

**Jenkins (John C. and Family) Papers**  
(Mss. 141, 142, 184, 187)  
Inventory

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections  
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library  
Louisiana State University Libraries  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

Reformatted 2007

### Contents of Inventory

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**Use of manuscript materials.** If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please fill out a call slip specifying the materials you wish to see. Consult the Container List for location information needed on the call slip.

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Proper acknowledgement of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

### Summary

<b>Size.</b>	100 items, 13 volumes, 1 manuscript volume
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Adams County, Miss.; Meridian, Miss.; Montgomery, Ala.; Lancaster, Penn.; Lexington, Va.; Murfreesboro, Tenn.; Belgium; France
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1837-1900
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1840-1855
<b>Language.</b>	English, French
<b>Summary.</b>	Diaries and account book of John Carmichael Jenkins, experimental agriculturalist and horticulturalist at Elgin Plantation in Adams County, Mississippi as well as correspondence and plantation records of his children J.C.F. Jenkins and W.D. Jenkins.
<b>Organization.</b>	Series I, Personal Papers, 1841-1879, undated Series II, Plantation Records, 1837-1861 Series III, Printed items, 1866-1900
<b>Restrictions on access.</b>	Photocopies must be made from microform if available. Original 1846 letter in vault may not be accessed due to its fragile condition; use photocopy and transcription in box 1, folder 1.
<b>Related collections.</b>	Joseph Dunbar Shields Papers, Mss. 390, 1526, 1542, 1709, 1821
<b>Copyright.</b>	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
<b>Citation.</b>	John C. Jenkins and Family Papers, Mss. 141, 142, 184, 187, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack location(s).</b>	B:66, G:21, OS:J, Vault 72
<b>Also available on:</b>	Microfiche 2729 (Southern Historical Manuscripts, Plantation Records 1799-1900); Greenwood Publishing Co., Microform Division, Westport, Conn. Does not include 1846 letter, which was acquired after filming.

### **Biographical/Historical Note**

John Carmichael Jenkins (1809-1855) was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and received a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1833. Shortly after, he moved to the south and became a planter, agriculturalist, horticulturalist and medical doctor of Elgin Plantation in Adams County, Mississippi. He married Annis Dunbar, granddaughter of Sir William Dunbar, in 1839 and both Jenkins and his wife died of yellow fever in 1855. They had two sons, John Carmichael Flavian and William Dunbar, and a daughter, Alice Jenkins, all born in Adams County, Miss. Both sons attended Washington College (now Washington & Lee University), while William Dunbar Jenkins was first educated at military schools in France and Belgium.

### **Scope and Content Note**

A twelve volume diary (typescript, 1841-1855), kept by Dr. John Carmichael Jenkins during the last fourteen years of his life comprises the majority of this collection. Entries document results of Jenkins' cultural and horticultural experiments, plantation life, financial transactions, social activities, and travel. Purchases of slaves and their health are also noted. An account book (1837-1855) shows expenditures for slaves and business, family and household items.

Family correspondence includes a letter from Jenkins's wife, Annis, discussing fruit crops and local and family news (1846), but most dates after the Civil War and involves Jenkins' sons W.D. Jenkins, J.C.F. Jenkins, and Annis' sister Julia Dunbar. Included are letters from W.D. Jenkins while at school abroad, as is a letter from J. C. F. Jenkins giving an account of the Battle of Murfreesboro and a description of the battlefield after the engagement. Also found in the collection are plantation records, various newspaper clippings, and genealogy of the family.

### **List of Series**

**Series I, Personal Papers, 1841-1879, undated**

**Series II, Plantation Records, 1837-1861**

**Series III, Printed items, 1866-1900**

### **Series Descriptions**

**Series I, Personal Papers, 1841-1879, undated**

Diaries (typescript in 12 volumes) form the major part of the collection. They were kept by Dr. John Carmichael Jenkins during the last fourteen years of his life (1841-1855). An experimental agriculturalist and horticulturalist, Jenkins records the results of his experiments at Elgin Plantation with different types of seed, fertilizer, and fruit. He kept meticulous records of these experiments, at the same time making note of life at Elgin Plantation, social and literary activities, and travels.

Correspondence is also found in the personal papers of the collection. The earliest letter was written to John C. Jenkins from his wife Annis who discusses crops as well as family news (1846), while the rest of the correspondence dates from 1862 onward. A number of letters were written between John Carmichael Flavian Jenkins and his aunt, Julia Dunbar. His Civil War letters describe the Battle of Murfreesboro (1862), his regiment's journey from Meridian, Mississippi to Montgomery, Alabama (1862), and others thank her for packages and letters he received (1864). Letters written to his aunt in subsequent years discuss his time at Washington College (1866) and various family affairs and mutual friends (1870-1871, undated). One letter from U.S. Representative of Mississippi and friend of J.C.F. Jenkins, George C. McKee, discusses the case of seized bales of cotton by Union soldiers from the Jenkins family in 1863 (1870). A number of letters from W.D. Jenkins are also included in the collection from a variety of places. One letter is written to his brother John from school in France (1864), another from Brussels to his Aunt Julia in French (1866), and others to John from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and Lexington, Virginia (1870-1871).

Other papers include an order and pass for picket guards and scouts to pass through Elgin Plantation in May 1865 and an invitation for Mr. John Jenkins to the Virginia Military Institute Cadet's Ball (1867). Other invitations to events at Washington College (1866-1868) and later Washington & Lee University (1871) are addressed to J.C.F. Jenkins. Typescripts of

genealogical information come from historical magazines, records from family bibles, and memoirs (undated) and relate to the Ashton, Scott, Geddes, and Kilnavock families.

**Series II, Plantation Records, 1837-1861**

An account book, 1837-1855 (both manuscript and typescript), belonging to John C. Jenkins shows expenditures for the home, family, plantation, and slaves. Typescripts of records from 1855-1861 are also included. These records all contain information concerning crops, stock, slave and paid labor, and sales and expenses at Tarbert Plantation, Elgin Plantation, and Stock Farm Plantation.

**Series III, Printed items, 1866-1900**

Newspaper clippings provide an article about Robert E. Lee and his political opinions (1868), an article from *The Times-Democrat* (May 17, 1896) about a dance of the Cotillion Club, a clipping about a letter from Captain Shields to Newt Ratliff (1900), and a "Liberty Bell Supplement" from *The Times-Democrat* (Jan. 27, 1885).

A pamphlet entitled "Ancient Families of Bohemia Manor, Their Homes and Their Graves" by Rev. Charles Payson Mallery (Wilmington: The Historical Society of Delaware, 1888) belonged to Julia D. Shields in 1905. Also included in the collection is a broadside from Washington College for "Commencement Day" (1868), an Alpha Tau Omega photograph given to John F. Jenkins from W.D. Jenkins (1870), and a program from the Jefferson Davis Memorial Association (1893).

<b>Index Terms</b>	<b>Series</b>
Account books.	II
Adams County (Miss.)--History--19th century.	I-III
Correspondence.	I
Diaries.	I
Dunbar, Julia.	I
Elgin Plantation (Miss.)	I, II
Horticulturalists--Mississippi--Adams County.	I, II
Jenkins family.	I-III
Jenkins, J. C. F. (John Carmichael Flavian)	I-III
Jenkins, W.D. (William Dunbar)	I-III
Mississippi--Social life and customs--19th century.	I-III
Plantation life--Mississippi--Adams County.	I, II
Plantation owners--Mississippi--Adams County.	I, II
Plantations--Mississippi--Adams County.	I, II
Slavery--Mississippi--Adams County.	I, II
Stones River, Battle of, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 1862-1863--Personal narratives, Confederate.	I
Typescripts.	I, II
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.	I
Washington College (Lexington, Va.)	I, III

Container List

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
G:21	--	--	Account Book 1837-1855  Bound transcript copies of the following: Vol.1 Account Book 1837-1855 Vol.2 Diary 1841-1844 Vol.3 Diary 1845 Vol.4 Diary 1846 Vol.5 Diary 1847 Vol.6 Diary 1848 Vol.7 Diary 1849 Vol.8 Diary 1850 Vol.9 Diary 1851 Vol.10 Diary 1852 Vol.11 Diary 1853 Vol.12 Diary 1854 Vol.13 Diary 1855
B:66	1	1	Correspondence, 24 items 1846, 1862-1869
		2a-2c	Correspondence, 36 items 1870-1879, undated
		3	Plantation Records, 25 items 1855-1861
		4	Newspapers Clippings, 3 items 1868, 1896, 1900
		5	Pamphlet, 1 printed item 1888
		6	Genealogy, 10 items Undated
		7	Photograph 1870, Program 1893
OS:J	--	1	Broadside: Commencement Day Washington College (1868); <i>The Times Democrat</i> (Jan. 27, 1885)
Vault:72	--	1	Original 1846 letter.