. Subjects include baptism, haunting, resurrection from death, the nature and habits of spirits, how to find treasure, story about what happens when mirrors aren't covered, pregnancy and delivery and miscellaneous items.


179 Unusual phrases. Second carbon. Same as file 178.


182 Animal Husbandry (Negro, Cajun and White). Material is form various parishes (Terrebonne and St. Mary) and much of it consists of items extracted from the interviews. Includes weather signs, revenge, animal calls, health signs, butchering, branding, planting rules, influence of the moon, fishing, hunting and alligator hunting in Plaquemines. Material collected by Antony, Tatum, Forgotson and Posey. New Orleans unpublished, first carbon.

183 Animal husbandry (Negro, Cajun and White). File contains some of the same material as 182 but also "barometer feet" (tell weather by pain), raising chickens, whipping vegetables to make them produce, water witching, warnings an signs. Collected from Terrebonne, St. Mary, Delta Parishes, Ascension, Avoyelles, Washington and Tangipahoa Parishes by Antony, Forgotson and Guardia. Unpublished, second carbon.

184 Divination of dreams, using a divining rod for water or treasure, how to foretell your

185 Divination of dreams. New Orleans unpublished, first carbon. Contains same material as 184; some new.


188 Domestic lore. Unpublished, first carbon. This material taken from the interviews. Contains subjects such as clearing land, ironing, getting rid of mosquitoes, dying fabric, quilting, recipes, winemaking a foretelling sex of a child. Collected by antonym and Huguenot in the Delta and Tangipahoa Parishes.

189 Domestic lore. Unpublished, second carbon. Same as file 188.

190 Miscellaneous negro and white tales from New Orleans. Includes hunting treasures, a love story, murder in a cane cutter settlement, goat people, solar eclipse, panthers, joke about the legal system, jokes about country people tale of a haunted bridge, roof rabbits (cats), fishing tall tales, spirit in the house, Sambo tale, failed hunter, visitor to New Orleans, “two headed man” (can see the future), poem about the church and President Lincoln, a “bear meeting” joke, a mule story. A few seem to be rhymes or songs written in Narrative form such as “A Big Burly Coon.” Collected by Posey, Wright and Huguenot. Unpublished, second carbon.

191 Miscellaneous Negro and White tales from New Orleans. Same as file 190 except includes story of “Big and Lil’ Cloth” and life history of woman from McDonoughville. Unpublished, first carbon.

192 Ex-slave tales and interviews. New Orleans unpublished, first carbon. Contains Breaux-McKinney interview with Catherine Cornelius, slave at Smithfield (also version of hymn “A Voice form the Tombs” by Isaac Watts and plantation funerals); Lillie Bell; Elizabeth Ross Hite (hymns); William Banjo (songs); spelling bee at Lafon Methodist Colored Home; Rev. Tennessee Johnson; Verial Brown (folk medicine); Silas Spotfore; Henry Reed, Annie Flowers; Carlyle Stuart; Odel Jackson; Albert Patterson; Hannah Kelly; B. M. Dietz, white man whose father owned a plantation; Cecil George (song); manuscript by Posey on “The Quality Born Negro” about Francis Lewis; Josephine McDuffy; Jordan Waters; Ed DeBuiew; Herriette Smith; Julia Woodrich; Henrietta Butler; Mary Ann John; Hunton Love; Ellen Broomfield, Shack Wilson; tale of Edmund Lewis, legendary salve who is said to have invented marriage by jumping over a broom; Mary Harris; tale about John McDonald; Rebecca Fletcher; Charles Parcanses; tale of Jesse James by /Edward Ashley; Frances Doby; Gracie Stafford; Uncle Bill; Rebecca Gordon; slave tale by Clorie Turner about the fated of a man who ill treated his slaves; and a joke about a smart slave. Collected by Breaux, McKinney, Wallace, McElwee, Posey, Michinard, Arguedas.


194 negro animal tales. New Orleans unpublished, second carbon. Contains tale of ghost in a graveyard and a haunted church, tale of John Brown, tale of a greedy dog, "Big Fraid and Little Fraid," "The Monkey and the Darkey," "Three Eyes," circus joke "Bill and Jim<" Rabbit stories, Duck and Fish, an animal convention, Brer Rabbit tales, Bear tales, Lion and Bear, Mosquito joke, Brer Rabbit and Brer Goat, lore about snakes, a cat tale, joke on preachers, Fox and Pig, turtle and deer, grizzly bears, Bear and Rabbit, Brer Rabbit and Brer Fox, the Bear family, “The Lady Tiger and the Preacher.” Collected by Posey.


197 Creole and French Loup-Garou tales. Same material as file 196 except some of these copies have been edited. Unpublished, second carbon.


199 White supernatural tales (ghosts, spirits, witches). Same as file 198 except marked with editorial changes. Unpublished, second carbon.

200 Negro supernatural tales (ghosts, spirits, witches). Many are excerpts from interviews. Tales include witches (riding people, out of their skins, omens, how to get rid of them), ghosts (hide or reveal treasure, re-enactment of the Battle of New Orleans, haunting places), hungry spirits, voodoo revenge, jump tale and omen of death. These carbons have editorial corrections. Also includes “Settled Down,” life history of Granville Brooks. Collected by Wright, Posey, Breaux, forgotson and Tatum, McElwee. Unpublished, second carbon.

201 No contents in this file.

202 Marie Laveau documents. First carbon. File contains legal documents pertaining to Marie Laveau and her family. Birth (Ana Laveau, Marie Louise, Caroline Glapion Francoise Glapion, Philomene Glapion) and death records (Philomene Legendre); marriage (Marie Laveau and Francois Auguste, Marie Laveau’s dowry from father Charles Laveau at time of marriage to Jacques Paris) and baptismal records; tombstone inscription of vault attributed to Marie Laveau.


204 Treasure tales. First carbon.

205 Treasure tales. Second carbon.


229 Mother Kate Francis cult.
243 Negro lodges. First and second carbons.
244 Street cries (merchants) and Gombo expressions. First carbon.
245 Street cries (merchants) and Gombo expressions. Second carbon.
248 Street and place names. Unpublished, first carbon.
249 Street and place names. Unpublished, second carbon.
250 Louisiana legends. First carbon.
251 Louisiana legends. Second carbon.
258 River material. Miscellaneous. First carbon.
270 Lottery and Gambling. First carbon.
276 Folklore. Tangipahoa. Unpublished, original, and first carbon.
286 Creoles. Unpublished, original and first carbon.
290 Folklore. West Florida.
291 Folklore. West Florida, second carbon.
298 Bayou St. John. first carbon.
299 Germans in New Orleans Unpublished, first carbon.
300 Germans in New Orleans Unpublished, second carbon.
301 St. Joseph's Day. First carbon.
309 Irish material. Original.
310 Irish material. Third carbon copies.
311 Louisiana Animal Tales. Prefinal number two.
312 Creoles. Gaulke. Carbons number eight
313 Duelling. Folklore Prefinal 8a
314 Fanatic cults.
316 Fanatic cults. Carbon copies.
317 Marie Laveau two Original.
318 Marie Laveau two first carbon.
319 Marie Laveau
328 Songs. Prefinal.
329 Negro songs.
330 Folklore. First carbon. Incomplete.
331 Folklore index. Published. Original.
332 Creoles. File actually titled "Printed matter: Father Divine."
334 Folklore. Northwest Louisiana.
335 Ex-slave narratives. Slavery Days. Published.
336 Ex-slave narratives. Slavery Days. Published.
337 Negro miscellaneous material. Published Carbon.
338 Negro miscellaneous material. Published Original.
339 Creole and Cajun songs. Published Original.
340 Creole and Cajun songs.
341 Creole and Cajun songs. Published second carbon. Incomplete.
342 Folklore. Creole songs. First and second carbons.
343 Creoles. Published, second carbon.
344 Creoles. Published, first carbon.
345 Catholic material. Published original.
346 Catholic material. Published first carbon.
347 Catholic material. Published second carbon. Incomplete.
348 Saints in Louisiana Lore. Published.
349 Saints in Louisiana Lore. Published, second carbon. Incomplete.
350 Ghosts and Mythical characters. First carbon.
351 Ghosts and Mythical characters. Published, second carbon.
352 Louisiana Legends. Published, original.
353 Louisiana Legends. Published, first carbon.
354 Louisiana Legends. Published, second carbon.
355 Legends of Louisiana. Published, second carbon.
356 Legends of Louisiana. Published, third carbon. Incomplete.
357 Indians. Published, original.
358 Indians. Published first carbon.
359 No title, author or description of contents.
360 Indians. Published, second carbon. Incomplete.
361 Indians. Published, third carbon. Incomplete.
364 Animal Tales. Fortier's Louisiana Tales. First carbon.
366 Animal Tales. Fortier's Louisiana Tales Third and fourth carbons.
367 Miscellaneous Louisiana Tales. Published, original.
368 Miscellaneous Louisiana Tales. Published, first carbon.
369 Miscellaneous Louisiana Tales. Published, second carbon.
370 Miscellaneous Louisiana Tales. Published, third and fourth carbons.
374 Voodooism. Trials, records and published, first carbon.
375 Voodooism. Trials, records and published, second carbon.
376 Marie Laveau. Published, first carbon.
377 Marie Laveau. Published, second carbon.
378 Voodooism. Mysteries, practices. Published first carbon.
380 Voodoo. Source of Methods. Published, first carbon.
381 Voodoo. Source of Methods. Published, second carbon.
382 Superstitions, omens, charms. Published, first carbon.
383 Superstitions, omens, charms. Published, second carbon.
384 Superstitions, omens, charms. Published. second carbon.
385 Miscellaneous Folklore. Published, original.
386 Negro miscellaneous material. Published, third carbon.
387 Voodoo stories. Published.
388 Voodoo stories. Published, second carbon.
389 Voodoo stories. Published, second carbon. Incomplete.
390 River folklore. Published.
391 Voodoo outside Louisiana, Haiti, other states, Africa. Published.
392 Voodoo outside Louisiana, Haiti, other states, Africa. Published first carbon.
393 Voodoo outside Louisiana, Haiti, other states, Africa. Published, second carbon.
394 Voodoo outside Louisiana, Haiti, other states, Africa. Published, second carbon. Also The Ban of the Bori.
395 Bras-Coupe. Marie Laveau. Published, first carbon.
396 Bras-Coupe. Marie Laveau. Published, second carbon.
397 Folk songs and street cries. Published, original.
398 Folk songs and street cries. Published, first carbon.
399 Folk songs and street cries. Published second carbon.
400 War Between the States. Published, original.
401 War Between the States. First carbon.
402 War Between the States. Second carbon.
403 Gambling. Published, original.
404 Gambling. Published, first carbon.
405 Gambling. Published, second carbon.
406 Gambling. Published second carbon. Incomplete.
407 Historical and descriptive. Miscellaneous. Published, original.
408 Historical and descriptive. Miscellaneous. Published, first carbon.
409 Domestic data. Published, original and first carbon.
410 Germans in Louisiana. Published, original.
411 Germans in Louisiana. Published, first carbon.
412 Germans in Louisiana. Published, second carbon.
413 French songs. Written down by Cajun women in convent.
414 Voodoo notes. I.L. Patterson from published data
415 Peculiar customs. Larsen from newspapers. Original.
416 Peculiar customs. Larsen from newspaper, first carbon.
417 Popular songs. Published, original.
418 Popular songs. Published, first carbon.
419 Popular songs. Published, second carbon.
420 Miscellaneous material. Original
421 Creole. Published, original.
422 Duelling.
425 St. Rosalia.
426 St. Joseph's Night Number 2.
427 All Saints' Day.
428 Cemeteries. Stuff not used.
430 Voodoo notes. I.I. Patterson.
431 Chapter headings.
432 Cemeteries and Superstitions. Sungaard and Huguenot. Carbons.
434 Gumbo Ya-Ya Chapter One: Zulus, Baby Dolls and Queens.
435 No title. Street Cries by Robert Tallant.
436 No title. Irish Series by Harry Huguenot.
437 Duelling.
438 Manuscripts.
440 Slaves.
441 Durand Wedding. File material.
442 Last pages. George Kirby autobiography. First carbon.
444 Correspondence.
445 Our Lady of Guadeloupe. Interviews.
446 Our Lady of Guadeloupe, continued.
448 Account of Stander's death.
450 Miscellaneous. Folklore material.
451 Depression stories. Correspondence.
452 Storyville.
453 Negro funerals. Not used.
454 Cemeteries and superstitions. Used.
456 St. Rosalie's Day. Chapter from Gumbo Ya-Ya Carbon.
459 Lottery. Unused carbon.
461 Holiday carbons.
463 Natchez and Her History.
465 Lottery carbons.
466 Life Histories, Showboat, Crystal Gazer, Greek Hamburger Man, Life of Mike Fink, Marie Molina
468 Yellow. Lottery. Private.
469 Lottery. Private.
470 The Cajuns. Not used.
471 Gambling material.
472 Jazz.
473 Negro Carnival. Tallant.
474 "Luella" by E. A. Cullom
475 Cajun material. Mrs. Tate. Notes and bibliography.
476 Irish Channel.
477 Zulu. Private.
478 Irish material. Private. Not used. 103.
479 Irish material. Private. Not used.
480 Irish material. Not used.
482 Miscellaneous documents. Original.
483 Estate of W. J. Warrington.
484 Miscellaneous legal items of C. Roselius. Original.
486 Succession of Marie Galpion (died 1844).
487 Succession of Marie Galpion. First carbon.
488 Will of Stephen Henderson (excerpts).
489 Will of Stephen Henderson. Second carbon.

490 Will of Stephen Henderson. Third carbon

491 Miscellaneous Slaves. Second carbon

492 Inventory of the property belonging to the estate of the late Mrs. Duminil De Glapion (widow), 1825

493 Inventory of the estate of Marie Francoise Fanchon Dupart, wife of Charles Laveau (F.M.C.) (1824).

494 Inventory of estate of Madame Marie Francoise Fanchon Dupart. Carbon.

495 Succession of Octave Lavaux. Original.

496 Succession of Octave Lavaux. Second carbon.

497 Succession of Marie Alonaster (F.W.C.). Original.

498 Inventory of the property belonging to the estate of the late Mrs. Duminil De Glapion (1825). Original.

499 Succession of Eloise Euchariste Glapion, daughter of Marie Laveau (1881). Original.

500 Succession of Eloise Euchariste Glapion. Second carbon.

501 Inventory of estate of Lisette Glapion (F.W.C.) (1827).

502 Inventory of Lisette Glapion. Second carbon.


505 Estate of Celestin Glapion (F.M.C.) (1826). Original.

506 Estate of Celestin Glapion. Second carbon.

507 Deeds to Marie Laveau's house on St. Ann Street, New Orleans.


510 Marie Glapion (date 1844) succession. Second carbon.

511 Succession of Christophe Glapion (1855). Original.

512 Succession of Christophe Glapion. Second carbon.

513 Miscellaneous legal items. Second carbon.

514 Misc. legal items. Third carbon.

515 Sauvinet property square 79 in second district. Various legal items.

516 Sauvinet property. Carbon.
517 James Gallier, Jr. succession (1875). Original.

518 Title claims and abstracts for Vieux Carre Commission square 17 lot 12 and square 22 lot 2 or 9. Material was prepared for New Orleans City Guide to historic places and interesting personalities. This file is separated into six parts.

519 John McDonough Esquire, typed versions of legal letters (1827).


521 Police Captain's report on arrest of Negro slaves (1832). Original.

522 St. Joseph's Day pre-final manuscript by Tallant. File consists of three parts.

523 Life histories and other miscellaneous manuscripts. about mostly New Orleans people. Contains a manuscript about a Catholic conversion experience, history of a White peanut vendor, history of a White rice broker, history of a Creole cattle owner (Barataria), a manuscript titled "Tales by a Creole Woman," history of a Creole female factory worker, a manuscript titled "Portrait of Peggy," a White man's account of buried treasure and a hunting machine, and a history of a Negro chimney sweep. Interviews by Posey, Bradford, Breaux, Jameson and McKinney.

524 "My Workers Project Administration Man" manuscript used in GYY McKinney.

525 Life history of White book seller. Interview by Posey.

526 Life histories and miscellaneous manuscripts written about persons living in New Orleans. Contains two versions of the life history of a volunteer fireman, a manuscript titled Wisdom From the Lawd about a Negro at St. Roch Church, history of a White person living in Carrolton section of New Orleans, history of a Negro chimney sweeper, history of a Cajun (Harahan), a slave joke, a history of a woman plantation owner, a history of a Creole domestic worker, a history of a White woman truck gardener, history of a White trapper, history of White (Italian) opera singers, and a history of a White barber. Interviews by Posey, McKinney, Anthony, Tate, Jameson, Scott, Breaux, and Gaulke.

527 "Nickle Gig, Nickle Saddle" manuscript by Tallant used in GYY about the lottery and gambling in Louisiana. Typed 1882 announcement of lottery. two copies.

528 Miscellaneous material from life histories. Contains history of White woman teacher of French and Spanish, manuscript titled "American Folk Stuff" second carbon, a history of White (Italian) opera singers, a history of an antique store owner, a history of a French man and words to the poem "The Ship That Never Returned," a recipe for eggplant pie, and history of a White hobo. Interviews by Jameson, Breaux, Scott, Posey and Anthony.


530 Life histories of New Orleans people. Contains history of a sharecropper (Hahnville), history of a White horseshoer, history of a White Catholic school cook, a manuscript titled "In the City Jungles" about families on relief, a history of a Negro fireman and cook (a couple), a history of a 95 year old man at the Old Soldiers Home in Bayou St. John, a history of the Longshoresman Union (Colored and White), history of a White woman who used to be wealthy, a Teachers Retirement Fund letter dated January. 1913, Bayou St. John fishing boats (1 photo), and an ex-slave interview. Collected by Jameson, Antony, Wallace, Posey and McKinney.

531 Life histories in final form: shrimp fisherman. Also a "Louisiana Folklore" manuscript in two versions.

533 Manuscript for "Axman's Jazz" by Tallant used in GYY. Original title is "Scares."

534 Life history of a Negro titled "Settled Down" in four versions by Bell, Breaux and McKinney.

535 Life histories in final form. Contains "Chimney Sweeper's Holiday" (three carbons) and "Dark Victory Becomes a Chimney Sweeper" (two versions by McKinney).

536 Life histories. Contains histories of Moss and Barber, two ex-slaves at Lafon Old Folks Home; a history of Negro "Red Cap" Augustine, a train porter; and Negro Hall, New Orleans' oldest boot black (marked private). Interviews by Burke.

537 Life histories. Praline Mammy (Creole) at the Cabildo, an auto salesman, Prot. Home for Aged, and a shoe shine man. Interviews by Fontaine.

538 Life histories of Negro Old John (railroad work songs) and French Duplantis (lived in Dulac, Louisiana and state of Florida.) Interviews by Gilbert.

539 Life histories. Includes history of Creole d'Abadie; Dada, a mullato hunter and trapper from the Delta; Negro Daniel, a songwriter; Negro Davis, a longshoreman; White DeBlanc, first woman cabdriver in New Orleans; Negro De Buiew from McDonoghville (parents were slaves); De Couzens; Dede (about Laveau); Dantonii (about spiritualism a handkerchief reading); Negro Doby, an ex-slave who also tells loup garou and animal tales); DeJean, a bookie; an account of the Fern Dance Hall in New Orleans; Dora (about a spirit lamp and superstition); Negro Dominick; Negro Dragney; Dourteaud about the Eads Street jetties; Dreyfus; Dugas, a Cajun mill worker discusses the mill town and CIO union; Negro Distance, a north Louisiana sawmill worker and longshoreman. Interviewers include Arguedas, Anthony, Breaux, Bradford, McElwee, Aime, McKinney, Gaulke, Posey, Huguenot, Tate and Cherrie.

540 Bayou St. John in New Orleans second carbon. File includes accounts of Negro Taylor (Pailet Lane), Mendoza (Crab Lady and Laveau), Negro McDuffy, White Smith (Laveau), Negro Caldwell, Negro St. Ann (slave days and Laveau), Negro Camille (Laveau), French Tybusse (superstitions), information about the First Church of Bayou St. John, miscellaneous slave days narratives, and St. Ann Indian beliefs (Choctaw). Interviews by Wallace, Michinard and Posey.

541 Interviews with Negro Rev. Feltus about the Church of God in Christ Convocation, Oldest Bootblack (marked private), Negro Russell at the Lafon Old Folks Home, French Negro Fonvergne about Marie Laveau and Zozo la Brique, and White Forest who is an actress. Interviews by McKinney, Burke, Breaux, Jameson.

542 Life histories and accounts of the Pest House (where those who had smallpox were kept), French Fichette (a suit pattern maker), a Creole tale "Annabelle" about a girl who finds out she has Negro ancestry, Paisley tale titled "Abnormal Negro," and a narrative about Negro Crawfishermen. Written by Huguenot. Not used.

543 Life histories. File contains the history of Bolingham (housewife), White Staunto (lives in old barracks where they placed dead soldiers called the "Dead House"), Augustine (conductor), Mouton (union seaman), Buras (religious visions), Socialist Party Local New Orleans, barbers (organized labor), Bruno (Salvation Army Store), White Bourgeois, and LeLand. Interviews by Gaulke.

544 Autobiography and poems of Negro George Kirby. First carbon.

545 Autobiography and poems of Negro George Kirby. Rough copy.
The history of slaves in Louisiana is outlined by Dillon. This material incorporates interviews and quoted material from books and newspaper articles. Section I discusses importations, background and types of slaves, laws and restrictions, slave trading and auctions, slave owners and their customs. Section II deals with life and welfare, treatment and punishment, home life and quarters, privileges and marriage, amusements, religion and funerals. Section III gives an account of 1930's attitudes about the characteristics of slaves, including loyalty, superstition, and susceptibility to influence. Section IV covers revolts, runaway slaves, dishonesty, and crimes. The outline includes a bibliography and list of ex-slave interviews.

Autobiography and poems of Negro George Kirby. Original.

Handwritten fragment (1) from life history. Recorded by Posey. Not used.

Life histories of White O'Neal, the sweet pea lady; and White Patrick. Interviews by Wallace.

Life histories of White (Italian) Klonower. A New Orleans French man of society named Lelong gives accounts of a Negro burial society funeral, the Mardi Gras in the 1890s, Kai Jim (Negro), Zozo la Brique, Washington Square, Mizelle Adele (school teacher), Easter Sunday, Volunteer Fire Department parade, debutante parties at Carnival German Club, Le Cafe de L'Entractes, Tammany Ball, and a dance at Barataria. Not used.

Autobiography and poems of Negro George Kirby. Third carbon.

Autobiography and poems of Negro George Kirby. Fourth carbon.

Life histories of a White cab driver; a White oil worker (Houma); White Edwards, a carpenter; Negro Evans; and White Evans. Interviews by Bradford, Anthony, Jameson and Posey.

Life histories. Includes a White ship captain Fehann, Italian Guzzino grocer, Green fisherman at Bayou Barataria, "Treasure Hunt" (Green, Williams and West), White Gallo and wife, Negro Gant "How I Got Religion," White Gardner aviator, Cajun streetcar conductor, labor unions, Cajan (White) sugar cane worker (2 versions), a White sugar cane worker, a French woman, and a White (Italian) shoe cobbler. Interviews by Jameson, Cherrie, Breaux and Antony.


Folk charms of Terrebonne Parish and New Orleans 1 Ballad. Collected by Anthony.


Folk and religious songs. Negro. Collected by Guardia.

Creole song (1 only).

Creole songs of New Orleans. Some translated.

Folk songs and blues of New Orleans.

Folk songs and blues of New Orleans.

Play party songs (games and dances for young adults.)

Play party songs.
565 Negro work songs.

566 Folk songs, including a list of songs collected by the Works Progress Administration and songs from New Orleans and north Louisiana. Also a section on "pseudo-science" (cures, sayings, and superstitions). Collected by Posey, Lemelle, McKinney, Anthony, and Lonsberry.

567 Similes and poems. New Orleans.

568 Animal husbandry and farm folklore.

569 Divining the future, interpreting dreams, voodoo and divining rods. Collected by Scott.

570 Divination and folk medicine in Terrebonne Parish. Collected by Breaux and Anthony.

571 Folk practice (1 only)

572 Miscellaneous narratives, including children's stories, animal tales, personal stories, ghost tales and jokes.

573 Narratives (2 only).

574 Ex-slave narratives. Includes interviews with Hite, Banjo, and Cornelius. Slave stories from Clark, Dixon, Turner, Verreth, Caesar, Wells, Brundy, Gineur and Hunter. Interviews by Breaux and McKinney.

575 Riverfront folklore from New Orleans. Annie Christmas written by McKinney. Also includes a ghost story, Spencer blues, and a Carolina Slim poem.


577 Loup-garou (French wolf) and ghost tales. Collected by Breaux, McKinney, Lemelle, Arguedas, Scott, Forgotson, Tatum.

578 Witches and ghosts. Long narrative from Brooks interview. Material was collected by Posey, Wright and Breaux.

579 Riverfront New Orleans folklore. Includes slang, superstitions, ships, wharf dwellers, and captains. Material collected by Wright.


581 Riverfront and Mardi Gras material. Collected by Huguenot.

582 Mardi Gras (Zulu King and Queen). Collected by McKinney.

583 Street characters in downtown New Orleans. Collected by Breaux.


585 Gambling slang and lottery. Also includes an interview about Junker men (drug culture and blues). Collected by Lemelle and McKinney.

586 Marie Laveau (New Orleans voodoo queen) material and court records.

587 Laveau material. Also includes a life history excerpt from Fonvergne by Breaux. Collected by Breaux, McKinney, Burke, and Posey.
588 Interviews with persons about Marie Laveau. Written by Posey, Michinard, Burke.

589 Laveau material from published sources. Collected by Wallace.

590 Black Spiritualist Churches in New Orleans. Include manuscripts on Mother Rita (successor to Mother Catherine), Mother Catherine's funeral and will. Written by Burke and McKinney.

591 Black Spiritualist Churches in N.O. Includes Mother "Leafy" Anderson (her funeral, arrest, and the church charter) and St. Black Hawk (and Indian spirit respected by Negroes). Written by McKinney, Dillon, Breaux and Wright.

592 Riddles.

593 Miscellaneous folklore file which includes interviews and items on gambling, lottery and raffles; Pailet Lane Negroes; St. Joseph's Day; All Saints Day; cemeteries; and omens, tokens and signs. Also contains Natchitoches Parish and Irish Channel folklore. Written by Michinard, Breaux, Wallace, Posey and Huguenot.

594 Negro social events, including balls; weddings; parades such as the Benevolent Society, Fireman and candle march; parties such as fish fries, dances, parties and chicken suppers. Material written by McKinney, Burke and Huguenot.

595 Negro River Baptism. Collected by Breaux, McKinney and Burke.

596 Negro Protestant healers.

597 Manuscripts on the New Orleans "Devil Man;" a spiritualist statue maker; Lyons, a voodoo doctor; Morris, a medium; Mother Dora Tyson discusses St. Black Hawk, an Indian spirit guide; and Blanc, a medium and singer who sings French colonist songs. Written by McKinney, Lemelle, Breaux and Arguedas.

598 Negro Baptist traditions in New Orleans collected by McKinney and Breaux. Interview with Negro wood carver Turner.

599 White Protestant Testimony Service (meeting praising God).

600 White cult leaders Zatarain and Mother Philip. Collected by McKinney, Breaux.

601 Mother Kate Francis and her Negro spiritualist church in New Orleans. Written by McKinney.

602 Negro religious traditions in New Orleans. Includes funerals, wakes and benevolent societies. Collected by McKinney, Breaux, Wright and Bridgeman.

603 Negro voodoo: Marie Comtesse and Marie Laveau. Collected by McKinney.


606 Street vendors folklore, including Creole belle cala cakes, music to chimney sweep and cala street songs, and an account of the Waffle man. Written by
Arguedas.

607 Negro customs (marriage, ghosts, Needle Man) by Breaux. Johnson interview.


609 Folklore of Natchitoches, St. Mary, Tangipahoa, and Washington Parishes. Creole customs (large manuscript) and New Years Day. Negro customs: Carnival Indians, cures, ghost stories, moss work, trapping and husbandry. Folklife of Louisiana (large manuscript). These manuscripts were written by Dunn, Anthony, Arguedas, Breaux, Burke, Forgotson, Tatum, McKinney and Guardia.

610 Creole New Orleans. Collected by Michinard.

611 Cajun interviews with Madden, Polite, Laroque and Bertin by Huguenot. Essay comparing Canuck (Canadian French) and Cajun.

612 Folklore of Northwest La. (Shreveport) by Woodley. Five Louisiana Folkways manuscripts by Dillon (one marked "Louisiana Guide").

613 Four folklore manuscripts on superstitions, ghosts, Marie Laveau, and charms by McKinney.

614 Gretna fire department and Mardi Gras Krewe of Venus. Written by Wallace.

615 Folklore of Louisiana, including French songs and translations by Argedas and McKinney.

616 Saxon's office files. List of contents.

617 Acadians by Dillon. 1941 inventory of Federal Writers Project office.

618 Index to the Louisiana Folklore volume. Itemized list of contents of folders.

619 Outline of book plans--Gumbo Ya Ya and America Eats by Tallant.

620 1940 inventory files of folklore by Dillon.

621 1939 inventory files of folklore by Dillon.

622 Inventory of various office items.

Index to Basic Subjects in the Federal Writers Project Files

I. Ethnic Groups:

Ethnic group names which appear in the index are those used by Federal Writers Project workers. No attempt was made to identify files which do not clearly state ethnic identification. In general, the files contain material about a single group. The ethnic group of the person interviewed is usually provided on the upper margin of the first page of each interview.

In general, the term “White” is used to describe Italian, English, Scandinavian Scots and Irish persons. “Creole,” a term also used in other states to mean first settlers, appears in the Federal Writers Project to designated people of Spanish and French ancestry. The “Cajun” was apparently in a state of flux during the late 1930s. Researchers will find many different spellings of this term in the files. Generally, “Cajun” refers to French people who came to Louisiana from Nova Scotia, also called “Acadians.”
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1802-1804 Court Minutes: Adams Co., Mississippi
(Typescript) Copy of County Court minutes, October 1802-June 1804
Melrose Collection, Folder 1131-1136

1808 Indenture and Land Sale in Claiborne Co., Mississippi

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1803 Poem
“Lines on the Cession of Louisiana to the United States.” No signature.
Miscellaneous Collection 4, Folder 16

1804 Louis Monette’s Burial
(Type copy) Died in 1804. Iron cross on grave. Other notes of area in Mrs. Cammie Henry’s handwriting. Melrose Collection, Scrapbook 78, p. 119

1806 Account of the Duel between Jackson and Dickinson
(Typed, undated manuscript) Anonymous 285-page manuscript concerning the famous 1806 duel between Gen. Andrew Jackson and Charles Dickinson. Documents describes events leading to the duel.
Jackson Collection in Miscellaneous Collection Box 5