



## Alexis Irénée du Pont family papers 2618

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Manuscripts and Archives
<b>Creator:</b>	Du Pont, Alexis I. (Alexis Irénée), 1843-1904
<b>Source - dnr:</b>	Fiechter, Eleuthera Carpenter
<b>Title:</b>	Alexis Irénée du Pont family papers
<b>ID:</b>	2618
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1850-1913
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.8 Linear Foot
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	Dr. Alexis Irénée du Pont (1843-1904) was a businessman and non-practicing physician who resided in both Louisville, Kentucky, and Wilmington, Delaware. The Alexis Irénée du Pont family papers primarily consist of both outgoing and incoming correspondence from A. I. du Pont and his immediate family.

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## Biographical Note

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Dr. Alexis Irénée du Pont (1843-1904) was a businessman and non-practicing physician who resided in both Louisville, Kentucky, and Wilmington, Delaware. He was a grandson of Éleuthère Irénée du Pont de Nemours (1771-1834), the eponymous founder of the E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company in Wilmington, Delaware, and son of Alexis Irénée du Pont (1816-1857) and Joanna Maria Smith du Pont (1815-1876).

Alexis spent much of his childhood in the home of his maternal grandparents in Philadelphia, where he attended the Episcopal Academy. In 1864, he received a Bachelor of Arts and Doctor of Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania. Despite his training in medicine, however, Alexis decided to forgo starting an active practice and instead move to Louisville, Kentucky, to join his cousins in the paper manufacturing business. There, he retained a close relationship with his aunt Sophie Madeleine du Pont (1810-1888), the widow of Admiral Samuel Francis Du Pont (1803-1865), who resided at Upper Louviers in Wilmington, Delaware.

Alexis's first marriage on February 5, 1867 to Margaretta Gilpin, daughter of Judge Gilpin of Wilmington, ended in tragedy with her unexpected death the following year. Consequently, Alexis

focused on his business interests in Louisville before marrying Elizabeth Canby Bradford in Wilmington on January 20, 1875. Elizabeth was the daughter of Judge Edward Green Bradford, who in 1871 was nominated by President Ulysses S. Grant to a seat on the United States District Court for the District of Delaware. Elizabeth's great grandfather was Thomas Heyward Jr., a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Over the next ten years, Alexis and Elizabeth remained in Louisville and had four children: Alice Eugenie du Pont Ortiz (1876-1940); Philip Francis du Pont (1878-1928); Elizabeth Bradford du Pont Bayard (1880-1975); and Eugene Eleuthère du Pont (1882-1966). Philip Francis du Pont attended the University of Virginia from 1897-1900, and later became an author and noted philanthropist.

In 1885, Alexis returned home with his family to Wilmington when, around the same time, he acquired interests in the Brooklyn Street Railroad. Consequently, Alexis and his family moved to Brooklyn for a period of three years before moving back to Wilmington. Soon afterward he became one of the senior partners of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours Powder Company, and was named vice president of the Repauno Chemical Company, formed in 1880 to manufacture dynamite at a remote spot along the Delaware River in Gibbstown, New Jersey. Following the death of his brother Eugene du Pont in 1902, Alexis was offered the position of president of Repauno Chemical, but ultimately declined due to failing kidney health. Alexis I. du Pont died on November 26, 1904, at the age of 61 at his country home, Rencourt, outside Wilmington, Delaware.

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## Scope and Content

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The family papers of Alexis I. du Pont consist of both outgoing and incoming correspondence from A. I. du Pont (1843-1904) and his immediate family. The bulk of the letters are from two sources: A. I. du Pont's aunt, Sophie Madeleine du Pont, and his son, Philip Francis du Pont. Outgoing and incoming correspondence from Sophie Madeleine du Pont at Upper Louviers include topics relating to family and personal matters during Alexis's time in Louisville, Kentucky, in the late 1860s, largely keeping him informed regarding matters of the du Ponts in Delaware.

Letters written in almost weekly intervals from Alexis's son Philip to his parents in Greenville, Delaware, trace his education from grammar school at St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire, to his time at the University of Virginia. Additionally, a smaller amount of letters include correspondence from Alexis's wife Elizabeth Canby Bradford du Pont to her mother Mary Heyward; Philip to his siblings, and Alexis's granddaughter Marguerite "Carita" du Pont Ortiz Boden to her grandmother, Elizabeth. There are also various postcards from Elizabeth and her grandchildren from the turn of the twentieth century, most of which depict scenes and architecture in France, England, and Germany. Also included are introductory letters to the Board of Philadelphia's Guardians of the Poor regarding Alexis's residency at the University of Pennsylvania's Medical School in 1865, as well as accolades from his time at grammar school in the early 1850s.

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## Arrangement

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Letters are arranged chronologically within each box.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Use Restrictions

No restrictions on use.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Correspondence.
- Fiechter, Eleuthera Carpenter
- Du Pont, Sophie Madeleine, 1810-1888
- Du Pont, Philip F. (Philip Francis), 1878-1928

## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Accolades for A.I. du Pont as an elementary school student, 1850-1851	box 1	folder 1
To Master A.I. du Pont from sister Irene, 1858	box 1	folder 2
Bills and receipts from Dr. A.I. du Pont, 1865- 1902	box 1	folder 3
From Sophie Madelene du Pont to Dr. A.I. du Pont, 1868 March-June	box 1	folder 4
To the Board of Guardians of the Poor introducing Dr. A.I. du Pont, 1865	box 1	folder 5
From Sophie Madeleine du Pont to Dr. A.I. du Pont, 1868 July-December	box 1	folder 6
From Sophie Madeleine du Pont to Dr. A.I. du Pont, 1869	box 1	folder 7
To Mrs. E.G. Bradford (Mary Alicia Heyward) from daughter Bessie (presumably Elizabeth Canby Bradford du Pont), 1876-1904	box 1	folder 8
Letters to/from Elizabeth Bradford du Pont Bayard daughter of Dr. and Mrs. A.I. du Pont, 1892-1901	box 1	folder 9
Post cards to Mrs. E.G. Bradford, from daughter Elizabeth and grandchildren, undated	box 1	folder 10
From Philip Francis du Pont to parents Dr. A.I. du Pont and Elizabeth Canby Bradford du Pont, 1892	box 2	folder 1
To Elizabeth Canby Bradford du Pont, 1893-1897	box 2	folder 2
From Philip Francis du Pont to parents Dr. and Mrs. A.I. du Pont, 1893	box 2	folder 4
To/from Alice Eugenie du Pont Ortiz (daughter of Dr. and Mrs. A.I. du Pont), 1893-1901	box 2	folder 3
From Philip Francis du Pont to his parents, 1894	box 2	folder 5
From Philip Francis du Pont to his parents, 1897	box 2	folder 6
From Philip Francis du Pont to his parents, 1898	box 2	folder 7
From Philip Francis du Pont to his parents, 1899	box 2	folder 8
From Philip Francis du Pont to his parents, 1900	box 2	folder 9
To/from Eugene duPont (son of Dr. A.I. du Pont), 1894-1913	box 2	folder 10
To Mr./Mrs. E.G. Bradford from J.H. Bradford, 1899-1902	box 2	folder 11
From Carita Ortiz to Mrs. Alexis du Pont, 1915-1916	box 2	folder 12