

**EDMONDSON, JOHN, 1806-1887.**  
**John Edmondson papers, 1833-1885**

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### **Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Edmondson, John, 1806-1887.  
**Title:** John Edmondson papers, 1833-1885  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 441  
**Extent:** 1 microfilm reel (MF)  
**Abstract:** Microfilm copy of the papers of tanner and farmer John Edmondson of Rutherford County, Tennessee, 1833-1885. The collection consists of correspondence between John Edmondson and his family, various Civil War-era passes, and a notebook written by Robert Paine Edmondson.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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### **Administrative Information**

#### **Restrictions on Access**

Unrestricted access.

#### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

#### **Related Materials in Other Repositories**

Edmondson family papers, Tennessee State Library and Archives.

#### **Source**

Loaned for microfilming, 1964.

#### **Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], John Edmondson papers, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

#### **Processing**

Processed by MI, 1964.

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## Collection Description

### Biographical Note

John Edmondson (February 14, 1806-September 28, 1887) lived near Jefferson, a post-village of Rutherford County, Tennessee, 20 miles southeast of Nashville. In 1830, John married Amanda Randolph, a widow with two children, Peter and Sarah. John and Amanda had one daughter, Harriet Amanda, and six sons: William W. Edmondson (July 22, 1831-December 1864), Edwin Catesby Edmondson (December 4, 1833 - 1909), Robert Paine Edmondson (July 16, 1836 - March 8, 1926), Thomas Pinkney Edmondson (April 22, 1838 - 1924), George Thompson Edmondson (June 16, 1840 - 1924), and David Wendell Edmondson, the youngest, who was the only son not to serve in the Confederate Army. Edmondson was a tanner and farmer, owning a leather factory on his place. He was a member of the Smyrna Presbyterian Church and served as Elder of the Church for 40 years.

### Scope and Content Note

The collection consists a microfilm copy of the papers of John Edmondson from 1806-1887. The papers include 128 letters, various official passes, and 1 small notebook. The majority of the letters are concerned with family matters and are written by members of the family or close friends. Four of the sons wrote letters while they were in the Confederate Army. William W. Edmondson served in Company A of the 21st Tennessee Cavalry (Carter's). The letters of George T. Edmondson, who served in Company E of the 20th Tennessee Infantry Regiment, are mainly written while a prisoner of war at Fort Delaware. The letters of Robert Paine Edmondson, who served in Company B of the 9th Tennessee Cavalry Battalion, were written during the last two years of the war while he was a prisoner of war at Rock Island, Illinois. Thomas Pinckney Edmondson, who served in Company A, 2nd Tennessee Infantry Regiment, wrote only two letters, one to his brother William (October 17, 1861), in which he mentioned reports of a big fight at Manassas and his company being victorious. On November 12, 1861, Thomas writes to his father, telling him the enemy is camped 7 or 8 miles across the river. Edwin Catesby Edmondson (December 4, 1833 - 1909), served in Company F., 4th Tennessee Cavalry (McLemore's).

Twenty-five of the letters were written by Thomas W. Edmondson, brother of John, a bachelor who lived at Holly Springs and with whom some of the boys often stayed. His letters are concerned with family matters and problems related to land and crop failures.

### Arrangement Note

Entire collection organized into groups by writer then arranged chronologically.

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## Container List

### John Edmondson family letters

Box	Folder	Content
MF1		1833 January 21: John Boyd (Nashville) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson, Rutherford County, Tennessee). Boyd is uneasy about John's Negro boy still being there and cholera getting serious in town.
MF1		1833 February 8: John L. Brown to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). Boyd wants to keep Negro boy, cholera not so bad.
MF1		1833 April 6: John N. Craddock (Moulton, Alabama) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson) Catesby may join him in business in fall. This Catesby is the brother, not the son, of John Edmondson.
MF1		1833 May 30: Thomas W. Edmondson (Moulton., Alabama) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson), his brother.
MF1		1833 October 20: Ann N. Craddock (Moulton, Alabama) to her sister Amanda (John's wife).
MF1		1833 December 30: John N. Craddock (Moulton, Alabama) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). He tells of Cate's courting. William had a severe attack of fever.
MF1		1834 February 19: John N. Craddock (Moulton, Alabama) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson), guardian of John's (money).
MF1		1835 May 15: Ann N. Craddock (Moulton, Alabama) to Mrs. Amanda S. Edmondson (Jefferson). First stage would be running through Moulton in next few days. Town apparently not healthy for citizens.
MF1		1835 November 24: Thomas W. Edmondson (Moulton) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). Thomas moved into his new home, Holly Springs.
MF1		1838-1839 May 18: Thomas W. Edmondson (Holly Springs) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). Thomas attended sale of Negroes, men at 900-1000 dollars and women at 600-800 dollars each. Mentions prospect of a good crop.
MF1		1840 July 10: Thomas W. Edmondson (Holly Springs) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). This letter tells of a barbecue held at church.
MF1		1841 January 15: L. B. E. (Holly Springs) to Mrs. Mary Muse (Jefferson). Mentions her uncertainty about religion. Sister Ann dead.
MF1		1841 November 14: Thomas W. Edmondson (Holly Springs) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). This letter mentions brother Catesby.
MF1		1842 August 15: Catesby? Edmondson (Holly Springs) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). Catesby may have to sell some property; a man who owed him \$500 is now broke. Eliza, his wife, has given birth to another daughter.
MF1		1847 March 18: Lucy Craddock to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson), her brother, telling him she had received news of the death of Eliza, Catesby?s wife. (John's wife Amanda is also dead at this time.)

- MF1 1847 April 16: John N. Craddock (Tuscaloosa) to Mr. John Edmondson, disposing of Eliza's estate and will. Mentions Catesby's children.
- MF1 1847 July 7: John N. Craddock (Tuscaloosa) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). This letter includes a proposed settlement of Eliza's estate.
- MF1 1847 November 11: T. W. Edmondson (Woodburn) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). T.W. is very pleased with his cotton crop. (John his only brother at this time)
- MF1 1847 December 15: T. W. Edmondson (Woodburn) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson), about the death of their brother.
- MF1 1848 March 8: J. N. Craddock (Tuscaloosa) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). This letter mentions conditions of Eliza's will. Lucy, (Craddock's wife and John Edmondson's sister) upset at not receiving any letters from her family.
- MF1 1849 April 18: T. W. Edmondson (Woodburn) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). This letter mentions his three children [?]: Adine, who is like her Uncle Tom; Anjulia (growing more like her father); and Jane Bretty. Perhaps these may be Catesby's children. Mentions Sister Eliza's health as not being too good this spring.
- MF1 1849 September 14: T. W. Edmondson (Woodburn) to Mr. Walter Keeble (Jefferson).
- MF1 1850 July 20: D. Leinay (Murfreeseboro, Tennessee) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson), regarding Miss Sarah Randolph's account.
- MF1 1851 January 7: Peter Randolph (Sacramento City) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson), telling about gold-mining and local life.
- MF1 1851 December 1: William R. Buell (minister[?]) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson) intimating that he will preach at Sarah's funeral.
- MF1 1852 February 7: Peter Randolph (Sacramento City) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson), commenting on the death of Sarah, his sister.
- MF1 1852 February 7: Peter Randolph (Sacramento City) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson); same as above, also comments on John's being anxious for William's health.
- MF1 1852 March 9: Peter Randolph (Natikes, Butte County, CA) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson), telling of Indians raiding and murdering white people. He has an Indian boy as a servant.
- MF1 1852 August 10: Peter Randolph (Sacramento City) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). Peter is heading for home.
- MF1 1852 October 23: William W. Edmondson (Woodburn) to Peter Randolph[?] (Jefferson).
- MF1 1852 October 23: E. Catesby Edmondson (Woodburn) to Peter Randolph[?] (Jefferson).
- MF1 1853 September 24: T. W. Edmondson (Woodburn) to Mr. John Edmondson[?] (Jefferson). Cate staying with Thomas.
- MF1 1853 December 7: D. D. Muse (Murfreeseboro) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson).

- MF1 1853 December 17: Chauncey Cotton (St. Thomas Hall) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). Cotton is Catesby's schoolteacher.
- MF1 1854 November 3: J. W. Wendel[?] to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). Wendel is John's nephew.
- MF1 1854 November 3: Thomas W. Edmondson (Woodburn) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson), mentioning John's possible moving.
- MF1 1854 November 20: Scruggs, Drake & Co. (Charleston) to Mr. Thomas W. Edmondson, giving cotton prices.
- MF1 1854 December 22: Thomas W. Edmondson (Woodburn) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson).
- MF1 1856 January 4: D. D. Muse (Murfreesboro) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). One of Peter's negroes, "Henry," is in trouble.
- MF1 1856 April 1: Thomas W. Edmondson (Holly Springs) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). Thomas mentions that he is enclosing cashier draft for 800 dollars.
- MF1 1856 June 12: Thomas W. Edmondson (Woodburn) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson).
- MF1 1857 July 9: J. H. Eaton (Murfreesboro) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson), regarding son's school report.
- MF1 1857 September 20: Jamie? (Longwood) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). Jamie is John's nephew.
- MF1 1859 January 15: George E. Naff (Murfreesboro) to Mr. John Edmondson. Harriet is not being allowed to board out of school.
- MF1 1860 December 9. (Chiquahoma) to (his cousin): fragment
- MF1 1861 November 22. T. W. Edmondson (Holly Springs) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson).
- MF1 1861 December 2. T. W. Edmondson (Holly Springs) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson).
- MF1 1862 February 5: Sallie (Gallatin, Tennessee) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). Sallie, John's niece, writes regarding employment of a Negro servant.
- MF1 1862 June 8: Sallie (Gallatin) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson), as above.
- MF1 1863 April 23: Provost Marshall's Office, Lavergne, Tennessee, stating that John Edmondson "has taken the Oath of the Non-Combattant and filed Bond for the faithful observance of the same, at this office."
- MF1 1863 November 23: Provost Marshall's Office, Columbus, Mississippi. Pass for W. N. Edmondson to Hickens County.
- MF1 1863 November 2: H. H. Henderson (2nd Brigade), certifying that the Brigade had bought provisions from Mr. John Edmondson.
- MF1 1864 October 14: I. Huntingdon, Moderator (Nashville) to Mr. John Edmondson. Notice of a Presbytery meeting.
- MF1 1864 November 4: Pass for John Edmondson, valid for 30 days. Signed L. F. Hake, Captain.

- MF1 1865 30 [?]: J. M. Hoyte (Nashville) to Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson), telling of death of his wife Eliza and of John's son George.
- MF1 1861-1865: Special Field Order No. 136, signed Gen. Hood, giving officers permission to take supplies from unwilling farmers tendering schedule rates.
- MF1 Undated: Harriet Edmondson to Mr. John Edmondson (Pleasant Hill).

### **William Edmondson Letters**

- MF1 1853 January 4: William Edmondson (Woodburn) to Mr. John Edmondson. William has been ill and may be returning home. Cate is doing well at school.
- MF1 1853 May 11: William Edmondson (Woodburn) to Mr. John Edmondson
- MF1 1854 December 24: Catesby Edmondson (Holly Springs) to William, thanking him for the 5 dollars he sent.
- MF1 1856 October 15: William Edmondson (Woodburn) to Mr. John Edmondson, commenting on Uncle Tom's good crops.
- MF1 1858: William Edmondson (Mobile, AL) to Mr. John Edmondson. William had gone to Mobile with Dick[?], who was sick.
- MF1 1861 August 29: William Edmondson (Richmond) to Mr. John Edmondson. William is not happy in present company, may move.
- MF1 1863 November 12: Furlough for 60 days granted to William Edmondson (signed B. W. Avent, Board of Examiners, Kingston Hospital).
- MF1 1863 November 12: Transportation slip from Kingston, Georgia to Atlanta, Georgia.
- MF1 1863 November 12: Transportation slip from Atlanta, Georgia to West Point, Georgia.
- MF1 1863 November 12: Transportation slip from West Point, Georgia to Montgomery, Alabama.
- MF1 1863 November 12: Transportation slip from Montgomery, Alabama to Selma, Alabama.
- MF1 1863 November 12: Transportation slip from Selma, Alabama to Meridian, Mississippi.
- MF1 1863 November 12: Transportation slip from Meridian, Mississippi to Columbus, Mississippi.
- MF1 1863 November 15: Provost Marshall's Office pass for William Edmondson.
- MF1 Undated, March 16: William (Holly Springs) to Mr. John Edmondson. William stopped at Holly Springs on his way home from Mobile.

### **George Edmondson Letters**

- MF1 1861 December 11: George Edmondson (Millsprings) to Catesby Edmondson. George tells of his company capturing 23 prisoners. One soldier died of "newmonia" after being sick a week.
- MF1 1861 December 20: George Edmondson (Millsprings) to Mr. John Edmondson. A part of the letter is also written to his sister.

- MF1 1863 September 10: George Edmondson (Fort Delaware) to Dr. J. W. Hayte, requesting that a suit of clothing be forwarded.
- MF1 1863 December 11: George Edmondson (Fort Delaware) to Dr. J. W. Hayte. George received clothing, along with ham and tobacco, the previous day.
- MF1 1864 February 29: George Edmondson (Fort Delaware) to Mr. John Edmondson. George is a prisoner, but he is being treated well.
- MF1 1864 March 11: George Edmondson (Fort Delaware) to Mr. John Edmondson.
- MF1 1864 April 29: George Edmondson (Fort Delaware) to Mr. H. (Hick) P. Weakly.
- MF1 1864 June 6: George Edmondson (Fort Delaware) to Mr. John Edmondson and family.
- MF1 1864 June 7: George Edmondson (Fort Delaware) to Mr. John Edmondson.
- MF1 1864 August 5: George Edmondson (Fort Delaware) to Mr. John Edmondson (Lavergne, Tennessee).
- MF1 1864 August 10: George Edmondson (Fort Delaware) to Mr. John Edmondson (Lavergne, Tennessee).
- MF1 1864 August 20: George Edmondson (Fort Delaware) to Mr. John Edmondson (Lavergne, Tennessee).
- MF1 1864 September 8: George Edmondson (Fort Delaware) to Mr. John Edmondson (Lavergne, Tennessee). There is no word of George's being exchanged at the fall.
- MF1 1864 September 30: George Edmondson (Fort Delaware) to Miss Hattie Edmondson (Nashville).
- MF1 1864 October 26: George Edmondson (Fort Delaware) to Dr. J. W. Hayte (Nashville).
- MF1 1864 November 3: George Edmondson (Fort Delaware) to Mr. John Edmondson (Nashville).
- MF1 1865 February 7: George Edmondson (Fort Delaware) to Mr. John Edmondson. George is hoping to be exchanged within the next day or two. Mentions death of brother William, who had been sick but had been improving.
- MF1 1865 February 15: George Edmondson (Fort Delaware) to Mr. John Edmondson (Nashville). George is still waiting to be exchanged.
- MF1 1865 August, no date: L. R. Weakly (Camp Barry) to George Edmondson

### **Robert Edmondson Letters**

- MF1 1864: March 27: Robert Edmondson (Rock Island) to Mr. John Edmondson. Robert is in prison.
- MF1 1864 May 17: Joseph F. Johns (Rock Island) to Miss Hattie Edmondson (John is replying for Robert, who was in the hospital with rheumatics.)
- MF1 1864 May 24: Robert Edmondson (Rock Island) to Mr. John Edmondson. Robert is out of the hospital.
- MF1 1864 June 18: Robert Edmondson (Rock Island) to Mr. John Edmondson. No clothing for Robert has arrived as yet.

- MF1 1864 June 20: Adams Express Company receipt. (1 box for R. P. Edmondson)
- MF1 1864 July 5: Robert Edmondson (Rock Island) to Mr. John Edmondson?no letters from home.
- MF1 1864 July 21: Robert Edmondson (Rock Island) to Mr. John Edmondson
- MF1 1864 August 3: Robert Edmondson (Rock Island) to Mr. John Edmondson (Lavergne, P. O.)
- MF1 1864 August 16: Robert Edmondson (Rock Island) to Mr. John Edmondson (Lavergne, P. O.). Robert received his box from home a few days before, and also received a letter. George is in poor health at this time.
- MF1 1864 October 7: Robert Edmondson (Rock Island) to Rev. John N. Hayte, requesting that shirts and tobacco be forwarded.
- MF1 1864 October 23: Robert Edmondson (Rock Island) to Mr. John Edmondson (Nashville), with pencilled note of J. N. Hayte
- MF1 1865 January 31: J. J. Robb (Nashville) to Mr. John Edmondson
- MF1 1865 March 22: Robert Edmondson (Rock Island) to Mr. John Ed Edmondson, requesting money.
- MF1 One small notebook of R. P. Edmondson

### **Thomas "Pink" Edmondson Letter**

- MF1 1861 August 15: T. P. Edmondson's discharge from the service
- MF1 1861 August 17: Certificate of discharge, signed I. A. Ridley, commanding company
- MF1 1861 October 17: T. P. Edmondson (Camp Holmes) to William W. Edmondson. T. P. mentions reports of a big fight at Manassas and their being victorious.
- MF1 1861 November 12: T. P. Edmondson (Camp Holmes) to Mr. John Edmondson. T.P. reports that the enemy is camped 7 or 8 miles across the river.
- MF1 3 visiting cards

### **Catesby Edmondson Letters**

- MF1 1852 November 6: Catesby Edmondson (Holly Springs) to Mr. John Edmondson. Catesby is attending school.
- MF1 1853 May 27: Catesby Edmondson (Woodburn) to Mr. William Edmondson[?]. This letter mentions Aunt Eliza's being sick.
- MF1 1854 February 2: T. W. Edmondson (Woodburn) to Catesby Edmondson, speaking of marriage in general.
- MF1 1854 June 28: T. W, Edmondson (Woodburn) to Catesby Edmondson, telling of marriages and local events, including floral exhibition to raise funds for Presbyterian church.
- MF1 1854 November 25: Catesby Edmondson (Holly Springs) to Mr. John Edmondson, telling of his job in a store.
- MF1 1855 December 28: Catesby Edmondson (Holly Springs) to Mr. John Edmondson, relating that he has been "unexpectedly thrown out of business."



- MF1 1856 January 3: Catesby Edmondson (Holly Springs) to Mr. John Edmondson. Catesby still unemployed, staying at Holly Springs for the winter.
- MF1 1856 January 13: Catesby Edmondson (Holly Springs) to Mr. John Edmondson.
- MF1 1856 March 23: Catesby Edmondson (Holly Springs) to Mr. John Edmondson
- MF1 1866 March 27: T. W. Edmondson (Holly Springs) to Catesby. He has had to give up all his property to creditors.
- MF1 1866 April 14: T. W. Edmondson (Holly Springs) to Catesby, telling of the poverty in that part of the country.
- MF1 1866 August 25: T. W. Edmondson (Holly Springs) to Catesby. Mrs. Edmondson, John and Tom's mother, is dead.
- MF1 1866 September 4: J. S. Craddock to Catesby, mentions Harriet's being married.
- MF1 1866 December 1: H. Kn Nosbury[?] (Hamboldt, Tennessee) to Catesby E. Edmondson
- MF1 1872 April 3: T. W. Edmondson (Holly Springs) to Catesby Edmondson
- MF1 1872 July 12: Harriet (Hal) (Nashville) to Catesby. Harriet is now married to Henry McLaught.
- MF1 1872 December 12: Harriet (Murfreesboro) to Catesby, mentions having visited Aunt Susan.
- MF1 No year, August 27: Harriet (Nashville) to Catesby

### **Post-War Correspondence**

- MF1 1865 June 15: Receipt of 3 barrels of corn from John Edmondson, signed M. S. Hurd
- MF1 1866 March 14: T. W. Edmondson (Holly Springs) to his brother, Mr. John Edmondson (Jefferson). Tom now living with George and Janie Govan.
- MF1 1866 October 11: J. N. Hayte (Nashville) to Mr. John Edmondson, regarding church business.
- MF1 1866 October 19: A. G. Adair[?], Secretary (Nashville)m to Mr. John Edmondson, regarding church business.
- MF1 1867 March 19: H. L. Rosser (Franklin) to Mr. John Edmondson; church business.
- MF1 1867 March 19: H. L. Rosser (Nashville) to elders, deacons, and members of Smyrna Church
- MF1 1872 November 3: John[?] N. Craddock (Tuscaloosa) to Mr. John Edmondson, inviting John to spend part of the winter with him.
- MF1 1882 March 8: T. W. Edmondson (McComb City, MS) to Harriet[?], mentions Janie Govan's health is much improved.
- MF1 1884 January 29: Bessie Bryan (West Nashville) to Mr. John Edmondson, sending John a chair.
- MF1 1885 April 2: T. W. Edmondson (McComb City) to Harriet[?]

### **Miscellaneous and undated letters**

- MF1 March 12: Harriet (Murfreesboro) to Mr. John Edmondson
- MF1 March 11: Harriet (Murfreesboro) to Mr. John Edmondson
- MF1 March 5: Peter Randolph (Murfreesboro) to Mr. John Edmondson[?]
- MF1 March 10: Peter Randolph (Sacramento[?]) to Mr. John Edmondson, his stepfather. Marysville underwater.
- MF1 Fanny Keeble to Mr. John Edmondson, apologizing for having to miss visiting his house the following evening.
- MF1 W. Keeble to Mr. John Edmondson requesting planks of wood to finish doors, as well as some leather for repairing shoes.
- MF1 Fanny Keeble to Mr. John Edmondson, requesting the use of Mr. Edmondson's buggy.
- MF1 J. N. Hayte (Nashville) to Mr. John Edmondson (Smyrna), regarding church business.
- MF1 May 22: J. N. Hayte (Nashville) to Mr. John Edmondson (Smyrna), regarding church business.
- MF1 Maria F. Thompson, John's niece, to Mr. John Edmondson
- MF1 Pages 3-10 of a letter
- MF1 8 line poem[?]
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