

**MCMURRAN-AUSTEN FAMILY PAPERS**

(Ms. 4795)

Inventory

Compiled by  
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2001

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

Revised 2009

1846-1878; 1942, undated

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**SUMMARY**

- Size.** 0.6 linear ft. (2 boxes, 1 OS folder)
- Geographic locations.** Natchez, Mississippi
- Inclusive Dates.** 1846-1878; 1942, undated
- Bulk Dates.** 1856-1868
- Language.** English
- Summary.** Correspondence, newspaper clippings, printed items, photographs, and miscellaneous items of the McMurrans family of Natchez, Mississippi, and Austen family of Baltimore, Maryland. Items pertain principally to family life, with many concerning antebellum Natchez and the U.S. Civil War.
- Access.** No restrictions
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- Citation.** McMurrans-Austen Family Papers, Mss. 4795, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Stack Location.** U:298, OS:M

1846-1878; 1942, undated

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

John T. McMurren (1801-1866), a lawyer and state senator in Natchez, Mississippi, was married to the former Mary Louise Turner (1814-1891), and they built Melrose near Natchez, Mississippi in 1845. Together they had two children, John T. McMurren, Jr., and Mary Elizabeth McMurren (1835-1861). Melrose passed from the family during the U.S. Civil War. John Jr. married Alie Austen (d.1899) of Baltimore County, Maryland, in 1856, and they resided at Riverside Plantation in Wilkinson County, Miss., until the Civil War. During the war, John enlisted in a local artillery unit but was discharged in 1862 for deafness. In 1864 he worked as a clerk for the federal war department in Washington D.C. John Jr. and Alie had two daughters, Caroline (Carrie) and Alice (Alie), who moved with their mother from Riverside to her family home, Filstone Farm in Baltimore County, Maryland, during the Civil War. Mary Elizabeth married Farar Conner and lived in Natchez before moving to New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1857. They had two children, a son, Farar (Fazee), and a daughter. Farar remarried after Mary Elizabeth's death from a spinal disease in 1864.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Personal correspondence among John T. McMurren, Mary Louise McMurren, Alie McMurren, John T. McMurren, Jr., Mary Elizabeth Conner, George Austen, Caroline Austen, John Austen, Colgate (Coly) Gilbert, Edward Turner, Elizabeth Turner, Fanny Conner, Duncan McCulloch, the Austen family, and several unidentified correspondents. Correspondence relates primarily to family matters, including the Civil War and home life. Included is a telegram notifying John Jr. of his father's death and requests he go to Natchez (1867). Printed items and graphic materials contain a number of newspaper clippings concerning John T. McMurren Sr.'s death in a steamboat accident, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. McMurren Jr.'s calling cards and photographs of Alie and Carrie, John Jr. and Alie's daughters. Miscellaneous items include, a household inventory, an invoice, J. T. McMurren, Jr.'s discharge from the Confederate army in 1862, military passes, , a composition by Carrie A. McMurren, a printed wedding invitation for Carrie McMurren to LT F. L. Dodds, U.S.A., and several written poems.

**LIST OF SERIES**

- I. Correspondence, 1846-1878; 1942, undated
- II. Printed Items and Graphic Materials, 1856-1878, undated
- III. Miscellaneous, 1862-1881, undated

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Series I. Correspondence, 1846-1878; 1942, undated**

Correspondence, primarily written by Mary Louise McMurren and John T. McMurren, Jr. to Alie Austen McMurren, pertains to John and Alie's wedding (1856); planters and plantation life (1855-56); a slave wedding (1856); ambrotypes and daguerreotypes (1856); the yellow fever epidemic (1856); the Know-Nothing National Convention in Baltimore (1856). Correspondence also includes a description of Riverside Plantation's slaves (1857); details of Mary Elizabeth Conner's death (1864); comments about the war, its leaders, and current operations (includes negative comments about the South from John Jr.) (1864); love letters from John Jr. to Alie (1864); details of a non-fatal shooting of John Sr. (1865); description of the post-war south (1865); account of bitterness with Yankees (1866); remarks and details of the death of John Sr. (1867); and a response to John Jr.'s request for forgiveness for his absence and work for the federal government (1868).

### **Series II. Printed Items and Graphic Materials, 1856-1878, undated**

Graphic materials are comprised of two undated photographs of Alie and Carrie McMurren. Printed Items contain calling cards of John and Alie McMurren (1856), a printed invitation to Carrie McMurren's wedding (1880), wedding invitation for Mary S. Fackler to John Torrey, Jr. (1869), a poem (1878), and an obituary for Major General John Anthony Quitman, U.S.A., member of Congress from Mississippi (undated).

### **Series III. Miscellaneous Items, 1862-1881, undated**

Miscellaneous items include the military discharge of John T. McMurren, Jr., for deafness (1862), military pass allowing Alie McMurren to pass through the lines with her children and baggage (1863), military pass allowing John T. McMurren to pass through the lines with his silver and baggage (1864), inventory of an unidentified home (undated), several poems (1881, undated) and the Turner family genealogy (1879).

1846-1878; 1942, undated

## INDEX TERMS

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CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
			<b>Series I. Correspondence</b>
U:298	1	1-7	1846-June 1864
	2	1-4	July 1864-1878, undated
			<b>Series II. Printed Items and Graphic Materials</b>
U:298	2	5	Photographs of Carrie and Alie McMurrans, undated
		6	At Home announcement, 1869; Carrie McMurrans printed wedding invitation, 1880 John T and Alie McMurrans calling card, undated; Major General John Anthony Quitman, U.S.A. obituary, undated
OS:M	--	--	Newspaper article about Natchez, undated; newspaper articles about steamboat accident that killed John T. McMurrans, Sr., 1867.
			<b>Series III. Miscellaneous Items</b>
U:298	2	6	John T. McMurrans, Jr. military discharge 1862; written military passes, 1863-64; poems, undated, 1878; Turner family genealogy, 1870; notes, undated; unidentified household inventory, undated
OS:M	--	--	Invoice, 1858; poem, 1872.