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MF 5735, Series B, Reel 13

MF 6061, Series B, Part 2, Reel 14

**MARSTON (HENRY, AND FAMILY)  
PAPERS**

(Mss. 624)

**Inventory**

Compiled by  
Tara Zachary  
1997

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

Revised 2009

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**SUMMARY**

- Size.** 2104 items, 47 manuscript volumes, 12 printed volumes.
- Geographic locations.** Clinton, East Feliciana Parish, Shreveport, and Red River Parish, Louisiana; Texas; Atlanta, Georgia.
- Inclusive dates.** 1818-1938.
- Bulk dates.** 1850-1890.
- Languages.** English.
- Summary.** Plantation records, diaries, business records, legal documents, and personal correspondence reflect the banking, railroad, planting, and civic activities, and the family life of three generations of the Marston family of Clinton, East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. The collection indicates political sentiment and social and economic conditions in ante-bellum and post-bellum Clinton.
- Arrangement.** Chronologically.
- Source.** Deposited, 1941.
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MF 6061, Series B, Part 2, Reel 14 (Papers, 1866-1938; Diary, 1866)

### **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1794 to John and Ruth Earp Marston, Henry Marston moved from Boston to East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, in 1822. He settled near Clinton and established Washington Place Plantation. He also owned a number of other plantation properties, both in and outside the parish, including Ashland Plantation in Red River Parish, which he purchased in 1857. Beginning in 1835, he worked as cashier of the newly-opened Clinton branch of the Union Bank of Louisiana. With his new duties, Marston moved his family to town, living in the second story of the bank building.<sup>1</sup>

In 1828, Henry Marston married Abigail “Abbie” Fowler Johnson (1811-1888) daughter of William P. Johnson and formerly of Amite County, Mississippi. They had seven children: William J. (1833-1861), John G. (1836-1903), Henry (1838-1867), Bulow Ward (1841-1917), James G. (b.1844-1870), Anna Elizabeth (d. 1888) and Abigail Louisa (1848-1935).

A staunch Whig, Marston did not run for office himself but participated in local politics by ardently campaigning for friends who had political aspirations and for his chosen national candidates. An opponent of secession, he joined the Constitutional American Party in 1860, and would condemn Jefferson Davis and those he deemed responsible for secession for the rest of his life. Nevertheless, he gave money to support the southern cause and facilitated the Confederacy’s use of the Clinton-Port Hudson Railroad, of which he was a stockholder. Additionally, three of his sons served in the Confederacy.

Henry Marston, Jr., 2nd lieutenant in Company A. of the 4th Louisiana Infantry, fought in the Tennessee theater and was wounded at Chickamauga. A sergeant in the same company, James was wounded at Atlanta in 1864 and died of his wounds in 1870. Bulow was appointed captain of Co. F, 15th Tennessee Volunteers, and saw action at Chattanooga and Shiloh, where he was wounded. Subsequently, he went to Shreveport where he served on the staff of General E. Kirby-Smith. His duties there included finding deserters, organizing Indian troops, preparing secret reports for Richmond, and transporting Confederate civilians through the Trans-Mississippi area into Texas. He was also Inspector General of Cooper’s Division, stationed in Shreveport and later Fort Lawson in the Indian Territory. William Marston, who died in 1861, had attended the Western Military Institute in Kentucky and managed Ashland. Abigail Louisa attended The Atheneum in Columbia, Tennessee.

After the Civil War, Bulow Marston resided on his father's plantation, Ashland, and later Star Point and Ninock Plantations. He married his first wife, Mary Josephine Morse, in 1867, and his second wife, Mattie Owens, in 1891. His children were Bulow, Jr., Abbie, James Gray, Bismark and another daughter. He operated steamboats and owned a steamer named *G.W. Sentell*. He also

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<sup>1</sup> Known today as the Marston House, the structure still stands on Bank Street in Clinton. It is owned by the Clinton Garden Club.

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operated a cotton factor and commission merchant firm in New Orleans and then a planting and general merchandise business in Shreveport. Henry married Mattie Walker Brantley, had two children J. Walker and Eva, and died in 1867 of yellow fever, en route to Georgia from Texas. John G.'s wife's name was Emily, and they had three children: Henry, Elizabeth, and John.

Henry Marston, Sr., fared the Civil War financially better than most. After the war, he continued to add properties to his holdings and his sons Bulow and John operated his plantations. Additionally, he opened a small real estate business and was the district agent for the American Insurance Company. He was also active in temperance activities, the administration of the Silliman Female Collegiate Institute, and civic organizations, and continued to take an active interest in politics. In his last years, he suffered from kidney problems, perhaps associated with diabetes. He died in 1884. After his death, daughter Abbie Marston oversaw the management of his plantation interests and was active in civic affairs in Clinton.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Financial and plantation management papers and correspondence, legal documents, personal papers and correspondence, printed items, diaries, letter books, cashbooks, and photographs of three generations of the Marston family of Clinton, East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. The collection reflects economic conditions in East Feliciana Parish and Red River Parish, the political sentiment of a banker/planter, and social activities and family life in Clinton. It also reflects the family's planting, banking, civic, military, and educational activities.

Correspondence and accounts with cotton factors and commission merchants regarding the sale of Marston's cotton, the cotton market, the purchase of supplies for Marston's plantations, especially Ashland, as well as accounts with Clinton merchants for household expenses (ie--groceries, clothing), comprise a significant portion of the materials. Items resulting from Marston's position as cashier at the Clinton branch of the Union Bank of Louisiana are also a large portion of the collection. These include accounts and bills for office supplies and maintenance of the bank building, notes of protestation, promissory notes, accounts, receipts, deeds, and correspondence and circulars from the New Orleans branch regarding bank deposits and administration. Letter books (1839-1884) contain correspondence to clients of the Union Bank of Louisiana, to commission merchants, and to business firms regarding materials needed at the bank, on Marston's plantation, and for personal use.

The plantation diaries of Henry Marston (1822-1832, 1855-1883) record details of plantation management including weather and crops, repairs, and mortgages and insurance and later entries reflect his role as an absentee plantation owner. Diaries reflect business matters of the Clinton and Port Hudson Railroad Company and the Silliman Female Collegiate Institute. They also record local news such as births and deaths and Marston's participation in a local temperance council, as well as report illness and the yellow fever epidemic of 1871. The diaries also reflect views on African Americans' participation in politics and race relations during Reconstruction and Marston's religious beliefs.

Personal correspondence between Marston and his children and friends, and among his children and grandchildren, discuss management of Ashland, their education and studies, social activities in Clinton, political sentiment and social and economic conditions during and after the Civil War, family news, and genealogy. Additional correspondence relates to patents applied for by Bulow and Abigail Louisa. The military papers pertaining to Bulow include orders, appointments, reports and correspondence reflecting his work with Native-American volunteers for the Confederate army and his duties as inspector general. His work took him to Texas and Arkansas. Included in this last group is a series of letters from Confederate Generals Maxey and Cooper to Federal General Thayer regarding arrangements for the passage of Confederate civilians through Federal lines to join relatives in occupied parts of the Confederacy. Additionally a portion of James Marston's diary written in Georgia, May 6, 1864-June 15, 1864, and July 7-31, 1864, in which he describes the fighting at Atlanta and New Hope, is also present.

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Legal papers include bills of sale for slaves and land, deeds, mortgages, contracts with overseers and tenants and correspondence with lawyers Thomas Gibbes Morgan, James O. Fuqua and James G. Kilbourne. Miscellaneous items include circulars, leases, charters, and lists of subscribers for Silliman Female Collegiate Institute; accounts for the Port Gibson office of the Clinton and Port Hudson Railroad, correspondence with William Pike regarding same; letters to the editor written by Marston regarding black enfranchisement, secession, the Democratic Party, and the Lost Cause; programs from recitals at The Atheneum, Columbia, Tennessee; and plats of Ashland Plantation. Photographs include a portrait of Abigail Louisa as a young girl and photos of the Marston House (1935) and the Clinton Courthouse (1938).

**BOX DESCRIPTIONS**

**Box 1** 1818-1848

Correspondence with factors and commission agents about the sale of cotton and the purchase of supplies; bills of sale for slaves; mortgages held by the Union Bank of Louisiana at Clinton and other banking records, including accounts, promissory notes, deeds, and receipts.

**Box 2** 1842-1850

Bills for office supplies and repairs, accounts of protest, and drafts of the Clinton branch of the Union Bank of Louisiana; correspondence from the firm Payne, Harrison, and Company regarding the sale of cotton, written on the *New Orleans Price Current* and annotated.

**Box 3** 1851-1857

Personal correspondence discusses finances, churches in Clinton, and Marston's children. A letter from William in Kentucky describes the state fair and his awe at visiting Henry Clay's home. Letters from William Pike of Baton Rouge discuss investments, claims on the Clinton and Port Hudson Railroad, and other matters relating to the railroad, including hiring African Americans and wages. Additionally, there are accounts of the railroad with the firm Harris and Levi. Other items include correspondence, circulars, and memos of the Citizen's Bank of Louisiana; a map of Ashland plantation; and a stock certificate for Silliman Female Collegiate Institute. Legal items include an overseer contract and the succession of Olivier Caulfield.

**Box 4** 1858-1860

Includes cash reports of the Port Hudson office of the Clinton-Port Hudson Railroad, household accounts and accounts of the Clinton and Port Hudson Railroad, and the Union Bank of Louisiana, Clinton, for supplies, drayage, and shipping. Letters, including one from prominent Baton Rouge lawyer and Judge Thomas Gibbes Morgan, discuss topics such as the cotton crop, the Louisiana senatorial election of 1859, Whig sentiment in the state, and the presidential election of 1860 and the candidates' prospects in Louisiana.

**Box 5** 1861-1870

Included in this box are accounts for household expenses with Clinton and New Orleans merchants and various correspondence. The correspondence includes letters from W.D. Winter of St. Francisville regarding his plantation, crops, and family. Letters from Bulow during the Civil War discuss war news and contain brotherly advice, family news, and comment on news of Clinton during the war. He also describes his work with General Maxey. Additional Civil War items are Bulow's transfer request and appointment papers; orders regarding prisoners of war; correspondence regarding Confederate civilians desiring to enter occupied areas of the Confederacy, Native American volunteers, their enlistment, and administration and training of their units, and promotions; and circulars for and reports by inspectors. Excerpts from the Civil War diary of James Marston and a letter from a teacher describe fighting in Virginia, especially the Siege of Atlanta.

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Additional personal correspondence, primarily written after the Civil War, is partially comprised of letters between Abigail Louisa from The Atheneum in Columbia, Tennessee, and her family, and between Bulow Marston and his father. Letters between Abigail and Anna Elizabeth discuss social activities in Clinton, marriages, health of the family, and lack of servants. Letters between Henry Marston, Sr., and Abigail discuss the school, her studies, especially music, and her contemplation about joining the Episcopal Church and other religion-related issues. Letters from Mary and Sally Winter of St. Francisville to Abbie report marriage engagements and describe the burning of the steamer "Fashion" above Baton Rouge, studies, trips to New Orleans, and family duties and hard times. Letters addressed to "Sister" from Mattie, Henry Jr.'s wife, relate politics in Georgia and black voting. During this time, Bulow was a cotton factor and commission merchant in New Orleans. Accordingly, his letters discuss his work, the cotton market, Ashland plantation, in addition to family news. In letters to Henry Marston, Sr., Baton Rouge lawyer James O. Fuqua discusses the state constitution, politics in Baton Rouge and Louisiana, and answers Marston's questions about selling some of his land.

Plantation management papers include correspondence, accounts, and receipts from Payne, Harrison, and Company, later Payne, Dameron, and Company, pertaining to the sale of cotton and the cotton market, letters from an overseer about the crop and hands, and documents regarding the financing of Ashland.

Other items include letters to the editor, presumably by Marston, expressing outrage at the institution of the provost marshal's office and the subjugation of civil to military rule, and calling for investigation into parish finances; letters and drawings dealing with Abbie Marston's application for a patent on cooking vessels; a memorial to James Marston by the 4th Louisiana Regiment Volunteers; a circular for Silliman Institute; and programs for recitals at the Atheneum.

### Box 6 1871-1899

Included in this box are bills, accounts, letters, and receipts documenting the sale of cotton through Payne, Harrison, and Company; Correspondence with Sam Randall regarding the case of *John D. Worthy, Executor of Archibald D. Palmer v. Henry Marston*, family, and politics; with Marston's brother Rear Admiral John Marston about family, politics, and health; and from his brother-in-law in Texas about his financial and family situation, and about settling the estate of Mrs. Abigail Johnson Marston's mother. Legal documents pertaining to the estate settlement are also present. Personal correspondence from Bulow Marston in New Orleans, Shreveport, and East Point, Louisiana, to his mother, sisters, and wife, discuss his occupation as commission merchant, steam boat captain, and planter.

Also included in this box are letters of condolence for Marston's death and correspondence regarding the settlement of his estate and the sale of plantation properties, including a mortgage and deed of land in Red River Parish to Hammond Wilson, a former slave of Marston's. Mortgages of Ashland, Bee, Star Point, and Home Plantations, all in Red River Parish, are also found.

Letters from Walker Marston, son of Henry Marston, Jr., to his aunt Abigail describe his adventures in the West as a cowboy. Additional letters addressed to Abigail from tenants discuss

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their concerns and needs. Tax receipts and letters and drawings for patents are also present.

**Box 7** 1900-1938, undated

Correspondence in this box, primarily between Abigail Louisa Marston and family discuss finances, Bulow's business and crops, health, genealogy, and family news. Of interest are several letters discussing the Japanese invasion of Peking (1937), where one of the Marston grandsons was serving as a Marine. Undated items included in this box are letters to the editor and essays by Marston on secession, the Lost Cause, republican government, black enfranchisement, and the Democratic party; a phrenological chart of Henry Marston, Sr.; a chronology of the Florida parishes; and a list of the stockholders of the East Feliciana Cotton Factory and the Clinton-Port Hudson Railroad.

**Box 8** 1835-1882, undated

This box contains printed pamphlets and volumes of political speeches, laws governing the Union Bank of Louisiana, Louisiana Constitution (1879), arguments for Supreme Court Cases in which Marston was named, and memorials to Daniel Webster and to three children killed in a fire.

DIARY DESCRIPTIONS

<u>Volume #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
7	1855	Weather reports
8	1856	Absentee ownership of plantation; management of Clinton and Port Hudson Railroad Company; Silliman Female Collegiate Institute
9	1857	Ashland Plantation and local news
10	1858	travel on Red River
11	1886	Ashland Plantation and local news
12	1867	Clinton local news
13	1868	Clinton local news
14	1871	Clinton; demonstration of African Americans; yellow fever; case of <i>John D. Worthy v. Executor Henry Marston</i> ; New Orleans, Mobile, and Texas Railroad; Ashland Plantation
15	1872-73	Subscription to numerous publications; resolution against division of the parish; delegation to New Orleans; appointment of African American; holding of Grant Negro Convention
16	1873	Clinton political news
17	1874	Clinton political news
18	1875	Clinton political news
19	1876	Race-related disturbance
20	1877	Activities of the Temperance Council
21	1878	Cotton worm; yellow fever epidemic; Greenback ticket
22	1879-1880	Ashland plantation
23	1880	Plant disease; death of animals because of disease; record of births, deaths, and marriages; travel between Clinton and Red River; list of delinquent tax payers
24	4/1881-6/1882	Reference to health conditions in city; uncertainty of mail; assassination of President James Garfield

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**CONTAINER LIST**

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<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
G:19		Diary. 1822. Diary. 1825-1828 Diary. 1828-1831.
		<b>BANK BOOKS</b>
	1.	Bank book. John P. Bullard. May, 1841-Dec. 1843. Clinton
		<b>CASHBOOKS</b>
	2.	Cashbook. Mrs. A.F. Marston. Nov., 1884 - 1889. Clinton. 145 pp.
	3.	Cashbook. Henry Marston. June, 1838 - January, 1840. Clinton. 47 pp.
	4.	Cashbook. Henry Marston. Jan., 1857 - Jan., 1867. Clinton. 203 pp.
	5.	Cashbook. Henry Marston. Jan., 1867 - Dec., 1875. Clinton. 126 pp.
	6.	Cashbook. Henry Marston. April, 1876 - June, 1882. Clinton. 151 pp
		<b>DIARIES</b>
G:19	7.	Diary. Henry Marston. Jan., 1855 - Dec., 1855. Clinton. 84 pp
	8.	Diary. Henry Marston. Jan., 1856 - Dec., 1856. Clinton. 122 pp

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9. Diary. Henry Marston. Jan., 1857 - Dec., 1857. Clinton. 121 pp
10. Diary. Henry Marston. Jan., 1858 - Dec., 1858. Clinton. 124 pp
11. Diary. Henry Marston. January, 1866 - December, 1866. Clinton. Ashland Plantation and Mississippi City, Mississippi. 368 pp
12. Diary. Henry Marston. Jan., 1867 - Dec., 1867. Clinton. 126 pp.
13. Diary. Henry Marston. Jan., 1868 - Dec., 1868. Clinton. 125 pp
14. Diary. Henry Marston. Jan., 1871 - Dec., 1871. Clinton. 367 pp
15. Diary. Henry Marston. January, 1872 - January, 1873. Clinton. 132 pp
16. Diary. Henry Marston. January, 1873 - January, 1874. Clinton. 101 pp
17. Diary. Henry Marston. January, 1874 - February, 1875. Clinton. 392 pp
18. Diary. Henry Marston. February, 1875 - January, 1876. Clinton. 165 pp
19. Diary. Henry Marston. January, 1876 - February, 1877. Clinton. 159 pp
20. Diary. Henry Marston. Feb., 1877 - Dec., 1877. Clinton. 144 pp
21. Diary. Henry Marston. Jan., 1878 - Dec., 1878. Clinton. 174 pp.
22. Diary. Henry Marston. January, 1879 - February, 1880. Clinton. 213 pp
23. Diary. Henry Marston. April, 1880 - February, 1881. Clinton. 180 pp
24. Diary. Henry Marston. April, 1881 - January, 1882. Clinton. 202 pp
25. Diary. Henry Marston. January, 1882 - January, 1883. Clinton. 280 pp
26. Diary. Henry Marston. Jan., 1883 - Dec., 1883. Clinton. 190 pp
27. Diary. Henry Marston. Jan., 1884 - Aug., 1884. Clinton. 144 pp
28. Diary. Henry Marston. August, 1884 - October, 1884. Clinton. 44 pp  
A. Cash entries. October, 1904 - November, 1905. Clinton. 31 pp
29. Diary. Henry Marston, Jr. Jan., 1864 - Dec., 1864. Clinton. 98 pp
30. Diary. Jas. G. Marston. Mar., 1864 - Sept., 1864. Alabama and Georgia. 88 pp.
31. Diary. Jas. G. Marston. Aug., 1869 - Oct., 1869. Tangipohoa Parish to Boston, Massachusetts and New York, New York. 40 pp
32. Diary. William J. Marston. July, 1858 - August, 1858. Clinton to Mount Vale Springs, Tennessee. 97 pp  
a. Accounts. William J. Marston. Nov., 1854 - Dec., 1862. Clinton  
b. Addresses. William J. Marston. Clinton.

**DRAFT BOOKS**

- G:19
33. Draft book. Henry Marston. Jan., 1861 - Jan., 1869. Clinton. 42 pp.
  34. Draft book. Henry Marston. Aug., 1872 - March, 1880. Clinton. 87 pp
  35. Draft book. Henry Marston. March, 1880 - Sept., 1884. Clinton. 105 pp

**LETTER BOOKS**

- G:19
36. Letter book. Henry Marston. Feb., 1839 - Feb., 1844. Clinton. 61 pp
  37. Letter book. Henry Marston. October, 1853 - February, 1856. Clinton. Binding missing
  38. Letter book. Henry Marston. July, 1868 - January, 1873. Clinton. 538 pp., indexed
  39. Letter book. Henry Marston. July, 1873 - January, 1879. Clinton. 514

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40. Letter book. Henry Marston. January, 1879 - April, 1882. Clinton. 507 pp., indexed
41. Letter book. Henry Marston. June, 1883 - September, 1884. Clinton. 144 pp., indexed
- NOTEBOOKS**
- G:19 42. Notebook. O. King [?]. June, 1837. Clinton. 14 pp
- PLANTATION DIARIES**
- G:19 43. Plantation diary. Henry Marston. May, 1822 - Dec., 1822. "Washington Place." 89 pp. (bound transcript copy available)
44. Plantation Diary. Henry Marston. April, 1825 - Jan., 1828. "Washington Place." 132 pp (bound transcript copy available)
45. Plantation Diary. Henry Marston. April, 1828 - July, 1829. January, 1830 - October, 1830; January, 1831 - July, 1831; March, 1832 - May, 1832. East Feliciana Parish. 89 pp; (bound transcript copy available)
- RECEIPT BOOKS**
- G:19 46. Receipt book. Miss. A.L. Marston. Dec., 1888 - June, 1889. Clinton.
- RECORD BOOKS**
- G:19 47. Record book. Henry Marston. June, 1828 - June, 1836. Clinton. 91 pp
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