MSS0310. L.W. Murphy collection finding aid
L.W. Murphy collection

Title: L.W. Murphy collection
Collection No: MSS.310
Extent: 2.25 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, L.W. Murphy, Jr. (1905-1982).

Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: L.W. Murphy collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.
Publication date: August 2017
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.

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.

Subject terms

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

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.

OS1  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.

OS1  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:

OS1  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).


5  Various plats, condemnation plats, property plats, 1924, 1926 and undated (15).

OS1  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).


OS1  Columbia to Warford, 1936.


OS1  Merton to Lipford, 1936.

8  Condemnation plat, Department of Public Works: Warford to National, 1941 (33).

OS1  Warford to Orchi, 1941.

Lamar Avenue:

OS1  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).
OS1 "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.
OS1 Pendleton to Prescott. Index map.
Pendleton to Prescott, Department of Public Works, undated.

Poplar Avenue:
OS2 North Front to Manassas, 1912.
13 Dunlap to Garland, 1930 (9).
14 Property and Dedication Plats, 1930-1931 (3).
OS2 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.
OS2 Cooper to East Parkway, 1929.
16 Condemnation plat, City Engineering Department: Cooper to East Parkway, 1929-1930 (9).
OS2 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).
OS2 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).
OS2 Highland to Goodlett, 1930.
OS4 Richardson, St. George, “Survey of Part of Old Hen Island and Accretions thereto East of the Mississippi River”, 1933.
Williamson, M.T., Shelby County, Tennessee, 1902. Memphis section only (copy).
Mud Island, Memphis, 1962.
Murphy, L.W., “Overton and Cotton Compress Property in City of Memphis, Tennessee, on Mud Island”.

Plat maps, Mississippi:
OS3 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.
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’.
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”=.5 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:
   Certificate for course on Memphis history.
   Roper, James E., “The Log Cabin Court Houses of Memphis”.


Genealogical materials:


unfolded Murphy, L.W., Jr., *Murphy Genealogy*, 1972.

OS3 “Chart of Murphy, Williams, Sanders, Allen, Spradlin lines,” by L.W. Murphy, Jr., 1976.

Microfilm: Williams, Harrison, *The Life, Ancestors and Descendants of Robert Williams of Roxbury in His Majesty’s Province of Massachusetts 1607-1693…*,

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).

Separated materials

The following material has been separated from the collection and disposed of as follows:
Books: Downs, Michael Walter, The Murphy Family, Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co.:
Hartford, Conn., 1909.
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.