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## Barret Family Papers (MSS 46)

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Western Kentucky University  
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*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 46 BARRET Family Papers**

1/2 box. 5 folders. 47 items. 1877-1926. Originals.

1955.15.2

***BIOGRAPHY***

John G. Barret, d. 1890, received his law degree from the University of Louisville in 1852 and was one of the organizers of the Citizens National Bank, now Citizens Fidelity Bank and Trust Company, Louisville, Kentucky. He was also a founder of the Louisville Central Presbyterian Church and the Louisville American Printing House for the Blind. In 1855, he married Ann Eliza Rodes, 1828-1915, sister of Robert Rodes, Sr., in Danville, Kentucky.

Of their three children, Amanda, 1856-1931, Clifton Rodes, 1859-1926, and Henri, 1861-1900, only Henri married. Her husband, Richard Montfort, 1854-1931, was born March 4, 1854, in Ireland, son of Dr. Henry and Elizabeth (Colles) Montfort. Richard was educated in Dublin, graduating with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1876, and came to the United States that same year. He worked with the Louisville Bridge & Iron Company until 1880 when he became bridge engineer for the L & N Railroad, was promoted to chief engineer in 1887, and then to consulting engineer in 1905.

The only child of Henri and Richard Montfort, John Barret, was born March 6, 1890. Following his mother's death in 1900, Barret lived with his father and his aunt Amanda (Emmie) in Cherokee Park, Louisville. Barret graduated from the Hill School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania in 1907, received his degree in Civil Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Troy, New York, in 1913, and then studied law at the University of Virginia. He was an army engineering officer in World War I, serving in France. After the war, he joined the Chemical National Bank of New York and later became head of its trust division. He moved to England in 1933, continuing his association with the bank. In 1939, he moved to Canada, where he remained active in real estate and business until his death in New York City on September 12, 1962.

Bibliographical Notes

The Collection  
*L & N Employees Magazine*, March 1931  
*Memorial History of Louisville*, J. Stoddard  
Johnson, ed.

**THE COLLECTION**

Twenty-one World War I letters, chiefly from France, an 1883 European travel journal, notebooks, photos, and miscellaneous papers of the Barret and Montfort families of Louisville, Kentucky, comprise the collection. The majority of the materials concern Henri Barret, 1861-1900; civil engineer Richard Montfort, 1854-1931, Henri's husband; and their son Barret Montfort, 1890-1962, who was an army engineer, banker, and businessman.

**SHELF LIST****BOX 1**

Folder 1a	Inventory		3 items
Folder 1	Henri Barret: Poetry scrapbook (holographic), journal of European trip and holographic copy of journal	1877-1883	3 items
Folder 2	Richard Montfort: Promissory note, will, biographical notes	1903-1926	3 items
Folder 3	John Barret Montfort: School notebook, World War I letters, military papers	1901-1919	25 items
Folder 4	Photos: Barret Montfort, John G. Barret, R. F. Barret, and an unidentified small girl	n.d.	4 items
Folder 5	Miscellaneous Montfort items, including biographical notes	n.d.	9 items

**CATALOG CARD**

MSS 46      BARRET Family Papers      1877-1926

World War I letters; European travel diary, 1883; notebooks; pictures; and miscellaneous papers of the Barret family of Louisville, Kentucky. Persons represented are Richard Montfort, 1854-1931; Henri (Barret) Montfort, 1861-1900; and their son, Barret Montfort, 1890-1962.  
 ½ box. 5 folders. 47 items.  
 1955.15.2

***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Barret, Amanda, 1856-1931  
Barret, John G., d. 1890  
Barret, John G., d. 1890 - Photos  
Barret, R. F. – Photos  
Europe – Travel and description, 19<sup>th</sup> century  
France – Verdun – Map, 1918 C1-D8,1  
Great Britain – Travel and description, 1883  
Journals – Barret, Henri, 1883  
Journals – European trip, 1883  
Montfort, Henri (Barret), 1861-1900  
Montfort, John Barret, 1890-1962  
Montfort, John Barret, 1890-1962 – Photos  
Montfort, Richard, 1854-1931  
U. S. – Army – Corps of Engineers  
World War I, 1914-1918 – Letters

Jeffrey 06/19/2012