

EDWIN KIDD FAMILY PAPERS

Mss. 5178

Inventory

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

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SUMMARY

Size.	0.3 linear ft.
Geographic locations.	Baton Rouge, LA
Inclusive dates.	1792-1994
Bulk dates.	1836-1886
Language.	English
Summary.	Edwin E. Kidd was a lawyer, politician, and businessman. Kidd served several terms in the Louisiana Legislature. Papers include correspondence from Edwin's father, Wilson M. Kidd, and then later, from Edwin. In addition, the collection includes photographs, receipts, legal documents, and genealogical information.
Arrangement.	Papers are arranged chronologically by material type.
Restrictions on access.	No restrictions on access.
Copyright.	Physical rights and copyright are retained by the LSU Libraries.
Citation.	Edwin E. Kidd Papers, Mss. 5178, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack locations.	UU:63

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Edwin E. Kidd was born in 1836 in Mardisville, Alabama. He was the son of Wilson Mandred Kidd and Eliza Tarrant. Wilson Kidd was a plantation owner from Georgia. Wilson Kidd served as a volunteer in the 2nd Division, 20th Brigade of the Alabama militia during the Creek War of 1836 eventually achieving the rank of Brigadier General. Following the conflict he moved back to a plantation he owned in Harpersville, Alabama. Eliza Tarrant Kidd gave birth to a second child, Eugene M. Kidd in 1838. Though the exact date is unknown, Eliza died sometime before 1848. Wilson Kidd then married Mary Louise Kidd in 1852; together they had four children: Ella, Ann, Buena, and Emma. Following his marriage to Mary Louise, Wilson moved to Vernon, Louisiana. His sons, Edwin and Eugene remained in Mardisville, Alabama with their maternal grandfather, Leonard Tarrant. Tarrant was a lawyer, judge, minister, state legislator, and the first Indian Agent to the Creek Indians of Alabama appointed in 1834 by President Andrew Jackson.

Edwin E. Kidd was the Assistant Secretary to the Louisiana Secession Convention in January 1861. Kidd served as a Captain with C Company of the 28th Louisiana Volunteers as did his brother Eugene. Edwin Kidd was wounded at the battle of Mansfield. Following the Civil War he became a lawyer and businessman in North Louisiana, and served for several terms in the Louisiana Legislature. Edwin also became a writer and published poet.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Papers consist mainly of correspondence. Primary correspondents include Wilson M. Kidd, his son Edwin E. Kidd, and father-in-law Leonard Tarrant. From June to July of 1836, letters from Wilson M. Kidd to his wife, Eliza, provide an account of his participation in the Creek War of 1836 in Alabama. He discusses camp life, troop movements, and alliances with the American Indians who fought against the Creek Indians. There is a gap in correspondence until October 1836 by which time Kidd has returned to Harpersville, Alabama and discussions of more personal matters including a letter to his wife Eliza in which he offers words of encouragement relating to her pregnancy. Later correspondence to Wilson Kidd include letters from Leonard Tarrant, close friends, and a handwritten copy of an 1842 letter by Henry Clay regarding distant familial relationships.

Beginning in 1854 correspondence is principally to or from Edwin Kidd and includes letters written to his father relating family news, life on Leonard Tarrant's farm, and discussions of his education. Civil War era letters relate Kidd's experiences in the military including his illnesses and those of his comrades as well as skirmishes with Yankee forces. Of note is a letter which was mistakenly dated 1852 that tells of the death of Leonard Tarrant who died in 1862 and an 1865 letter which relates news of President Lincoln's assassination. Postwar correspondence describes Kidd's business dealings, the beginnings of his political career, and family news including the death of his brother, Eugene Kidd in 1871.

In addition to correspondence the collection also includes financial papers, legal documents, photographs, and genealogical research. Financial and legal documents include a receipt for the purchase of a slave in 1835 and papers which relate to Edwin Kidd's legal career. Photographs are unidentified and exact dates of creation could not be determined. Genealogical materials document the ancestry and history of the Kidd family in Virginia. The majority of genealogical research was conducted by Peggy Kidd Watts. The correspondence of Watts is included with genealogical records.

INDEX TERMS

Alabama—History
Camden (Ark.)
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852
Creek Indians – Politics and government
Creek War, 1836
Indians of the United States
Franklin (La.)
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865
Louisiana—History
Louisiana – Politics and government, 1861-1865
Louisiana – Politics and government, 1865-1950
Plantation life
Russell County (Ala.)
Scott, Winfield, 1786-1866
Slaves -- United States
Talladega County (Ala.)
United States-History-Civil War, 1861-1865
Washington (D.C.)

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
UU:63	1	1	Correspondence, 1792
		2-7	Correspondence, 1836-1886, undated
		8	Financial and legal documents, 1835-1894
		9	Photographs, circa 1870-1930
		10	Newspaper clipping, 1877
		11	Genealogical information, 1956-1994, undated