Guide to the

Rigmaidan Family Collection

1852-1923

Collection No. 105
2.54 linear ft.

Prepared by Trina Morgan
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CITATION: The Rigmaidan Family Collection, Collection No. 105, Box No., Folder No., Archives and Special Collections Department, Frazar Memorial Library, McNeese State University.

Archives and Special Collections Department
Frazar Memorial Library
McNeese State University
Biographical Sketch

Thomas Rigmaiden came to the Calcasieu Parish area between 1820 and 1826. He married Eliza Ryan, daughter of Jacob Ryan, Sr. Rigmaiden was known as the first school teacher west of the Calcasieu River. The exact location of Rigmaiden’s homestead is not known, but is thought to have been on the West Fork, north of Westlake. Rigmaiden wrote daily in a diary for 29 years, recording his family life and events of the area.

Two of his sons, Albert and Jacob, moved to Lake Charles sometime before 1884 where they both held parish offices. Albert Rigmaiden was an alderman and member of the first town council, serving four successive terms. He was also a member of the parish school board for three terms and parish treasurer, 1891-1896. He was reelected parish treasurer in 1900 and held that job until ill health forced his resignation in 1907. He died in 1910.

Albert’s son, James Rigmaiden, opened one of the first hotels in Lake Charles. Originally, he had a bakery and confectionery on Railroad Avenue. Then, he and Paul Greiner moved the bakery to 825 Ryan St. where he also built the Rigmaiden Hotel.

“James J. Rigmaiden and Company,” according to the Daily American Souvenir Edition of 1895, “conducts one of the largest steam bakeries in this section of the state, not only in size but in volume of business and in the number of people served. This is one of the most elegantly fitted up places in the city, and the bakery products and confections are quite popular with the people who enjoy a cup of perfect coffee.”

It was at this same location that they also opened the Rigmaiden Hotel - a very busy and popular establishment during the early part of the twentieth century.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of photographs, abstracts of land purchases, bonds, a plat map from Cameron Parish, correspondence, and a crockery pitcher, probably from the Rigmaiden Hotel.
## Contents

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<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| 1   | 1      | Photographs:  
Southern Pacific Railroad  
King Family  
Livonia Rigmaiden (Mrs. Stacy Carroll)  
Ernest Perry Webre  
2 unidentified |
| 2   | 2      | Abstracts:  
Beginning March 28, 1874 to Joseph L. Ryan  
Beginning December 13, 1852 to James Barnett |
| 3   | 3      | German, Austrian, and Hungarian bonds dated 1918-1923 with correspondence from Kohlmeyer and Co. concerning their sale to Esther Rigmaiden. |
| 4   | 4      | Plat of Township labeled “Intercoastal Canal” belonging to John H. Poe, Cameron Parish, n. d. |
| 5   | 5      | Letter from Elizabeth Edwards to her sister-in-law, February 19, 1867. |
| 2   | 2      | White crockery pitcher with “The Rigmaiden” and a crest painted on, n. d. |