

See also UPA microfilm:

MF 5322, Series I, part 2, reel 13

MF 5735, Series B, reel 6

JOHN W. GURLEY PAPERS

(Mss. 507)

Inventory

Compiled by
Luana Henderson

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

Reformatted 2003
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SUMMARY

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| Size. | 81 items. |
| Geographic locations. | New Orleans; Tangipahoa Parish, Livingston Parish, Louisiana |
| Inclusive dates. | 1858-1866 |
| Bulk dates. | N/A |
| Language. | English |
| Summary. | Papers of a New Orleans attorney consist of correspondence and legal documents relating primarily to agriculture and his status as an enemy of the United States during the Civil War. |
| Organization. | Arranged chronologically. |
| Restrictions on access. | If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm. |
| Related collections. | N/A |
| Copyright. | Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law. |
| Citation. | John W. Gurley Papers, Mss. 507, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La. |
| Stack location(s). | U:145 |
| Also available on. | MF 5322, Series I, part 2, reel 13 MF 5735, Series B, reel 6 |

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

John W. Gurley, an attorney of New Orleans, La., was associated with Edward G. Stewart, a planter of Oak Lawn Plantation, Tangipahoa Parish, La., and former resident of New Orleans. Gurley and his wife, Rosa, were registered as being enemies of the United States during the Civil War but were excused after they signed oaths of allegiance.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Papers of New Orleans attorney, John W. Gurley, principally relate to the development agriculture in Tangipahoa Parish, the sale of slaves through C. E. Girardy & Co., New Orleans auctioneers, and the federal occupation in New Orleans during the Civil War. Edward G. Stewart wrote the majority of correspondence in this collection. His letters concern plantation operations and management of Oak Lawn Plantation, Tangipahoa Parish. He also speaks of the depressed slave market due to yellow fever (1858), timber production, the construction of Gurley's house, arrival Confederate refugees in New Orleans (1862), laborers' wages (1866) and local news. W. H. Pearce of Livingston Parish, La, discusses secession and the national politics (Dec. 1860). Charles Daggs, an African American tenant farmer, discusses production and marketing of charcoal, farming, rations, clothing, needed goods, timber sales, and freedmen's wages (1865-1866). Papers also include official documents issued by the U. S. Provost Marshal certifying that John W. Gurley and his wife, Rosa, as enemies of the United States (1862) and an order for Gurley to leave Orleans Parish (1863). Also contained are oaths of allegiance taken by Gurley and his wife, Rosa, with letters confirming their loyalty (1864-1865) and an authorization for Gurley to practice law in New Orleans (1865).

Note: More information can be found in the index terms that follow.

CROSS REFERENCES

| Terms | Date | Description of relevant documents |
|--|-------------|--|
| African American agricultural laborers--Louisiana. | 1866 | Freedman's wage of \$25 monthly as stated by U. S. Provost Marshal opposed by African American tenant, Feb. 26, 1866. A white laborer paid fifty cents a day by an African American tenant farmer, Edward G. Stewart letter, 1866. |
| African Americans--Louisiana--Tangipahoa Parish. | 1860, 1866 | Two boys refuse to work unless provided with whiskey, March 5, 1860; all need someone to do housework and direct labor, May 20, 1866. Two Edward G. Stewart letters, 1866. |
| Agricultural wages--Louisiana--Tangipahoa Parish. | 1866 | Freedman's wage of \$25 monthly as stated by U. S. Provost Marshal opposed by African American tenant, Feb. 26, 1866. Edward G. Stewart letters mention wages of white and freedmen laborers, and a white laborer paid fifty cents a day by an African American tenant farmer, 1866. |
| Banks, Nathaniel Prentiss, 1816-1894. | 1864 | Banks reported satisfied with Gurley's certificate from Vinot and promises to issue order for Gurley's protection whenever necessary. Thomas H. Hewes letter, Aug. 10, 1864. |
| C. E. Girardy and Co. | 1858-1859 | Unauthorized sale of Albert, an African American slave, is questioned, Nov. 28, 1858. Owner seeks price reduction from firm because of slave's illness, Jan. 27, 1859. |
| Cate, Charles. | 1865 | Tillotson's Shoe store in New Orleans forwards frequent packages to Cate with letters enclosed for delivery in the area. Edward G. Stewart letter, Nov. 13, 1865. |
| Charcoal Industry--Louisiana--Tangipahoa Parish. | 1865-1866 | Comments concerning manufacture, workers hired, bagging, delivery to market and lack of railroad cars, Sept. 2, Oct. 10, 15, 31, Nov. 8, 13, 1865; Feb. 2, April 22 and 27, 1866. |

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| Daggs, Charles | 1865-1866 | Production and marketing of charcoal, farming, rations, clothing, needed goods, timber sales and freedmen's wages. |
| Freedman--Louisiana--Tangipahoa Parish. | 1866 | Freedman's wage of \$25 monthly as stated by U. S. Provost Marshal opposed by African American tenant. Feb. 26, 1866. |
| Freight and freightage--Louisiana. | 1865-1866 | Complaints concern failure to receive shipments and lack of cars for transportation of lumber. Edward G. Stewart letters: Oct. 15, 1865; April 27, 1866. |
| Fruit--Louisiana--Tangipahoa Parish. | 1858-1859 | Mentions planting of grape and orange seed, and 20 sour orange trees, Jan. 22, Nov. 21, and Dec. 23, 1858; mentions large productivity of fig and peach trees, July 13, 1859. Edward G. Stewart letters. |
| Hewes, Thomas H. | 1864 | Comments on Bright's interview with General Banks regarding Gurley's oath of allegiance required for the practice of law. |
| Illinois Central Railroad. | 1865-1866 | Complaints about failure to receive freight and lack of cars to ship timber, Oct. 15, 1865. Charcoal and wood at railroad waiting for car, April 27, 1866. |
| Lawyer--Louisiana--New Orleans. | 1858-1866 | Papers of attorney John W. Gurley. Entire collection. |
| Lice--Louisiana. | 1866 | Clothing needed by laborers infected with lice, Feb. 11, 1866. |
| Livestock--Louisiana--Tangipahoa Parish. | 1859-1860, 1865 | Investment in poultry, hogs, cows, and calves recommended, Jan. 27, 1859. Sheep, May 7, 1859; Jan. 18, 1860. Comments on poultry, March 18, May 8, 1860. Sale of goat, Nov. 8, 1865. |
| Logging--Louisiana. | 1859-1860, 1865-1866 | Letters and statements concern clearing of land, timber production, production expenditures, freight problems and labor costs, 1858; Feb.-June, 1859; Jan.-May 4, 1860, Oct. 23, 31, 1865, June 26, 1859; March 5, 1860; Oct. 15, 23, 1865; Feb. 2, 11, April 27, 1866. |

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| Loyalty oaths. | 1864 | Certificates confirm loyalty oaths and permit Gurley to practice law, Feb. 3, June 30, Aug. 8, Aug. 10, 1864; May 20, July 6, 1865. |
| Morgan, P. H. | 1864 | Comments on U. S. Provost Marshal's doubts concerning Gurley's certificate to practice law, Aug. 8, 1864; instructions for handling legal matters in his absence, Aug. 19 1864. |
| New Orleans (La.)--History-- Civil War, 1861-1865. | 1862-1865 | John and Rosa Gurley registered as enemies of U. S., Oct. 4, 1862, ordered to leave the city, May 9, 1863. Women and children arrive in New Orleans, May 1, 1862. |
| Oak Lawn Plantation (La.) | 1858-1862, 1865-1866 | Edward G. Stewart letters. |
| Plantations--Louisiana-- Tangipahoa Parish. | 1858-1862, 1865-1866 | Edward G. Stewart letters. |
| Secession--Louisiana. | 1860 | Comments concerning evils of secession, conservative speech of Alexander H. Stephens to Georgia legislature, and adverse influence of Thanksgiving sermons by Dr. Leacock and Dr. Palmer, W. H. Pearce letter, Dec. 3, 1860. |
| Slave trade--Louisiana. | 1858-1859 | Unauthorized sale of slave is questioned, Nov. 28, 1858. Comments on preference for 9-year-old girl to boy, Dec. 19 and 23, 1858. Owner seeks reduction due of slave's illness, Jan. 27, 1859. Edward G. Stewart letters, Jan. 22, Nov. 5, 21, and 28, Dec. 12, 1858; Jan. 27, 1859. |
| Slaves--Medical care. | 1858 | Owner appreciates care of sick slave by friend and suggests hiring of a nurse, Dec. 12, 1858. Owner seeks reduction from firm because of slave's illness Jan. 27, 1859. |
| Stewart, Edward G. | 1858-1862, 1865-1866 | Letters discuss plantation operations, agriculture, slave sales, logging, construction of Gurley's house, laborers, charcoal industry, African American tenant and local news. |
| Sugar--Prices--Louisiana. | 1866 | Sugar sells for 25 cents a pound, Charles Daggs letter, Feb. 11, 1866. |

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| Tangipahoa Parish (La.)-- Description and travel. | 1860 | Improvements include new hotel and buildings. Edward G. Stewart letters, Feb. 27-March 3, 1860. |
| Tangipahoa Parish (La.)-- History. | 1858-1866 | Entire collection. |
| Taxation--Louisiana--New Orleans. | 1858 | Receipt for payment of state taxes, Aug. 5, 1858. |
| Tenant farmers--Louisiana-- Tangipahoa Parish. | 1866 | Edward G. Stewart letters, Sept. 2, Oct. 15, 23, 31, Nov. 13, 1865; April 10, and 27, and May 20, 1866. Charles Daggs letters, 1865-1866. |
| United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Refugees. | 1862 | Arrival of women and children, operations continue as long as possible, Edward G. Stewart letter, May 1, 1862. |
| United States--Politics and government--1857-1861. | 1860 | Comments concerning evils of secession, political environment in the nation, conservative speech of Alexander H. Stephens to Georgia legislature and adverse influence of Thanksgiving sermons by Dr. Leacock and Dr. Palmer, W. H. Pearce letter, Dec. 3, 1860. |
| Yellow Fever--Louisiana-- New Orleans. | 1858 | Depressed slave market, Edward G. Stewart letter, 1858. |

CONTAINER LIST

| <u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u> | <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder(s)</u> | <u>Contents (with dates)</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| U:145 | 1 | 1a-3d | John W. Gurley Papers (1858-1866) |
| MF:5322, Series I | Part 2, Reel 13 | -- | 1858-1866 |
| MF:5735, Series B | Reel 6 | -- | 1858-1866 |