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**University of Memphis Libraries  
Preservation and Special Collections Department**

126 Ned R. McWherter Library  
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Phone: (901) 678 - 2210  
E-mail: lib\_sc@memphis.edu

## **L.W. Murphy, Sr., collection**

**Title:** L.W. Murphy, Sr., collection  
**Collection No:** MSS.310  
**Extent:** 1.75 cubic feet  
**Inclusive Dates:** 1833-1976

**Abstract:** The collection comprises mainly plat maps of Memphis, Tennessee, and towns and counties in northern Mississippi, drawn by L.W. Murphy, Sr. (1864-1935) or collected by him and his son.

**Donor:** Loyal W. Murphy, Jr., Memphis, Tennessee, 1972-1974.  
**Processed by:** Gerald Chaudron, 2015, 2017.  
**Access:** Open to all researchers.  
**Language:** English  
**Preferred Citation:** L.W. Murphy, Sr., collection, Preservation and Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

**Publication date:** August 2017

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## **Biographical information**

Loyal Walter Murphy was born on March 9, 1864, in Quasqueton, Iowa, the son of Mathew Murphy (1828-1888) and Mary Elizabeth Williams Murphy. Murphy trained as a surveyor and engineer and was a principal of the Chicago and Assiniboia Railroad Company based in Clinton, Iowa, in 1892, and subsequently moved to Mississippi. He worked on surveying part of the Mississippi/Tennessee state line. In 1904 he married Elsa Carroll Sanders (1886-1953) from Webster County, Tennessee, and they lived in West Point, Clay County. Murphy was the surveyor for Clay County and he also did work in other counties in northern Mississippi. He died on March 3, 1935.

Loyal W. Murphy, Jr., was born on October 23, 1905 in West Point. He had two younger brothers, William Sanders (b.1910) and James Edward (b.1914). He also became a surveyor and engineer who worked in Memphis and married Nell Spradlin (b.1904) in 1935. Murphy served in World War II and died in Memphis on January 28, 1982.

His son, Loyal W. Murphy III (1938-2012), was born in Georgia and followed the family profession, gaining a Bachelor of Engineering from Vanderbilt University in 1960 and a Master of Science from the University of Memphis in 1984.

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## **Scope and contents**

The collection comprises a large number of plat maps of Memphis, Tennessee, and towns and counties in northern Mississippi, either drawn by L.W. Murphy, Sr., or collected by him and his son. The Memphis maps focus on Chelsea, Jackson, Lamar and Poplar Avenues and date from around 1910 to the 1950s. The Mississippi maps include plats of Clay, Alcorn, Lowndes and Webster Counties and copies of historical plats of Webster County from the early nineteenth century. The collection also includes copies of state rosters of engineers and some genealogical material gathered by L.W. Murphy, Jr.

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## **Subject terms**

Cadastral maps—Tennessee—Memphis.  
Cadastral maps—Mississippi.  
Murphy, Loyal W., 1864-1935.  
Murphy, Loyal W., 1905-1982.

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## **Inventory**

## Box 1

### Folder

#### Blueprint plat maps, Memphis, Tennessee:

##### Chelsea Avenue:

- 1 Condemnation plat, Department of Public Works: I.C.R.R. to Jackson Avenue, Nos. 4-85 & 3 unnumbered, 1947.
- OS 1 I.C.R.R. to Jackson Avenue, 1947 (2).
- 2 Condemnation plat, City Engineering Department: Second Street to Thomas Street, Nos. 1-37 (No. 27 missing), 1934. Includes Index plat.
- OS 1 Fourth Street to Jones Avenue, undated.
- 3 Easement plat, Department of Public Works: Thomas Street to Manassas Street, 1949 (2); Thomas Street to Manassas Street, undated.

##### Jackson Avenue:

- OS 1 Promenade to Manassas, 1940.  
Main to Manassas, undated.  
Commerce to High, 1909.  
Manassas to Auction/Ohio, 1921.  
Manassas to Breedlove, 1925.  
Manassas to Bellevue, 1940 and undated (3).
  - 4 Condemnation plat, City Engineering Department: Bellevue Boulevard to Watkins Street, Nos. 27-91 - 27-117, 1926-1927.
  - 5 Various plats, condemnation plats, property plats, 1924, 1926 and undated (15).
  - OS 1 Bellevue to North Watkins, undated.  
Watkins to McLean, 1923.  
Bellevue to North McLean, undated.  
McLean to Trezevant, circa 1922.  
McLean to University, 1927.  
Charles to Merton, 1939 (2).
  - 6 Condemnation plat, City Engineering Department: University to Bingham, Nos. 40-475 – 40-510, 1939.
  - OS 1 Columbia to Warford, 1936.
  - 7 Condemnation plat, City Engineering Department: Columbia to Warford, Nos. 37-44 – 37-69, 1937.
  - OS 1 Merton to Lipford, 1936.
  - 8 Condemnation plat, Department of Public Works: Warford to National, 1941 (33).
  - OS 1 Warford to Orchi, 1941.
- ##### Lamar Avenue:
- OS 1 Cooper to Park, 1955 (2).  
Index map to condemnation plats: East to Somerville, 1947.
  - 9 Condemnation plat, Department of Public Works: Parkway to East of Park, 1955 (17).
  - 10 Various plats, 1909 (71 sheets).

- 11 Property and Condemnation plats, 1922, 1929, 1941, 1952 (6).  
 OS 1 "Property on Lamar Boul. Adjacent to subway", 1919.  
 Lamar Boulevard East to Bellevue, 1910 (2).  
 "E. Parkway to Belt Line Ry.", 1927.
- 12 Right of way plat, Department of Public Works: Pendleton to Prescott, Nos. 1-29,  
 1957.
- OS 1 Pendleton to Prescott. Index map.  
 Pendleton to Prescott, Department of Public Works, undated.
- Poplar Avenue:
- OS 2 North Front to Manassas, 1912.  
 13 Dunlap to Garland, 1930 (9).  
 14 Property and Dedication Plats, 1930-1931 (3).  
 OS 2 Dunlap to Garland, undated.  
 Third to Dunlap, undated.  
 Garland to Tucker, undated.  
 Watkins to Tucker, 1910.
- 15 Tucker to Rembert, City Engineering Department, 1934. Proposed widening on  
 south side of Poplar.
- OS 2 Cooper to East Parkway, 1929.
- 16 Condemnation plat, City Engineering Department: Cooper to East Parkway,  
 1929-1930 (9).
- OS 2 Union Avenue Extended to Tillman, 1955 (2 copies).  
 East Parkway to Outlet, 1926.
- 17 Condemnation plat, City Engineering Department: East Parkway to Collins, 1926  
 (31).
- 18 Right of way plat, Department of Public Works: Collins to Racine, 1957 (30).
- OS 2 Chamberlain to Highland, 1930.  
 Cherry to Colonial Lane, undated.
- 19 Condemnation plat, City Engineering Department: Chamberlayne to Goodlett,  
 1930 (98).
- 20 Condemnation plat, Department of Public Works: West of Perkins (1).  
 OS 2 Highland to Goodlett, 1930.
- 21 L. & N. R.R. to I.C.R.R. and Aulon Viaduct, 1956 (1).
- Plat maps, Mississippi:
- OS 3 Clay County, 1930, drawn by L.W. Murphy. 1"= 1 mile, linen and blueprint.  
 Catalpa Creek, Oktibbeha, Lowndes and Clay Counties, undated. Linen.  
 Prentiss County, drawn by L.W. Murphy, West Point, undated. 1"=1 mile, linen and  
 blueprint.  
 Alcorn County, drawn by L.W. Murphy, West Point, undated. 1"=1 mile, linen.  
 Lowndes County, showing school and road districts and supervisor's district, drawn by  
 L.W. Murphy, West Point, undated. 1"=1 mile, linen.  
 Alcorn County, undated. 1"=1 mile, linen.  
 "Sketch showing fencelines run in sect. 7, 12 & 1 T16 R18 & T16 R19N, Monroe Co.,  
 Miss.," undated. 1"=400', linen.

- “Part of North-East Mississippi’, drawn by Jesse L. Felger, West Point, 1932. Blueprint.  
Tishomingo County, drawn by L.W. Murphy, West Point, undated. 1”=1 mile, linen and  
blueprint.
- Shuquatonchee Drainage District No.1, Chickasaw & Clay Counties, undated. 1”=800’,  
blueprint. Also small blueprint map, 1”=1600’, drawn by L.W. Murphy which  
includes the larger map as a section.
- Yellow Creek Drainage District No.1, Alcorn County, drawn by L.W. Murphy, undated.  
1”=400’, linen.
- Clay County, undated. Linen.
- Corinth, Alcorn County, drawn by L.W. Murphy, 1929. 1”=300’, blueprint (2).
- Greenwood Cemetery, West Point, undated. Blueprint (2).
- Greenwood Cemetery, West Point, drawn by L.W. Murphy, 1932. 1”=300’, blueprint (3).
- Moorhead, Sunflower County, drawn by L.W. Murphy, West Point, undated. 1”=200’.
- OS 4 Webster County, drawn by L.W. Murphy, West Point, undated. 2”=1 mile, linen.
- Columbus, Lowndes County, 1928. Linen. Includes signatures of mayor and councilmen.
- Alcorn County, drawn by L.W. Murphy, West Point, undated. 1”=½ mile. Linen and  
blueprint (7).
- Paden, Tishomingo County, 1907 (copy).
- Commerce Street, West Point, undated. Linen.
- Webster County (copies of original):
- Fractional township 15, R1, Chickasaw Cession, 1836.
  - Township 15, R2E, Chickasaw Cession, 1836.
  - Fractional township 16, R1E, Chickasaw Cession, 1836.
  - Fractional township 16, R2E, Chickasaw Cession, 1839.
  - Fractional township 17, R2E, Chickasaw Cession, 1838.
  - Township 20, R11E, Chickasaw Cession, 1839.
  - Township 20, R12E, Chickasaw Cession, 1839.
  - Township 21, R.10E, Chickasaw Cession, 1839.
  - Township 21, R.11E, Chickasaw Cession, 1839.
  - Township 20, R.11E, Chickasaw Cession 1830, 1846.
  - Township 20, R.12E, Chickasaw Cession 1830, 1846.
  - Township 19, R.8E, State of Mississippi, 1834.
  - Township 19, R.9E, State of Mississippi, 1834.
  - Township 19, R.10E, State of Mississippi, 1833.
  - Township 19, R.11E, State of Mississippi, 1833.
  - Township 20, R.8E, State of Mississippi, 1834.
  - Township 20, R.9E, State of Mississippi, 1834.
  - Township 20, R.10E, State of Mississippi, 1834.
  - Township 21, R.8E, State of Mississippi, 1834.
  - Township 21, R.9E, State of Mississippi, 1834.
  - Township 21, R.10E, State of Mississippi, 1834 (1846).
  - Township 21, R.11E, State of Mississippi, 1834 (1843).
- 22 Ledger: L. W. Murphy, Sr., contains field notes of surveys in northern Mississippi,  
undated. Includes letter re: Corona Lodge No. 537, Corinth, 1894 September 11.

## Box 2

- 1 Notes referring to survey of West Linden Street, Corinth, Alcorn County, Mississippi, by L.W. Murphy, Jr., and other material, 1957 and undated.

### Publications:

- 2 Memphis sesquicentennial, 1969:  
Booklet: "Davy Crockett", published by John Hancock Life Insurance.  
Certificate for course on Memphis history.  
Roper, James E., "The Log Cabin Court Houses of Memphis".
- 3 Arkansas State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, *Roster of Registered Professional Engineers*, 1959-1961.
- 4 Mississippi State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, *Official Roster of Registered Professional Engineers...in the state of Mississippi*, 1958-1961.
- 5 "Terms of the Act Creating the Tennessee State Board of Examiners for Land Surveyors," 1969.  
Tennessee State Board of Examiners for Land Surveyors, *Directory of Registered Surveyors*, 1973, 1974 (2), 1975 (2).  
Tennessee State Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners, *1973 Roster*.

### Genealogical materials:

- 6 Abbott, Barbara Trueblood, *Matilda's Letters*, Connecticut, 1974. Copies of letters written by Matilda Appelman Williams between 1830 and 1892.  
Cutter, William R., *Genealogical and Personal Memoirs Relating to the Families of the State of Massachusetts*, Vo. 4, New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1910, pp. 2541-2542.  
*The Huguenot*, No. 5, 1974, pp. 68-73.  
Williams, Harrison, *The Life, Ancestors and Descendants of Robert Williams of Roxbury in His Majesty's Province of Massachusetts 1607-1693...*, Washington, D.C.: W.F. Roberts Company, 1934, pp. 13-20.  
Program: Tennessee Society, Sons of the American Revolution, "Southern District Conference and Tennessee State Conference," Memphis, 1974.
- OS 3 "Chart of Murphy, Williams, Sanders, Allen, Spradlin lines," by L.W. Murphy, Jr., 1976.
- 7 Miscellany: Letterhead: Tennessee State Board of Examiners for Land Surveyors, L.W. Murphy, Jr. is vice-chairman; Certificate (copy); election of L.W. Murphy as surveyor of Clay County, 1931; photograph (copy): L.W. and Elsa Murphy; Introduction to booklet "Fustest with the Mostest: The Military Career of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest", by Edward F. Williams III; "Tennessee Valley Surveying 1745-1780," *Tennessee Valley Engineer*, Vol. 35, Nos. 1-3, 1974 (copy).

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## Separated materials

The following material has been separated from the collection and disposed of as follows:

Books: Murphy, L.W., Jr., *Murphy Genealogy*, 1972.

Robillard, Walter G., *Instructions to U.S. Deputy Surveyors in Arkansas-Mississippi-*

*Louisiana-Florida, 1811-1844*, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service,  
Atlanta, 1970.

Separated to Special Collections book collection.

Microfilm: Williams, Harrison, *The Life, Ancestors and Descendants of Robert Williams of  
Roxbury in His Majesty's Province of Massachusetts 1607-1693...*,  
Washington, D.C.: W.F. Roberts Company, 1934. Annotated.

Separated to Special Collections microfilm collection.

Maps: Richardson, St. George, "Survey of Part of Old Hen Island and Accretions thereto  
East of the Mississippi River", 1933. Blueprint.

Williamson, M.T., Shelby County, Tennessee, 1902. Memphis section only (copy).

Mud Island, Memphis, 1962. Blueprint.

Murphy, L.W., "Overton and Cotton Compress Property in City of Memphis, Tennessee,  
on Mud Island". Blueprint.

Memphis City Planning Commission, "Map of Memphis, Tennessee, Use District Map",  
1948.

Separated to Special Collection map collection, Memphis 1-4, 17.