

**TURNER (EDWARD 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 2003

Revised 2011

Updated 2020

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**Use of manuscript materials.** If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please place a request via the Special Collections Request System. Consult the Container List for location information.

**Photocopying.** Should you wish to request photocopies, please consult a staff member. The existing order and arrangement of unbound materials must be maintained.

**Publication.** Readers assume full responsibility for compliance with laws regarding copyright, literary property rights, and libel.

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>	173 items
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Natchez, Mississippi
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1767-1878
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1811-1878
<b>Language.</b>	English, 1 item in Spanish, 1 item in French
<b>Summary.</b>	Judge and planter of Natchez, Mississippi. Collection includes family correspondence, legal and business papers, plantation documents, poems, photographs, U.S. currency (1778), and an issue of the newspaper <i>Southern Watch Tower</i> (1843).
<b>Restrictions on access.</b>	Currency housed in vault is restricted. Surrogate located at S:120, Box 1. If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
<b>Related collections.</b>	None.
<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>	Edward Turner and Family Papers, Mss. 1403, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack locations.</b>	S:120; OS:T; VAULT:1

### **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Edward Turner (1778-1860) was a judge and planter of Natchez, Mississippi. His first wife, Mary West, died in 1811, and he remarried Elizabeth Baker (1789-1877). He had five children, Theodosia (died 1829) who married William B. Griffith; Mary Louisa (1814-1891) who married John T. McMurrin; Edward Turner, Jr. (1815-1823); Elizabeth Frances (Fanny) (1829-1910) who married Lemuel P. Conner; and John Turner.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Family correspondence concerns social life, education and upbringing of children, a yellow fever epidemic in Natchez, the legal career of Judge Turner, the life of George Armstrong Custer, and politics during Reconstruction. Business and legal papers include items documenting plantation management; slave bills of sale; a plat of the estate of Robert Moore; an inventory of property and slaves owned by Edward Turner (1860); a bank book of an account at Britton & Koontz, Natchez (1874-1875); and wills and succession documents related to estates of Lewis Ellzey, Mary Ellzey, and members of the Turner family. Some items document negotiations and legal proceedings of U.S. Commissioner Fulwar Skipwith, who represented claims of American citizens against France (1815). The collection includes items related to Edward Turner's membership in a Masonic order (1827, 1858); U.S. currency (1778); compositions written by Turner at university; poetry; photographs; and an issue of the newspaper *Southern Watchtower* (1843).

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
S:120		1	1-2	Contents removed to oversize location.
			3	Photocopy of U.S. Continental Currency (original in vault; 1778)
			4	Typed copies of wills of Mary Ellzey and Lewis Ellzey [1785, 1788]
			5	Compositions of Edward Turner, regarding government and the institution of slavery in America. Turner comments on the abolition of slavery and the need for compensation offered to public officials. Also included is a letter from Edward to a friend concerning government. (1799, undated)
			6	Land survey [in Spanish] for tract of land near Lake St. John in Concordia Parish (1803), letter from J. Wilkins to William T. McCormack concerning shipments and the price of cotton (1801), sale of slaves (1808), minutes of a meeting of superintendents of the Mississippi Bank at Natchez (1811), promissory notes (1812-1813), checks of the Bank of Mississippi (1814).
			7a	Legal documents relating to Fulwar Skipwith, consisting of subpoenas, interrogatories, and answers of a case between certain Americans and France, in addition to decisions of the Board of Commissioners of the United States regarding cases (1815-1816).
			7b	Court orders for debt payment (1818), subpoenas (1817-1819), promissory notes to various individuals for goods and services (1817-1819), and a notarized document concerning unpaid debts to a bank (1819).
			8a	Blank marriage bond (182-), list of persons running carts or drays without licenses (1820), petition regarding littering of a property (May 5, 1820), list of property owners, conditions of their gutters, and fines imposed (May 6, 1820), invitation to Natchez Assembly Ball (December 20, 1821), paper containing eulogy for Henry Turner, Esq. (1821), promissory notes, document of the U.S. Treasury giving money to James D. Bradford, and checks of the Bank of the State of Mississippi (1821-1822).

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
S:120	1	8b	Letter to Margaret Biggs regarding weather, her health, and local news (September 23, 1823), succession [in French] of J. Huguet (November 24, 1823), a business letter regarding the Bank of Mississippi's interest in a mortgage (May 1826), a personal letter from George Baker to his aunt concerning family news, sick friends and family members, and containing the epitaph for Edward Turner, Jr. (October 24, 1826), materials related to the Freemasons, including the proceedings at the laying of the cornerstone of the Masonic Hall in Natchez (June 1827), list of payment renewals (1829).
		9	Survey of land in Adams County, Mississippi, of Robert Moore (January 28, 1833), legal document concerning sale of slaves in West Feliciana Parish (June 18, 1834), circular letter containing resolutions of Citizens Bank of Louisiana concerning mortgages (April 7, 1838), a broadside of a song concerning yellow fever (1839), and personal letters from Turner to family and friends (1837-1838).
		10a	Turner family letters, particularly between Fanny and her parents, concerning local and family events and news (1840-1846), circular announcing the candidacy of Judge Edward Turner for the High Court of Errors and Appeals (January 30, 1840), advertisement containing information on the Greenville Institution for Young Ladies (May 22, 1841), and program of commencement exercises of Shurtleff College (July 25, 1844).
		10b	Letters to members of the Turner family, some from fellow family members, discussing family and local news, particularly of Fanny's education, one letter addressed to Judge Turner is an advertisement for fire- and water-proof paint, a paper discussing treatment of cholera (1848-1849).
		11	Letters from Edward Turner to a relation, James, discussing politics, particularly James' support of Millard Filmore for the U.S. presidency (1852-1858).
		12	Bills, receipts, and letters concerning business transactions, particularly of levee work on Turner's plantation, Spokan, withdrawal of Turner from a contract, and family letters discussing family events and news (1864-1867).
		13	Letters between Turner family members and others discussing news and travels (1874-1878), one from Henry Turner in Kentucky inquiring about family members and news since the Civil War (March 21, 1876), written agreements on loan offered by Mrs. Turner, and list of expenses of Turner estate (1874-1878).
		14	Inventories of goods, furnishings and slaves from personal estate of Judge Edward Turner, plat of estate of Robert Moore, near St. Catherine's creek, legal document concerning Fulwar Skipwith, poem, various legal and financial notes (undated).

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
	S:120	1	15	Eliza B. Turner family letters discussing news and social events, particularly sicknesses in family, a comforter being knitted for a grandchild, and education at school (undated).
			16	Elizabeth Frances Turner family letters discussing news and events, particularly illness of family members, the purchase of an album, recipe (undated).
			17	Letter from Mary Baker to her friend, Margaret Biggs regarding local news, a present Biggs sent her, illnesses of her family and the death of her son (undated).
			18	56 pages of poetry compiled from newspaper articles and other sources written by Francis Baker, late of Natchez (undated).
			19	2 photographs of John T. McMurrin (undated), photograph of his wife, Mary Louise Turner (1870).
			20	Contents removed to oversize location.
			21	Manuscript volume: Britton & Koontz Bank Book regarding accounts with Edward Taylor (1874-1875).
				<u>Oversize items</u>
OS:T	--		1	Matthew Lyon and George Rose Indentures (1767, 1771); Miguel Hernandez Orleans Territory land agreement (1811); Texada family indenture (1817); list of payment renewals (July 13, July 20, 1829); Thomas Brabston account sheet (Jan.-Aug. 1829); Benajah Osman, Orleans Territory land claim (1834); newspaper: <i>Southern Watch Tower</i> (Oct. 12, 1843); Grand Lodge of Mississippi (Freemason) Minutes (Jan. 18, 1858); Madison Parish survey map (undated); envelope to Walter Leake, Esq., (undated)

## INDEX TERMS

**Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found throughout the entire collection.**

Bankbooks.  
Education--Mississippi.  
Ellzey, Lewis.  
Ellzey, Mary.  
Freemasonry--Mississippi.  
Freemasons--Mississippi.  
Judges--Mississippi.  
Mississippi--Politics and government--To 1865.  
Money.  
Natchez (Miss.)--History.  
Natchez (Miss.)--Social life and customs.  
Plantation life--Mississippi.  
Plantation owners--Mississippi.  
Poems.  
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)--Mississippi.  
Skipwith, Fulwar, 1765-1839.  
Slave bills of sale--Mississippi  
Slaveholders--Mississippi.  
Slavery--Mississippi.  
Turner family.  
Turner, Edward, 1778-1860.  
Wills.



CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>		
<b>S:120</b>		1	1	Matthew Lyon indenture (moved to oversize location; 1767)		
			2	George Rose indenture (moved to oversize location; 1771)		
			3	Photocopy of currency [1778]		
			4	Typed copies of last will and testaments of Lewis and Mary Ellzey [1785, 1788]		
			5	Edward Turner compositions (1799, undated)		
			6-14	Judge Edward Turner papers (1801-1878, undated)		
			15	Eliza B. Turner papers (undated)		
			16	Elizabeth Frances Turner papers (undated)		
			17	Margaret Biggs letter (undated)		
			18	Miscellaneous poetry (undated)		
			19	Photographs (undated)		
			20	<i>Southern Watch Tower</i> issue (moved to oversize location; October 12, 1843)		
			21	Britton & Koontz bank book (1874-1875)		
			<b>OS:T</b>	--	1	Oversize materials (1767-1858, undated)
			<b>VAULT:1</b>	--	1	RESTRICTED: Use surrogate in Box 1 U.S. Continental currency (1778)