#### See also UPA Microfilm:

MF 5735, Series B, Reel 13 MF 6061, Series B, Part 2, Reel 14

#### MARSTON (HENRY AND FAMILY) PAPERS

Mss. 624 Inventory

Compiled by Tara Zachary 1997

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

Revised 2009, 2020

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#### MARSTON (HENRY AND FAMILY) PAPERS 1818-1938 LSU LIBRA

Mss. 624

LSU LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

#### **SUMMARY**

**Size.** 2104 items, 47 manuscript volumes, 12 printed volumes.

Geographic locations.

Clinton, East Feliciana Parish, Shreveport, and Red River Parish, Louisiana;

Texas; Atlanta, Georgia.

**Inclusive dates.** 1818-1938.

**Bulk dates.** 1850-1890.

**Languages.** English.

**Summary.** Plantation records, diaries, business records, legal documents, and personal

correspondence reflect the banking, railroad, planting, and civic activities, and the family life of three generations of the Marston family of Clinton, East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. The collection indicates political

sentiment and social and economic conditions in ante-bellum and

post-bellum Clinton.

**Restrictions on** 

access.

None.

**Arrangement.** Chronologically.

Source. Deposited, 1941.

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**Citation.** Henry Marston and Family Papers, Mss. 624, Louisiana and Lower

Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**Stack location.** U:220-222; G:19

**Also available on.** MF 5735, Series B, Reel 13 (Papers, 1860-1865)

MF 6061, Series B, Part 2, Reel 14 (Papers, 1866-1938; Diary, 1866)

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1794 to John and Ruth Earp Marston, Henry Marston moved from Boston to East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, in 1822. He settled near Clinton and established Washington Place Plantation. He also owned a number of other plantation properties, both in and outside the parish, including Ashland Plantation in Red River Parish, which he purchased in 1857. Beginning in 1835, he worked as cashier of the newly-opened Clinton branch of the Union Bank of Louisiana. With his new duties, Marston moved his family to town, living in the second story of the bank building.<sup>1</sup>

In 1828, Henry Marston married Abigail "Abbie" Fowler Johnson (1811-1888) daughter of William P. Johnson and formerly of Amite County, Mississippi. They had seven children: William J. (1833-1861), John G. (1836-1903), Henry (1838-1867), Bulow Ward (1841-1917), James G. (1844-1870), Anna Elizabeth (died 1888) and Abigail Louisa (1848-1935).

A staunch Whig, Marston did not run for office himself but participated in local politics by ardently campaigning for friends who had political aspirations and for his chosen national candidates. An opponent of secession, he joined the Constitutional American Party in 1860, and would condemn Jefferson Davis and those he deemed responsible for secession for the rest of his life. Nevertheless, he gave money to support the southern cause and facilitated the Confederacy's use of the Clinton-Port Hudson Railroad, of which he was a stockholder. Additionally, three of his sons served in the Confederacy.

Henry Marston, Jr., 2nd lieutenant in Company A. of the 4th Louisiana Infantry, fought in the Tennessee theater and was wounded at Chickamauga. A sergeant in the same company, James was wounded at Atlanta in 1864 and died of his wounds in 1870. Bulow was appointed captain of Co. F, 15th Tennessee Volunteers, and saw action at Chattanooga and Shiloh, where he was wounded. Subsequently, he went to Shreveport where he served on the staff of General E. Kirby-Smith. His duties there included finding deserters, organizing Indian troops, preparing secret reports for Richmond, and transporting Confederate civilians through the Trans-Mississippi area into Texas. He was also Inspector General of Cooper's Division, stationed in Shreveport and later Fort Lawson in the Indian Territory. William Marston, who died in 1861, had attended the Western Military Institute in Kentucky and managed Ashland. Abigail Louisa attended The Atheneum in Columbia, Tennessee.

After the Civil War, Bulow Marston resided on his father's plantation, Ashland, and later Star Point and Ninock Plantations. He married his first wife, Mary Josephine Morse, in 1867, and his second wife, Mattie Owens, in 1891. His children were Bulow, Jr., Abbie, James Gray, Bismark and another daughter. He operated steamboats and owned a steamer named *G.W. Sentell*. He also operated a cotton factor and commission merchant firm in New Orleans and then a planting and general merchandise business in Shreveport. Henry married Mattie Walker Brantley, had two

.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Known today as the Marston House, the structure still stands on Bank Street in Clinton. It is owned by the Clinton Garden Club.

children J. Walker and Eva, and died in 1867 of yellow fever, en route to Georgia from Texas. John G.'s wife's name was Emily, and they had three children: Henry, Elizabeth, and John.

Henry Marston, Sr., fared the Civil War financially better than most. After the war, he continued to add properties to his holdings and his sons Bulow and John operated his plantations. Additionally, he opened a small real estate business and was the district agent for the American Insurance Company. He was also active in temperance activities, the administration of the Silliman Female Collegiate Institute, and civic organizations, and continued to take an active interest in politics. In his last years, he suffered from kidney problems, perhaps associated with diabetes. He died in 1884. After his death, daughter Abbie Marston oversaw the management of his plantation interests and was active in civic affairs in Clinton.

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Financial and plantation management papers and correspondence, legal documents, personal papers and correspondence, printed items, diaries, letter books, cashbooks, and photographs of three generations of the Marston family of Clinton, East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. The collection reflects economic conditions in East Feliciana Parish and Red River Parish, the political sentiment of a banker/planter, and social activities and family life in Clinton. It also reflects the family's planting, banking, civic, military, and educational activities.

Correspondence and accounts with cotton factors and commission merchants regarding the sale of Marston's cotton, the cotton market, the purchase of supplies for Marston's plantations, especially Ashland, as well as accounts with Clinton merchants for household expenses (mainly groceries, clothing), comprise a significant portion of the materials. Items resulting from Marston's position as cashier at the Clinton branch of the Union Bank of Louisiana are also a large portion of the collection. These include accounts and bills for office supplies and maintenance of the bank building, notes of protestation, promissory notes, accounts, receipts, deeds, and correspondence and circulars from the New Orleans branch regarding bank deposits and administration. Letter books (1839-1884) contain correspondence to clients of the Union Bank of Louisiana, to commission merchants, and to business firms regarding materials needed at the bank, on Marston's plantation, and for personal use.

The plantation diaries of Henry Marston (1822-1832, 1855-1883) record details of plantation management including weather and crops, repairs, and mortgages and insurance and later entries reflect his role as an absentee plantation owner. Diaries reflect business matters of the Clinton and Port Hudson Railroad Company and the Silliman Female Collegiate Institute. They also record local news such as births and deaths and Marston's participation in a local temperance council, as well as report illness and the yellow fever epidemic of 1871. The diaries also reflect views on African Americans' participation in politics and race relations during Reconstruction and Marston's religious beliefs.

Personal correspondence between Marston and his children and friends, and among his children and grandchildren, discuss management of Ashland, their education and studies, social activities in Clinton, political sentiment and social and economic conditions during and after the Civil War, family news, and genealogy. Additional correspondence relates to patents applied for by Bulow and Abigail Louisa. The military papers pertaining to Bulow include orders, appointments, reports and correspondence reflecting his work with Native-American volunteers for the Confederate army and his duties as inspector general. His work took him to Texas and Arkansas. Included in this last group is a series of letters from Confederate Generals Maxey and Cooper to Federal General Thayer regarding arrangements for the passage of Confederate civilians through Federal lines to join relatives in occupied parts of the Confederacy. Additionally a portion of James Marston's diary written in Georgia, May 6, 1864-June 15, 1864, and July 7-31, 1864, in which he describes the fighting at Atlanta and New Hope, is also present.

Legal papers include bills of sale for slaves and land, deeds, mortgages, contracts with overseers and tenants and correspondence with lawyers Thomas Gibbes Morgan, James O. Fuqua and James

G. Kilbourne. Miscellaneous items include circulars, leases, charters, and lists of subscribers for Silliman Female Collegiate Institute; accounts for the Port Gibson office of the Clinton and Port Hudson Railroad, correspondence with William Pike regarding same; letters to the editor written by Marston regarding black enfranchisement, secession, the Democratic Party, and the Lost Cause; programs from recitals at The Atheneum, Columbia, Tennessee; and plats of Ashland Plantation. Photographs include a portrait of Abigail Louisa as a young girl and photos of the Marston House (1935) and the Clinton Courthouse (1938).

### BOX DESCRIPTIONS

#### **Box 1** 1818-1848

Correspondence with factors and commission agents about the sale of cotton and the purchase of supplies; bills of sale for slaves; mortgages held by the Union Bank of Louisiana at Clinton and other banking records, including accounts, promissory notes, deeds, and receipts.

#### **Box 2** 1842-1850

Bills for office supplies and repairs, accounts of protest, and drafts of the Clinton branch of the Union Bank of Louisiana; correspondence from the firm Payne, Harrison, and Company regarding the sale of cotton, written on the *New Orleans Price Current* and annotated.

#### **Box 3** 1851-1857

Personal correspondence discusses finances, churches in Clinton, and Marston's children. A letter from William in Kentucky describes the state fair and his awe at visiting Henry Clay's home. Letters from William Pike of Baton Rouge discuss investments, claims on the Clinton and Port Hudson Railroad, and other matters relating to the railroad, including hiring African Americans and wages. Additionally, there are accounts of the railroad with the firm Harris and Levi. Other items include correspondence, circulars, and memos of the Citizen's Bank of Louisiana; a map of Ashland plantation; and a stock certificate for Silliman Female Collegiate Institute. Legal items include an overseer contract and the succession of Olivier Caulfield.

#### **Box 4** 1858-1860

Includes cash reports of the Port Hudson office of the Clinton-Port Hudson Railroad, household accounts and accounts of the Clinton and Port Hudson Railroad, and the Union Bank of Louisiana, Clinton, for supplies, drayage, and shipping. Letters, including one from prominent Baton Rouge lawyer and Judge Thomas Gibbes Morgan, discuss topics such as the cotton crop, the Louisiana senatorial election of 1859, Whig sentiment in the state, and the presidential election of 1860 and the candidates' prospects in Louisiana.

#### **Box 5** 1861-1870

Included in this box are accounts for household expenses with Clinton and New Orleans merchants and various correspondence. The correspondence includes letters from W.D. Winter of St. Francisville regarding his plantation, crops, and family. Letters from Bulow during the Civil War discuss war news and contain brotherly advice, family news, and comment on news of Clinton during the war. He also describes his work with General Maxey. Additional Civil War items are Bulow's transfer request and appointment papers; orders regarding prisoners of war; correspondence regarding Confederate civilians desiring to enter occupied areas of the Confederacy, Native American volunteers, their enlistment, and administration and training of their units, and promotions; and circulars for and reports by inspectors. Excerpts from the Civil War diary of James Marston and a letter from a teacher describe fighting in Virginia, especially the Siege of Atlanta.

Additional personal correspondence, primarily written after the Civil War, is partially comprised of letters between Abigail Louisa from The Atheneum in Columbia, Tennessee, and her family, and

between Bulow Marston and his father. Letters between Abigail and Anna Elizabeth discuss social activities in Clinton, marriages, health of the family, and lack of servants. Letters between Henry Marston, Sr., and Abigail discuss the school, her studies, especially music, and her contemplation about joining the Episcopal Church and other religion-related issues. Letters from Mary and Sally Winter of St. Francisville to Abbie report marriage engagements and describe the burning of the steamer "Fashion" above Baton Rouge, studies, trips to New Orleans, and family duties and hard times. Letters addressed to "Sister" from Mattie, Henry Jr.'s wife, relate politics in Georgia and black voting. During this time, Bulow was a cotton factor and commission merchant in New Orleans. Accordingly, his letters discuss his work, the cotton market, Ashland plantation, in addition to family news. In letters to Henry Marston, Sr., Baton Rouge lawyer James O. Fuqua discusses the state constitution, politics in Baton Rouge and Louisiana, and answers Marston's questions about selling some of his land.

Plantation management papers include correspondence, accounts, and receipts from Payne, Harrison, and Company, later Payne, Dameron, and Company, pertaining to the sale of cotton and the cotton market, letters from an overseer about the crop and hands, and documents regarding the financing of Ashland.

Other items include letters to the editor, presumably by Marston, expressing outrage at the institution of the provost marshal's office and the subjugation of civil to military rule, and calling for investigation into parish finances; letters and drawings dealing with Abbie Marston's application for a patent on cooking vessels; a memorial to James Marston by the 4th Louisiana Regiment Volunteers; a circular for Silliman Institute; and programs for recitals at the Atheneum.

#### **Box 6** 1871-1899

Included in this box are bills, accounts, letters, and receipts documenting the sale of cotton through Payne, Harrison, and Company; Correspondence with Sam Randall regarding the case of *John D. Worthy, Executor of Archibald D. Palmer v. Henry Marston*, family, and politics; with Marston's brother Rear Admiral John Marston about family, politics, and health; and from his brother-in-law in Texas about his financial and family situation, and about settling the estate of Mrs. Abigail Johnson Marston's mother. Legal documents pertaining to the estate settlement are also present. Personal correspondence from Bulow Marston in New Orleans, Shreveport, and East Point, Louisiana, to his mother, sisters, and wife, discuss his occupation as commission merchant, steam boat captain, and planter.

Also included in this box are letters of condolence for Marston's death and correspondence regarding the settlement of his estate and the sale of plantation properties, including a mortgage and deed of land in Red River Parish to Hammond Wilson, a former slave of Marston's. Mortgages of Ashland, Bee, Star Point, and Home Plantations, all in Red River Parish, are also found.

Letters from Walker Marston, son of Henry Marston, Jr., to his aunt Abigail describe his adventures in the West as a cowboy. Additional letters addressed to Abigail from tenants discuss their concerns and needs. Tax receipts and letters and drawings for patents are also present.

#### **Box 7** 1900-1938, undated

Correspondence in this box, primarily between Abigail Louisa Marston and family discuss

finances, Bulow's business and crops, health, genealogy, and family news. Of interest are several letters discussing the Japanese invasion of Peking (1937), where one of the Marston grandsons was serving as a Marine. Undated items included in this box are letters to the editor and essays by Marston on secession, the Lost Cause, republican government, black enfranchisement, and the Democratic party; a phrenological chart of Henry Marston, Sr.; a chronology of the Florida parishes; and a list of the stockholders of the East Feliciana Cotton Factory and the Clinton-Port Hudson Railroad.

#### **Box 8** 1835-1882, undated

This box contains printed pamphlets and volumes of political speeches, laws governing the Union Bank of Louisiana, Louisiana Constitution (1879), arguments for Supreme Court Cases in which Marston was named, and memorials to Daniel Webster and to three children killed in a fire.

### **DIARY DESCRIPTIONS**

Volume #	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
7	1855	Weather reports
8	1856	Absentee ownership of plantation; management of Clinton and Port Hudson Railroad Company; Silliman Female Collegiate Institute
9	1857	Ashland Plantation and local news
10	1858	travel on Red River
11	1886	Ashland Plantation and local news
12	1867	Clinton local news
13	1868	Clinton local news
14	1871	Clinton; demonstration of African Americans; yellow fever; case of <i>John D. Worthy v. Executor Henry Marston</i> ; New Orleans, Mobile, and Texas Railroad; Ashland Plantation
15	1872-1873	Subscription to numerous publications; resolution against division of the parish; delegation to New Orleans; appointment of African American; holding of Grant Negro Convention
16	1873	Clinton political news
17	1874	Clinton political news
18	1875	Clinton political news
19	1876	Race-related disturbance
20	1877	Activities of the Temperance Council
21	1878	Cotton worm; yellow fever epidemic; Greenback ticket
22	1879-1880	Ashland plantation
23	1880	Plant disease; death of animals because of disease; record of
		births, deaths, and marriages; travel between Clinton and Red River; list of delinquent tax payers
24	April 1881-June 1882	Reference to health conditions in city; uncertainty of mail; assassination of President James Garfield

### **INDEX TERMS**

<u>Term</u>	Box/Diary
African American agricultural workers. Ashland Plantation (Red River Parish, La.) The Atheneum (Columbia, Tenn.) Atlanta (Ga.)HistoryCivil War, 1861-1865. Banks and bankingLouisianaClinton. Bee Plantation (La.) Citizens Bank of Louisiana. Clinton and Port Hudson Railroad Company. Clinton (La.) Commission merchants. Confederate States of America. Army. Louisiana Infantry Regiment,	5 3, 5, 6 / 8, 9, 11, 14, 22 5 5 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 6 3 3, 4, 7 / 8 5 / 12, 13, 14, 23 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 5
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	2	1-5	Papers, 1842-1850.
	3	1-7	Papers, 1851-1857.
	4	1-6	Papers, 1858-1860.
	5	1-12	Papers, 1861-1870.
	6	1-8	Papers, 1871-1899.
	7	1-9	Papers, 1900-1938, undated.
	8	1-3	Printed volumes, 1835-1882, undated.
	9		Vol. 37. Letter book, 1856.
U:267	10	1-8 9-11	Letter book. July 1868-January 1873. (transcript copy of vol. 38) Letter book. July 1873-December 1875. (transcript copy of vol. 39)
	11	1-3	Letter book. January 1876-January 1879. (transcript copy of vol. 39)
G:19	  	  	Diary. 1822. (bound transcript copy of vol. 43) Diary. 1825-1828. (bound transcript copy of vol. 44) Diary. 1828-1831. (bound transcript copy of vol. 45)
			BANK BOOKS Vol. 1. Bank book. John P. Bullard. May 1841-December 1843. Clinton.
			CASHBOOKS Vol. 2. Cashbook. Mrs. A. F. Marston. November 1884-1889. Clinton. 145 pp.
			Vol. 3. Cashbook. Henry Marston. June 1838-January 1840. Clinton. 47 pp.
			Vol. 4. Cashbook. Henry Marston. January 1857-January 1867. Clinton. 203 pp. Vol. 5. Cashbook. Henry Marston. January 1867-December 1875. Clinton. 126 pp.

Stack Location	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folders</b>	Contents
G:19			Vol. 6. Cashbook. Henry Marston. April 1876-June 1882. Clinton. 151 pp.
			DIARIES
			Vol. 7. Diary. Henry Marston. January 1855-December 1855. Clinton. 84 pp.
			Vol. 8. Diary. Henry Marston. January 1856-December 1856. Clinton. 122 pp.
			Vol. 9. Diary. Henry Marston. January 1857-December 1857. Clinton. 121 pp.
			Vol. 10. Diary. Henry Marston. January 1858-December 1858. Clinton. 124 pp.
			Vol. 11. Diary. Henry Marston. January 1866-December 1866. Clinton. Ashland Plantation and Mississippi City, Mississippi. 368
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			Vol. 16. Diary. Henry Marston. January 1873-January 1874. Clinton. 101 pp.
			Vol. 17. Diary. Henry Marston. January 1874-February 1875. Clinton. 392 pp.
			Vol. 18. Diary. Henry Marston. February 1875-January 1876. Clinton. 165 pp.
			Vol. 19. Diary. Henry Marston. January 1876-February 1877. Clinton. 159 pp.
			Vol. 20. Diary. Henry Marston. February 1877-December 1877. Clinton. 144 pp.
			Vol. 21. Diary. Henry Marston. January 1878-December 1878. Clinton. 174 pp.
			Vol. 22. Diary. Henry Marston. January 1879-February 1880. Clinton. 213 pp.
			Vol. 23. Diary. Henry Marston. April 1880-February 1881. Clinton.
			180 pp. Vol. 24. Diary. Henry Marston. April 1881-January 1882. Clinton.
			202 pp. Vol. 25. Diary. Henry Marston. January 1882-January 1883. Clinton.
			280 pp. Vol. 26. Diary. Henry Marston. January 1883-December 1883.

Stack Location	<u>Box</u>	<b>Folders</b>	Contents
			Clinton. 190 pp.
G:19			Vol. 27. Diary. Henry Marston. January 1884-August 1884. Clinton.
			144 pp. Vol. 28. Diary. Henry Marston. August 1884-October 1884. Clinton.
			44 pp. a. Cash entries. October 1904-November 1905. Clinton. 31 pp.
			Vol. 29. Diary. Henry Marston, Jr. January 1864-December 1864. Clinton. 98 pp.
			Vol. 30. Diary. Jas. G. Marston. March 1864-September 1864. Alabama and Georgia. 88 pp.
			Vol. 31. Diary. Jas. G. Marston. August 1869-October 1869.
			Tangipahoa Parish to Boston, Massachusetts and New York, New York. 40 pp.
			Vol. 32. Diary. William J. Marston. July 1858-August 1858. Clinton to Mount Vale Springs, Tennessee. 97 pp.
			a. Accounts. William J. Marston. November 1854-December 1862.
			Clinton
			b. Addresses. William J. Marston. Clinton.
			DRAFT BOOKS
			Vol. 33. Draft book. Henry Marston. January 1861-January 1869.
			Clinton. 42 pp.
			Vol. 34. Draft book. Henry Marston. August 1872-March, 1880.
			Clinton. 87 pp. Vol. 35. Draft book. Henry Marston. March 1880-September 1884.
			Clinton. 105 pp.
			LETTER BOOKS
			Vol. 36. Letter book. Henry Marston. February 1839-February 1844.
			Clinton. 61 pp.
			Vol. 37. Letter book. Henry Marston. October 1853-February 1856. Clinton. Binding missing.
			Vol. 38. Letter book. Henry Marston. July 1868-January 1873.
			Clinton. 538 pp., indexed. (transcript copy available in box 10)
			Vol. 39. Letter book. Henry Marston. July 1873-January 1879.
			Clinton. 514 pp., indexed. (transcript copy available in boxes 10 and
			11) Vol. 40. Letter book. Henry Marston. January 1879-April 1882.
			Clinton. 507 pp., indexed.
			Vol. 41. Letter book. Henry Marston. June 1883-September 1884.
			Clinton. 144 pp., indexed.
			NOTEBOOKS
			Vol. 42. Notebook. O. King [?]. June 1837. Clinton. 14 pp.

Stack Location	Box	<b>Folders</b>	<u>Contents</u>
G:19			PLANTATION DIARIES  Vol. 43. Plantation diary. Henry Marston. May 1822-December 1822.  "Washington Place." 89 pp. (bound transcript copy available)  Vol. 44. Plantation diary. Henry Marston. April 1825-January 1828.  "Washington Place." 132 pp. (bound transcript copy available)  Vol. 45. Plantation diary. Henry Marston. April 1828-July, 1829.  January 1830-October 1830; January 1831-July 1831; March 1832-May 1832. East Feliciana Parish. 89 pp. (bound transcript copy available)
			<b>RECEIPT BOOKS</b> Vol. 46. Receipt book. Miss. A .L. Marston. December 1888-June 1889. Clinton.
			<b>RECORD BOOKS</b> Vol. 47. Record book. Henry Marston. June 1828-June 1836. Clinton. 91 pp.
MF 5735 MF 6061			Series B, Reel 13 (Papers, 1860-1865). Series B, Part 2, Reel 14 (Papers, 1866-1938; Diary, 1866).