Dugas family letters

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Georgia Historical Society
Creator: Dugas family.
Title: Dugas family letters
Dates: 1787-1846
Extent: 0.25 cubic feet (7 folders)
Identification: MS 0225

Biographical/Historical Note

Louis Rene Adrien Dugas de Vallon (1745-1807) and his wife, Marie Francoise Pauline Bellemeau de la Vincendiers emigrated from Paris to Santo Domingo during the French Revolution. During the slave insurrection in Santo Domingo in 1792, they fled to Washington, Georgia. At their home in Washington, Mrs. Dugas conducted the Boarding School for Select Young Ladies which was attended by the daughters of many of Georgia's notable early settlers. Following her husband's death in 1807, Madame Dugas moved to Augusta and opened a seminary. The Dugas children included Frederick E., Pauline, Adrienne (Mrs. Paul Rossignol), Louis Charles, Marie Claudine Burnadine, Louis Jean Jacques, and Louis Alexander (names appear in no particular order).

Following his graduation from the University of Maryland in 1827 with an MD, Louis Alexander Dugas (January 3, 1806-October 19, 1884) lived in Paris for three years while he studied with physicians in several European cities. Dugas served as chair of the physiology department at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta (?-1855), and as the school's dean from 1861 until 1876. He authored numerous papers for medical journals and his test for a dislocated shoulder joint, known as the "Dugas Test" and published in The Transactions of the American Medical Association in 1857, is still used today.

Scope and Content Note

The Dugas family letters include correspondence received by Dugas family members concerning family business matters from 1787-1846. The bulk of the letters address the health and happiness of family members, local weather, births, and sicknesses. The letters are arranged in chronological order and many are in French.

The Dugas family's interests in Dahlonega gold mines and iron castings appear throughout the collection. When Paul Rossignol moved his family to Dahlonega to oversee the family's castings, his daughter, Emily, wrote several letters describing the living conditions, people, and fights in Dahlonega (1842).

Louis Alexander Dugas and his family in Augusta exchanged numerous letters while he was studying in Paris. Of particular interest are descriptions of French relatives and prices of goods, food, and services available in Paris.

Correspondence received by Captain Frederick E. Dugas includes lists of troops on detail or confined at Pap Christian, Georgia (1811). He was also involved with shipping as evidenced in letters referring to a shipment of cotton damaged by fire and a shipment of freight to Rabun County including rum, sugar, mackerel, hay, whiskey, steel, iron, and salt (June 1831).

Index Terms

Dugas Family--Correspondence.
Dugas, Frederick E., Captain.
Dugas, Louis Alexander, Dr.
Gold mines and mining--Georgia--Dahlonega.
Rossignol, Emily Dugas.
Administrative Information

Custodial History
Unknown.

Preferred Citation
[item identification], Dugas family letters, MS 225, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Acquisition Information

Restrictions

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Index

Allen, T. 1:7 (5)
Bettes, J. 1:1
Cobb, Thomas W. 1:1
Damphoux, E. 1:3
Dugas de Vallon, Louis Rene Adrien 1:2
Dugas de Vallon, Marie Fancios Pauline 1:2
Dugas, Louis Alexander, throughout the collection 1:3, 1:5 (2), 1:6, 1:7 (7)
Dugas, Louis Charles 1:3, 1:5 (2), 1:6, 1:7 (7)
Dugas, Louis Frederick E., throughout the collection 1:3, 1:5 (2), 1:6, 1:7 (7)
Dugas, Mary Frances Pauline Vincindiere 1:2, 1:3 (7), 1:4 (5), 1:5 (6), 1:6 (4), 1:7 (2)
Glascock, Thomas 1:2
Hill, Henry H. 1:1
Jones, Henry J. 1:1
Lavalle, M. 1:1
Lofton, John 1:2
Mantz, P. H. 1:6, 1:7
Meigs, John B. 1:2
Nicollet, M. 1:5
Pasteur, Thomas A. 1:2
Picquet, Antoine 1:3
Picquet, B. 1:1 (3), 1:2, 1:3 (2)
Pincard, L. 1:5 (2)
R & G.S. Wood, New York, NY 1:3 (2)
Rossignol, Adrienne Dugas (Mrs. Paul) 1:4, 1:5 (2), 1:6 (4), 1:7 (2)
Rossignol, Emily 1:5, 1:6 (2), 1:7 (3)
Rossignol, Henry 1:7
Rossignol, James 1:3
Rossignol, Paul 1:3, 1:4 (4), 1:5 (2), 1:6 (6), 1:7 (6)
Thomasson, Paul Pierre 1:1 (2), 1:2 (4)
Wallen, Elias 1:1

Sponsorship

Encoding funded by a 2012 Documenting Democracy grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Container List

Letters

Fldr
1 Items 1-21:, 1787-1826

Fldr
2 Items 22-35:, 1827-1828

Fldr
3 Items 36-58:, 1829

Fldr
4 Items 59-82:, 1830-1831

Fldr
5 Items 83-103:, 1833-1838

Fldr
6 Items 104-127:, 1842

Fldr
7 Items 128-152:, 1842-1846