

**See also UPA Microfilm:  
MICROFILM 5322, Series I, Part 3, Reel 18**

**JOHN T. MCMURRAN AND FAMILY PAPERS**  
Mss. 1403  
Inventory

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

Reformatted 2020

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	0.2 linear feet (94 items and 1 manuscript volume)
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Louisiana, Mississippi
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1820-1895
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Summary</b>	The papers include correspondence, business papers, and legal papers of John T. McMurren, a lawyer and state senator from Natchez, Mississippi, as well as papers pertaining to his wife, Mary Louisa Turner McMurren, and their daughter, Mary Louisa McMurren Conner. The papers concern plantation administration, travel, and social life. Papers relating to John T.'s estate and the estate of his brother-in-law and law partner, William B. Griffith, are also included. There are also speeches and essays composed by William Edward T. Griffith while he was a student at Oakland College in Mississippi.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	No restrictions.
<b>Reproduction Note</b>	Copies must be made from microfilm when available.
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<b>Related Collections</b>	Lemuel Parker Conner and Family Papers, Mss. 81, 1403, 1431, etc. John Anthony Quitman Papers, Mss. 1403, 1431, 1474, etc. Edward Turner and Family Papers, Mss. 1403
<b>Citation</b>	John T. McMurren and Family Papers, Mss. 1403, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack Location(s)</b>	S:121

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

John T. McMurren was a lawyer and state senator of Natchez, Mississippi. William B. Griffith was McMurren's law partner and brother-in-law. A relative, William Edward T. Griffith, was a student at Oakland College in Mississippi. John T. McMurren was married to Mary Louisa Turner McMurren, whose family owned the Melrose Plantation near Natchez, Mississippi.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Collection includes correspondence, business papers, and legal papers of John T. McMurren, his wife, Mary Louisa Turner McMurren, and their daughter, Mary Louisa McMurren Conner. Materials concern travel, social life, administration of the Woodlands and Killarney plantations, and the estate of John T. McMurren. Items include a statement of a slave regarding his freedom; a receipt for payment of a freedman's laborer; invoices for household furnishings; a survey of the Killarney Plantation, Concordia Parish, Louisiana; an inventory of the Woodlands Plantation, including a list of books; minutes of a meeting of the Mississippi Bar Association; and the last will of John T. McMurren. Letters mention judgeships in Mississippi, the funeral of Henry Clay, the sale of the plantation of a mulatto politician, the effects of Reconstruction, and problems of plantation management during Reconstruction. The collection also includes a record of accounts volume (1852-1853, 1863-1870) containing accounts relating to the plantations managed by John T. McMurren on his estate; estate papers of William B. Griffith; and materials related to William Edward T. Griffith's time as a student at Oakland College in Mississippi.

**LIST OF SERIES**

- Series I.      John T. McMurrin Family Papers, 1836-1895, undated**
- Series II.     William B. Griffith Estate Papers, 1820-1842, undated**
- Series III.    William Edward T. Griffith Speeches, 1843-1845, undated**
- Series IV.     Administrator's Record of Accounts, 1852-1853, 1863-1870**

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Series I. John T. McMurren Family Papers, 1836-1895, undated (29 items)**

Series includes:

- A statement to members of the Natchez Bar from Vicksburg, Mississippi, signed by members of the Bar of the Warren Circuit Court, including S. S. Pretess, supporting the candidacy of William S. Bodly for judge of the First Judicial Court, October 4, 1836.
- A statement by a slave of John T. McMurren relating to his freedom, April 25, 1837.
- A letter from nephew Francis Jordon concerning his personal affairs, March 18, 1842.
- A letter from Lemuel Parker Conner concerning his marriage the next day to Fanny Turner, January 5, 1848.
- An invoice from New York for silver service for Mrs. Mary Louisa Turner McMurren, December 4, 1848.
- A letter from Dr. W. N. Mercer of Laurel Hill wishing to consult about his will, June 16, 1849.
- Letters from John T. McMurren's daughter, Mary Louisa McMurren, to a friend, Charlotte B. Calhoun, during travels with her parents, June 29, 1851 (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania); July 24, 1852 (Newport); August 4, 1854 (Scotland); October 15, 1854 (London, England).
- A letter from Fanny Conner to her sister, Mary Louisa Turner McMurren, August 12, 1853.
- A survey and receipted bills for survey of Killarney Plantation and school lots on Lake St. John, Concordia Parish, Louisiana, April 29, 1858.
- A letter from A. L. Bingaman regarding lawsuit in favor of Mr. Minor, January 11, 1859.
- A copy of the minutes of a meeting of the Mississippi Bar Association, including the regrets of the members upon the occasion of the death of John T. McMurren, June 4, 1867.
- A copy of the last will of John T. McMurren (died 1866), recorded in Arkansas, June 24, 1869.
- Bills and receipts of Mrs. Mary Louisa Turner McMurren, 1869-1895.
- A letter from Mrs. Mary Louisa Turner McMurren to her mother; April 20, 1875.
- An inventory for Woodlands Plantation, undated.
- A list of books selected by John T. McMurren, undated.

### **Series II. William B. Griffith Estate Papers, 1820-1842, undated (57 items)**

Series includes legal papers, bills, receipts, and property inventories relating to the administration of William B. Griffith's estate.

### **Series III. William Edward T. Griffith Speeches, 1843-1845, undated (8 items)**

Series includes speeches and compositions presented while William Edward T. Griffith was a student at Oakland College in Mississippi.

### **Series IV. Administrator's Record of Accounts, 1852-1853, 1863-1870 (1 volume)**

Series includes plantation accounts relating to John T. McMurren, McMurren & Permenter, McMurren and Vardemon, Edward Turner at Franklin Place, Mary Louisa McMurren as executrix of the estate, and C. P. Leverich. Plantations mentioned include Arno, Langside, Moro, and Riverside.

CROSS REFERENCES

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the papers as indicated by their series.

Bodly, William S.	1836	Letter endorsing William S. Bodly as candidate for judge of the First Judicial District, October 4, 1836. (Series I)
Canada--Description and travel.	1852, 1854	Letters describing travel in Europe, the northeastern United States, and Canada, June 24 and July 24, 1852; August 24, 1854. (Series I)
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852--Death and burial.	1852	Letter mentioning preparations being made for Henry Clay's funeral, July 24, 1852. (Series I)
Europe--Description and travel.	1852, 1854	Letters describing travel in Europe, the northeastern United States, and Canada: June 24 and July 24, 1852; August 24, 1854. (Series I)
Freedmen--Mississippi.	1837	Receipt signed by ex-slave for payment given him for services rendered for ex-master, April 25, 1837. (Series I)
Griffith, William B., -1827.	1820-1842	Papers relating to William B. Griffith's estate and business life as the law partner of John T. McMurren. (Series II)
Griffith, William Edward T.	1843-1845	Compositions and speeches presented by William Edward T. Griffith while he was a student at Oakland College in Mississippi. (Series III)

House furnishings-- Mississippi.	1827	Inventories of household furnishings from William B. Griffith's estate settlements at Woodlands Plantation, one of which gives the assessed value of each item, January 16, 1827. (Series II)
Killarney Plantation (La.)	1858	Survey notes describing the Killarney Plantation territory in Concordia Parish, Louisiana. (Series I)
McMurrin, John T., 1801- 1866--Will.	1865	Will listing John T. McMurrin's property and heirs, February 25, 1865. (Series I)
Plantations--Economic aspects--Mississippi.	1852-1853, 1863-1870	Plantation record book containing accounts relating to the administration of the Arno, Langside, Moro, and Riverside plantations in Mississippi. (Series IV)
Racially mixed people-- Mississippi.	1875	Letter mentioning the sale of a plantation of a mulatto politician, April 20, 1875. (Series I)
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)--Mississippi.	1875	Letter commentating on the effects of Reconstruction in Mississippi, April 20, 1875. (Series I)
Woodlands Plantation (Miss.)	1875	Letter mentioning problems of the Woodlands Plantation administration during Reconstruction, April 20, 1875. (Series I)
Woodlands Plantation (Miss.)--Library.		List of books in a private library at Woodlands Plantation, undated (Series I)



CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
S:121	1	1-3	Series I. John T. McMurren Family Papers, 1836-1895, undated
		4-8	Series II. William B. Griffith Estate Papers, 1820-1842, undated
		9-10	Series III. William Edward T. Griffith Speeches, 1843-1845, undated
		11	Series IV. Administrator's Record of Accounts, 1852-1853, 1863-1870