Descriptive Summary

Creator: Raoul, William Greene, 1843-1913.
Title: William Greene Raoul papers 1878-1897
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 162
Extent: .5 linear ft. (1 box) and 10 bound volumes (BV)
Abstract: Scrapbooks, letterbooks, and miscellaneous papers of railroad executive, inventor and businessman William Greene Raoul.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

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Related Materials in This Repository
Related collections in this repository are the Raoul Family Papers and the Sarah Lois Wadley Papers.

Source
Gift, 1920.

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], William Greene Raoul papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing
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Collection Description

Biographical Note
William Greene Raoul (July 4, 1843 - January 17, 1913), railroad tycoon, was born in Livingston Parish, Louisiana; the son of Gaston Turner (born Gaston Cesar Raoul de Champmanoir) and Mary Emily (Davidson) Raoul. His education was acquired in the country schools of the area supplemented by private tutors. When eighteen years old, he entered the Confederate Army, joining the Washington Artillery of New Orleans. In March 1864, possibly on the recommendation of family friend William M. Wadley, former Assistant Adjt. Gen'l, in charge of the railroad bureau of the Confederacy, Raoul was promoted to Captain and placed in charge of the construction of railway cars.

At the end of the war, Gaston Raoul and William M. Wadley established a car works to build rail cars, the operation of which they immediately gave to their sons, William Greene Raoul, Giffen Raoul, and William Wadley. In 1866, William M. Wadley was elected president of the Central Railroad of Georgia and moved, with his family to Savannah, and on October 27, 1867 William Green Raoul married William's daughter, Mary Wadley (March 4, 1848 - August 1, 1936). In 1870 when the Southern Car Works failed, Greene and Mary moved to Savannah where Greene began working as an assistant road master and in 1879 he was general superintendent of the Montgomery & Eufaula Railroad. He held all of these positions until 1880 when he was elected vice-president of the Central Railroad and Banking Company of Georgia.

In 1882, William M. Wadley, the president of the company, died, and the Board of Directors elected General E. P. Alexander to fill the balance of the term. Raoul resigned as vice-president and in the next stockholders meeting defeated Alexander for the presidency. He remained in that position until 1887, when Alexander, having purchased large blocks of stocks, reclaimed the office.

Raoul was elected president of the troubled Mexican National Railroad Company in 1887 and maintained that position until 1904. He was president of the Atlantic and Birmingham Railway from its organization in 1905; and president of the Southwestern Railroad from 1901 until his death.

Inventions, bimetallism, real estate development, street car systems and the Associated Charities of Atlanta all attracted Raoul's interests. He invented the air brake, among other things, and sold the patent to Westinghouse. A mountain side in Ashville, N.C., he transformed into a hotel resort. He wrote articles advocating bimetallism and established the W.G. Raoul Foundation to develop anti-tuberculosis work in Georgia.

The children of William Greene and Mary Raoul are: Mary (b. 1870); William Greene (b. 1872); Gaston Cesar (b. 1878); Edward (1880-1882); Agnes, (b. 1882); Rosine (b. 1878); Loring (b. 1887); Eleonore (b. 1888); and Norman (b. 1890).

Scope and Content Note
The collection falls into three parts of scrapbooks, letterbooks, and loose papers. There are three scrapbooks kept by W. G. Raoul containing newsclippings on a wide variety of topics, but mainly concerned with railroad affairs.
The seven letterbooks contain copies of 963 letters written by W. G. Raoul between March 26, 1878 and August 19, 1897. These letters were to such men as J.S. Baxter, president of the Southwestern Railroad, Charles A. Collier, president of the Cotton States and International Exposition; Bradford L. Gilbert, architect; M.S. Smith, president of the L & N Railroad; H. W. Smith, chairman of the Mexican National Railroad security holders; Jacob Henry Schiff (1847-1920) of Kuhn, Loeb, and Co.; and Patrick Calhoun, railroad lawyer.

The eight folders of loose papers consist of 115 letters; printed documents such as leases, re-organization plans, and reports to stockholders; and news clippings. These are arranged chronologically from 1869 through January 1896. One folder containing lists of stockholders and proxies corresponds with letterbook, December 1883 - February 1884.
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Adams, A.P., Savannah, Georgia  
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Adams, M.M., New Brighton, N.Y.  
TLS, March 23, 1896

Alexander, Edward Porter  
TLS, February 10, 1881

Alexander, P.W., Marietta, Georgia  
TLS, June 23, 1882

Anderson, Andrew, New York, N.Y.  
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Aston, E.J. Asheville, N.C.  
TLS, June 4, 1896

Aston, Rawles, & Co., Asheville, N.C.  
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Backus, T.J., Atlanta, Georgia  
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Bacon, Augustus Octavius, Macon, Georgia  
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Barrie, George, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,  
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Baxter, J.S., Macon, Georgia  
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Beaman, Charles C., New York, N.Y.  
12 TLS, August 27, 1888 - July 29, 1895

Beath, J.M., Atlanta, Georgia and New Orleans, Louisiana  
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Bell, C.M., Washington, D.C.
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Belmont, August, New York, N.Y.
5 TLS, June 5, 1896 - August 16, 1897

Beutell Manufacturing Co., Atlanta, Georgia
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Black, W.A., Americus, Georgia
4 ALS, April 22 - August 6, 1878

Blake, Arthur W., Boston, Massachusetts
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Borge, Simon, New York, N.Y.
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Bonneville, H., Paris, France
ALS, March 27, 1882

Bostick, A.B., Atlanta, Georgia
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Boyd, Isaac S., Atlanta, Georgia
8 TLS, April 17 - August 18, 1897

Brackenridge, George W., San Antonio, Texas
TLS, November 10, 1896

Branch, T.P., Augusta, Georgia
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Brantley, W.S., Macon, Georgia
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Breland, J.P., Independence, Louisiana
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Bremer, H.F., Charleston, S.C.
2 TLS, July 22 - August 4, 1890

Brewster, C.W., New York, N.Y.
TLS, June 2, 1890

Brinsmade, Allen A., Houston, Texas
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Broadman, W.H., New York, N.Y.
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**Broomhead and Street, Atlanta, Georgia**
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**Brown, Alexander, Baltimore, Maryland**
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**Brown, E.N., Mexico City, Mexico**
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**Brown, Joseph Emerson, Washington, D.C.**
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**Brown, W.R., Columbus, Georgia**
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**Burr, George W., Macon, Georgia**
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**Cabaniss, M.C., Newnan, Georgia**
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**Calhoun, Dr. A.B., Atlanta, Georgia**
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**Calhoun, Patrick**
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**Campbell, R.O., Atlanta, Georgia**
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**Campbell, T.M., Palestine, Texas**
TLS, November 10, 1896

**Candler, A.D., Gainesville, Georgia**
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**Carpenter, W.D., New York, N.Y.**
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**Cates, I.E., New York, N.Y.**
TLS, November 7, 1896

**Chase, E.E.**
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**Chesney, T.O., Macon, Georgia**
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Clarke, Gordon, Washington, D.C.  
TLS, August 12, 1895

Clarke, W.L., Columbus, Georgia  
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Collier, Charles A., Atlanta, Georgia  
3 TLS, October 17, 1894 - March 12, 1895

Comer, H.M., Savannah, Georgia  
12 TLS, September 10, 1888 - January 7, 1895

Cooper, John R., Macon, Georgia  
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Crawford, Henry, New York, N.Y.  
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Crowther, John A., Savannah, Georgia  
TLS, December 27, 1887

Cunningham, Henry C., Savannah, Georgia  
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Cunningham, T.M., Savannah, Georgia  
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Cumming, Joseph B., Augusta, Georgia  
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Cushing, Robert, New York, N.Y.  
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Davidson, Theodore F., Asheville, N.C.  
TLS, September 3, 1886

Davis, Julian T., New York, N.Y.  
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Davison, John, Augusta, Georgia  
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Denmark, Brantley A., Savannah, Georgia
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**Deshon, Charles A., New York, N.Y.**
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**Desscau, Washington, Macon, Georgia**
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**Dougherty, D. Webster, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**
TLS, November 28, 1890

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**Duckworth, Joseph B., Liverpool, England**
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**Duncan and Ellis, Amite City, Louisiana**
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**Duncan, William Butler, New York, N.Y.**
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**Dunning, A.W., Cincinnati, Ohio**
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**Egan, John M., Savannah, Georgia**
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**Ellis and Gray, Atlanta, Georgia**
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**Ellis, Stephen D., New Orleans, Louisiana**
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**Fay, Joseph S., Boston, Massachusetts**
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Flewellen, E.A.
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Frazer, J.M., Mexico City, Mexico
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Friedrichs, Dr. George J., New Orleans, Louisiana
TLS, October 14, 1895

Galbraith, J.N., Laredo, Texas
TLS, November 10, 1896

George, C.W., Amite City, Louisiana
TL, June 7, 1897

Gilbert, Bradford L., New York, N.Y.
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Glessner, W.L., Americus, Georgia
ALS, February 6, 1884

Gookin, Edmund, Ponchitoulas, Louisiana
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Gordon, W.W., Savannah, Georgia
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Graham, W.A., Fort Gaines, Georgia
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Grant, H. Fraser, Asheville, N.C.
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Gresham, J.J., White Sulphur Springs, W. Virginia
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Gresham, Thomas B., Baltimore, Maryland
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Guerney, W.S., New York, N.Y.
TLS, April 15, 1889

Gulliver, William C., New York, N.Y.
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Gwyn and West, Asheville, N.C.
TLS, October 10, 1890

Hanson, J.F., Macon, Georgia
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Harden, Thomas H., Savannah, Georgia
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Harrold, Uriah B., Americus, Georgia
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Haskell, J.C., Atlanta, Georgia
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Herbert, Sidney, Atlanta, Georgia
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Harts Bros., New York, N.Y.
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Hillyer, Eben, Rome, Georgia
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Hollins, H.B., New York, N.Y.
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Horsey, J.A., New York, N.Y.
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Howard, George H., Washington, D.C.
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Howcott, H.W., New Orleans
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Howell, Evan P., Atlanta, Georgia
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Hubbard, S.B., Jacksonville, Florida
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Hunnicutt and Bellingsgrath, Atlanta, Georgia
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Hurt, Joel, Atlanta, Georgia
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Hutton, Lawrence, Tannersville, N.Y.
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TLS, February 15, 1888

Inman, Samuel M., Atlanta, Georgia
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Inman, Walter H., Atlanta, Georgia
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Islan, A., New York, N.Y.
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Jeffries, Charles T., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
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Johnson, J. Forsyth, Atlanta, Georgia
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Johnson, William M., St. Louis, Mo.
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Jones, Henry, Washington, D.C.
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**Kellogg & Co., Utica, N.Y.**
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**King, Alexander Campbell, Atlanta, Georgia**
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**Knapp, A.C., Macon, Georgia**
ALS, December 27, 1884

**Krebs, William, New York, N.Y.**
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**Landa, William de, Mexico City, Mexico**
6 TLS, January 4, 1893 - October 21, 1896

**Lane, G.M., Boston, Massachusetts**
3 TLS, June 8 - 18, 1896

**Lane, Mills B., Savannah, Georgia**
TLS, April 16, 1897

**Lawton and Cunningham, Savannah, Georgia**
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**Lee, M.B., Asheville, N.C.**
TLS, August 5, 1890

**Lee, R.M., Asheville, N.C.**
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**L'Engle, C.S., Atlanta, Georgia**
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**Lilienthal, Howard, New York, N.Y.**
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**Lowry, Robert J., Atlanta, Georgia**
TLS, November 6, 1896

**Lunt, Mary A., Nashua, N.H.**
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McVeen, Howard S., New York, N.Y.
TLS, October 16, 1894

MacDonald, Gordon, Montgomery, Alabama
TL, April 26, 1897

MacKenzie, Rev. J.C., Lawrenceville, N.J.
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MacLean, Malcolm, Savannah, Georgia
TLS, June 2, 1894

Macmanus, Tomas, Calle Nuevo, Mexico
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Magniac, Charles, London, England
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Manuel, A., St. Paul, Minnesota
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Martin, Thomas H., Atlanta, Georgia
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Matheson & Co., London, England
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Meeker, George D., New York, N.Y.
TLS, December 1, 1893

Merriam, Charles, Boston, Massachusetts
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Miller, Frank H., Augusta, Georgia
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Moorhees, T.S., Montgomery, Alabama
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Morley, Benjamen F., Chester, Pennsylvania
TLS, October 25, 1890

Morril, W.C.,
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Morris, A.W., New York, N.Y.
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Morton, Gabriel, Mexico City, Mexico
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Munn & Co., New York, N.Y.
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TLS, October 17, 1894

Oppenheimer, Henry, London, England
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Patterson, W.H., Atlanta, Georgia
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Peabody, George Foster
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Pollitz, Carl, Frankfort, Germany
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Porter, James Davis
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Prevost, S.M., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
TLS, September 25, 1896

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5 TLS, May 6 - August 17, 1897

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Pyne, Percy R., New York, N.Y.
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Quinlan, W.J., New York, N.Y.
3 TLS, March 30, 1894 - May 2, 1895

Raeston, R.G., New York, N.Y.
AL, December 29, 1893

Randolph, Wilton, New York, N.Y.
TLS, December 14, 1891

Rankin, J.E., Asheville, N.C.
TL., August 13, 1897

Raoul, Gaston Cesar, (Son of William Green Raoul)
2 TLS, May 25 and August 12, 1897

Raoul, Gaston T. "Father"
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Raoul, Gaston Turner (brother of William Greene Raoul), Stephensville, Texas
3 letters, December 27, 1884 - August 17, 1896

Raoul, Louise, Amite City, Louisiana
12 TLS, June 11, 1895 - July 16, 1897

Raoul, (Gookin), "Ma", (second wife of Gaston Turner Raoul,)
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Raoul, Robert Giffen, Amite, Louisiana
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Raoul, Thomas Wadley
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Reed, H.W., Brunswick Georgia
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Reese, Judge W.M., Washington, Georgia
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Richardson & Boynton Co., New York, N.Y.
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Roquemore, John D., Montgomery, Alabama
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Rownd, W.B., Livingston, Louisiana
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Ryan, Charles I., Atlanta, Georgia
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Schiff, Jacob Henry, New York, N.Y.
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Solomons, M.J., Savannah, Georgia
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Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Co. Atlanta, Georgia
TLS, July 22, 1895

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Thomas, H.W., Atlanta, Georgia
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Thomas, J.W., Nashville, Tenn.
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Thomas, L.P., Atlanta, Georgia
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Thompson, J.A., Ponchitoulas, Louisiana
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Thompson, John D., Savannah, Georgia
TLS, September 10, 1896

Thurber, W.E., Chicago, Illinois
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Tripp, C.M., Atlanta, Georgia
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TLS, October 17, 1894

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TLS, July 19, 1889

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**Wadley, John E., Waycross, Georgia**
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**Wadley, William O., Rogers, Georgia**
4 TLS, January 30, 1882 - March 17, 1897

**Wakeford, Edward, London, England**
TLS, August 16, 1890

**Walker, H.H., New York, N.Y.**
TLS, July 7, 1892

**Walker, John M., Macon, Georgia**
4 TLS, September 4 - 15, 1896

**Walsh, P., Augusta, Georgia**
2 TLS, January 10 and May 6, 1884

**Warner, A.J., Washington, D.C.**
TLS, September 25, 1896

**Waterbury, John I., New York, N.Y.**
TLS, June 6, 1896

**Watson, C.T., Atlanta, Georgia**
TLS, January 11, 1893

**Watson, D.S., Asheville, N.C.**
4 TLS, September 30, 1889 - October 28, 1891

**Watson, George B., San Diego, Calif.**
TLS, June 21, 1897

**Weitzell, J.W., Atlanta, Georgia**
TLS, August 27, 1896
Welsh, J.W., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
ALS, November 28, 1879

White, James G., Waukegan, Illinois
2 TLS, November 4, 1892 and July 5, 1895

Whitesides, George B., Columbus, Georgia
ALS, June 21, 1882.

Whitney, George, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
ALS, February 7, 1882

Wilkins, Grant, Atlanta, Georgia
3 TLS, October 1, 1891 - April 9, 1892

Wilson, R.T., New York, N.Y.
22 TLS, August 28, 1893 - June 27, 1895

Woodward, F.L., & Co., Boston, Massachusetts
ALS, June 5, 1878

Yonge, George, New York, N.Y.
ALS, April 21, 1881

Yonge, Henry
2 TLS, March 8 and June 14, 1888