

MCMURTREY, J. A. (JAMES ADDISON), 1837-1901.
James Addison McMurtrey letters, 1860-1865

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: McMurtrey, J. A. (James Addison), 1837-1901.
Title: James Addison McMurtrey letters, 1860-1865
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 214
Extent: .125 linear ft. (1 partial box)
Abstract: Letters of farmer and Confederate soldier James Addison McMurtrey of Fulton County, Georgia, who served in the 9th Georgia Artillery Battalion during the Civil War.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Source

Gift, 1955 with subsequent additions.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], James Addison McMurtrey letters, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by DEW, 1975

Collection Description

Biographical Note

James Addison McMurtrey (1837-1901), farmer, was born in Anderson, South Carolina, the son of James William and Mary Catherine McMurtrey. He married Lucinda Johnson, the daughter of W.W. Johnson on December 29, 1857 and had three children, James William McMurtrey (1860-1930), Mary Catherine McMurtrey (1863-?), and Edmond Lathaniel McMurtrey (1866-1910). They made their home in Sandy Springs, Fulton County, Georgia, in the area of Oak Grove Post Office. During the Civil War, he was a teamster in Company B, 9th Georgia Artillery Battalion. He was with his battalion in Western Virginia and Tennessee from January, 1862-1864. After the war, he went back to farming in Fulton County.

Publication Note

"Letters to Lucinda, 1862-1864" written by J.A. McMurtrey, typed and compiled by Mary Frances Honea Johnston, 1985.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of 36 letters (February 2, 1862-May 30, 1864), written by James Addison McMurtrey to his wife Lucinda. There is one letter, March 26, 1863, from a J. J. Johnson to his wife Mary in his own handwriting, and two letters (September 4, 1862 and April 22, 1863) penned by McMurtrey for Johnson to his family and to his wife. Another such letter is one dictated by W. R. Eirens (?) to Frances Eirens, February 28, 1863. McMurtrey's own letters are mainly an account of his daily life, though he occasionally relates an amusing anecdote. His attitude seems quite cheerful; beyond cold weather and lice, he complains little. His concern for his wife, her health and her methods of raising their two children, Willie and Mary, comes through strongly in the letters.

The letters were written mainly from camps in western Virginia, Camp Lookout near Jeffersonville and Camp Cumming near Abingdon. Two letters (November 12 and November 19, 1862) were written from a hospital at Emory and Henry College in Virginia. Two other letters (December 4 and December 14, 1862) describe a trip made previously into southeastern Kentucky, where McMurtrey found the people ignorant, impoverished, and curious to know what a Negro was. Leaving Virginia in March 1863, McMurtrey served at Camp King near Bristol, Tennessee, until May when he was moved to Knoxville. A letter from LaFayette, Georgia, September 16, 1863, finds him in the campaign around Chattanooga. In November 1863 he marched with Longstreet to attack Burnside at Knoxville. McMurtrey's letters contain some reports of this fighting, but apparently his company did not see much action. His next letters, written in the spring of 1864, are from North Carolina, near Morgantown and Hickory Station. In May, he was back in western Virginia at Saltville, which is where the letters end.

The collection also contains "Letters to Lucinda, 1862-1864" written by J.A. McMurtrey, typed and compiled by Mary Frances Honea Johnston. A privately printed transcription of the Civil War correspondence of James Addison McMurtrey to his wife, Lucinda; includes genealogical material and reproduced photographs, clippings, letters, etc.

Arrangement Note

Arranged in chronological order.

Container List

| Box | Folder | Content |
|------------|---------------|---|
| 1 | 1 | Letters, 1862 |
| 1 | 2 | Letters, 1863 January - March |
| 1 | 3 | Letters, 1863 April - 1864 |
| 1 | 4 | Letters to Lucinda, 1862-1864, typed and compiled by Mary Frances Honea Johnston |
