

**See also UPA microfilm:**

MF 5322, Series I, part 3, reels 13-14

MF: 6061, Series B, part 4, reels 5-8

**James A. Gillespie and Family Papers**

(Mss. 669, 695, 1104, and 2086)

Inventory

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

Reformatted 2007

### Contents of Inventory

Biographical/Historical Note	4
Scope and Content Note	4-5
Collection Description	6-12
Index Terms	13
Container List	14

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Proper acknowledgement of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

### Summary

<b>Size.</b>	1,530 items and 20 volumes
<b>Geographic locations.</b>	Adams County, Mississippi Concordia Parish, Louisiana
<b>Inclusive dates.</b>	1776-1929
<b>Bulk dates.</b>	1840-1890
<b>Language.</b>	English
<b>Summary.</b>	Plantation records, business papers, and personal correspondence of the Gillespie family, Hollywood Plantation, Adams County, Mississippi, and Indian Village Plantation, Concordia Parish, Louisiana; and business papers of the Joshua Davis family, Westmoreland and Beechland Plantations, Adams County, Mississippi.
<b>Organization.</b>	Arranged by type, then chronologically.
<b>Restrictions on access.</b>	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm. Ambrotype Restricted Access. Permission of the curator required.
<b>Related collections.</b>	N/A
<b>Copyright.</b>	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
<b>Citation.</b>	James A. Gillespie and Family Papers, Mss. 669, 695, 1104, 2086, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
<b>Stack location(s).</b>	E:22-24; E:118; 65:G; G:16; OS:G; Vault: 38
<b>Also available on:</b>	Microfilm 5322, Series I, part 3, reels 13-14, omission: 1866-1929 but includes Record Book 1843-1879; MF:6061, Series B, part 4, reels 5-8, omission: 1776-1865 but includes undated material

### **Biographical/Historical Note**

James A. Gillespie was a planter of the Hollywood Plantation, Adams County, Mississippi, and the Indian Village Plantation, Concordia Parish, Louisiana. William F. Farrel worked as an overseer for Gillespie. Joshua Davis and family moved to Adams County from North Carolina and operated the Beechland and Westmoreland Plantations there.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection includes plantation records, business papers, and correspondence of the Gillespie family and business and personal papers of the Davis family. The earliest papers relate to the Davis family and include agreements and deeds between Joshua and David Davis for sales of slaves (1776); bills and receipts for purchases by Joshua Davis; and letters to Mrs. Sally Gardner Davis from her family in North Carolina (1807-1811). Bills, receipts, and two letters from Thomas Affleck are addressed to Thomas Davis. A letter (1857) by Sarah Davis mentions visits of John Purvis and Nancy Marley.

Papers (1825-1850) include land deeds and land grants of James A. Gillespie and his brother John. A contract (1830) mentions land bordered on the north by property of Sarah Davis. One item documents the gift of several slaves by James Gillespie to his daughter, Mary E. Winston.

Papers (1860-1880) document the management of the Hollywood and Indian Village plantations and include a lease of the Indian Village Plantation to the firm Hoyt, Sprague & Company of New York (1865). The plantation was subsequently leased to Anna G. Haydon (1867) and to Wm. Jett & Company (1872-1875). Contracts with laborers and tenants (1864-1901) document days worked, pay, and food rations received by laborers on plantations owned by the Gillespie family. A labor contract of Thomas Davis (1867) records labor on the Beechland Plantation.

Some correspondence of the Gillespie family includes a letter of John Gillespie describing conditions in Tennessee (1866); letters between Callie Davis and Neal Farrar which tell of their courtship; a letter from I. W. Paxton describing conditions in England (1867); letters discussing plantation and financial matters, many from Gillespie's nephew Sam Postlethwaite; and a letter (1879) mentioning the death of James Gillespie, with a copy of his last will (1873).

This will left the management of Hollywood Plantation and Indian Village Plantation to his daughter Jane. Papers post-1880 chiefly relate to Jane Gillespie and her management of the plantations, followed by management by other Gillespie family members. There is much correspondence with S. Prentiss Nutt (1886), who was handling the claims of the Gillespie family against the U.S. government in regard to their confiscated property, and numerous bills and receipts concerning the accounts of the plantations. Other documents include tenant contracts (1901-1905, 1908, 1927), leases for portions of the plantations, and papers concerning the case of *Sturget v. Minor* which dealt with the partition of property in Mississippi (1927). In

addition to business correspondence, there are letters to A.H. Gillespie from his cousin Katherine Denver-Williams in Ohio discussing family as well as plantation matters (1919-1920), and also from his mother Anna G. Haydon in Louisville.

Diaries of James Gillespie (1851-1861) describe working conditions on the Hollywood, Indian Village, Sligo, Egypt, and Mantua plantations. Record books (vols.14-19, 1843-1894) list household expenses, sales of produce, names of slaves and laborers, and ledgers (vols.1-6, 1901-1922) record wages paid and amounts of work done.

The collection contains photographs (chiefly portraits, including one ambrotype), maps, plats, and printed items including sheet music, fashion publications, pamphlets, notebooks, and German language materials. The photographs are chiefly portraits taken by a number of photographers, including H.C. Norman and L.D. Simmons, both of Natchez, and various studios in Chicago, Milwaukee, Louisville, and New Orleans to name a few. In addition to the photographs, there are twenty J. Lion portraits of prominent men (1842-1847).

**Collection Description**

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
E:22	1	1	1776-1819; 30 items Business and personal papers of Davis family; deeds between Joshua and David Davis for sales of slaves; bills and receipts for purchases by Joshua Davis; letters to Mrs. Sally Gardner Davis from her family in North Carolina
E:22	1	2	1820-1829; 45 items Bills and receipts of Sarah Davis and Thomas Davis; papers include land deeds and land grants of James A. Gillespie and his brother John
E:22	1	3	1830-1842; 30 items Bills and correspondence of Thomas Davis; a memorandum stating that Mrs. Jane Gillespie was a member of the Natchez Presbyterian Church
E:22	1	4	1843-1849; 22 items Deed of conveyance; bills and receipts of Thomas Davis; 2 letters received from Thomas Affleck addressed to Thomas Davis
E:22	1	5	1850-1859; 37 items Bills and receipts of Thomas Davis; deed of gift from James Gillespie to his daughter Mary E. Winston; correspondence from Sarah Davis mentioning visits of John Purvis and Nancy Marley; tax bills of David L. Smith and receipt for seat in the Union Meeting House in Sylvania Borough, Bradford County, Pennsylvania; letter from Nancy Lewis Smith to her cousin concerning the family, and envelope addressed to Clarissa Smith
E:22	1	6	1860-1865; 79 items Bills and receipts of James Gillespie and of Thomas Davis; papers and correspondence between Gillespie and Farrel document the management of the Hollywood and Indian Village plantations; correspondence of Callie Davis
E:22	2	1	1866; 77 items Bills and correspondence of James Gillespie concerning plantations, letters from his nephew James Purviance, letter from his brother H.D. Smith; Amnesty Oath of Gillespie; agreements with hired laborers

- |      |   |   |  |
|------|---|---|--|
| E:22 | 2 | 2 | 1867; 87 items<br>Correspondence of Gillespie family; letter from I.W. Paxton describing conditions in England; agreements of hired laborers by James Gillespie; letters and papers discussing plantation and financial matters; labor contract of Thomas Davis; Cadet's Ball invitation for Callie Davis  |
| E:22 | 2 | 3 | 1868-1869; 95 items<br>Correspondence, letters from nephew Sam Postlethwaite, financial papers and agreements of James Gillespie; agreements with hired laborers   |
| E:22 | 2 | 4 | 1870-1871; 55 items<br>Correspondence, letters from nephew Sam Postlethwaite; financial papers and receipts of Gillespie; burial notice of sister of Gillespie   |
| E:22 | 2 | 5 | 1872; 50 items<br>Correspondence, papers of Gillespie; letters from William Jett concerning plantations  |
| E:23 | 3 | 1 | 1873-1874; 91 items<br>Financial papers and receipts; letters of James Gillespie giving details of the confiscation of his goods; letters discussing legal matters with S. Elkin, Esq.; last will and testament of Gillespie, Oct. 1873; a memorandum regarding his will and a certification by his doctor; a memorandum of a contract with William Jett |
| E:23 | 3 | 2 | 1875-1879; 100 items<br>Gillespie family correspondence; memorandum of contract of Indian Village; leases of parts of Hollywood Plantation; printed speech of Hon. James L. Alcorn in U. S. Senate, Jan. 21, 1873 on Mississippi River Levees; and a letter (1879) mentioning the death of James Gillespie   |
| E:23 | 3 | 3 | 1880-1884; 56 items<br>Financial papers, receipts, correspondence of Jane Gillespie; papers concerning Mantua Plantation; letter from Callie Davis; 2 Western Union telegrams  |
| E:23 | 3 | 4 | 1885-1889; 58 items<br>Deeds and leases of parts of Hollywood Plantation by Jane Gillespie; extensive correspondence with S. Prentiss Nutt, Washington, D. C. who was handling the claims of the Gillespie family against the U. S. government in regard to their  |

			confiscated property; bills of sale, and receipts; fire insurance policy of D. L. Smith in Pennsylvania, 1887
E:23	3	5	1890-1899; 77 items Leases of parts of plantations by Jane Gillespie; financial papers, receipts; wedding invitation from M.B. Shaw; correspondence of Jane Gillespie
E:23	3	6	1900-1906; 92 items Family and business papers of Alfred Harvey Gillespie who operated Hollywood Plantation for himself and relatives; he also operated Egypt Plantation in conjunction with Frank McFarland and Robert Stanton; letter from Mrs. Anna G. Haydon in Louisville to her son A.H. Gillespie at Hollywood Plantation enclosing a post card of the custom house in Louisville; correspondence with his cousin Katherine Denver-Williams in Wilmington, Ohio, concerning Mantua Plantation; 66 receipts from Postlethwaite & Chase Co. of Natchez for cotton to A.H. Gillespie
E:23	4	1	1901-1905, 1908, 1927; 40 items Tenant contracts
E:23	4	2	1907-1918; 60 items Bills for R.K. Gillespie including receipts for assessments from Woodmen of the World; letter from S.B.M. to Marion D. Evans concerning family matters; letter from Mary M.B. Conner about purchasing a new wheelchair; letter to A.H. Gillespie from Frank McFarland in New Orleans concerning approval of plantation affairs; supply account for Egypt Plantation and suggestion for prize money for tenants; letter from Robert Stanton on approval of sale of cattle; claims by heirs of James A. Gillespie; invitation to commencement ceremony of Louise Denver Williams; letter from the Red Cross; letter from the Postal Exchange Company in St. Louis concerning establishment of a Natchez Exchange, 1918
E:23	4	3	1920-1929; 34 items Letters to A.H. Gillespie from cousin Katherine Denver-Williams; bills of A.H. Gillespie; copy of chattel mortgage with tenant farmer; letters and papers pertaining to case of Sturget v. Minor regarding partition of property in Mississippi; brochure of the National Arts Club, New York City, listing paintings exhibited by the Natchitoches Art Colony, Natchitoches, Louisiana



**JAMES A. GILLESPIE AND FAMILY PAPERS**

1776-(1840-1890)-1929

**Ms. 669, 695, 1104****2086**

- |      |   |   |  |
|------|---|---|--|
| E:23 | 4 | 4 | Undated; 33 items<br>Letters to James A. Gillespie, Jane Gillespie, Sallie Davis, Wm. H.D. Smith, and others   |
| E:23 | 4 | 5 | Undated; 44 items<br>Letters to Callie Davis, James A. Gillespie, Jane Gillespie, A.H. Gillespie, and others   |
| E:23 | 4 | 6 | Undated; 34 items<br>Letters to Callie Davis, Mr. Gillespie; family tree of Rev. Jedediah Smith; explanation of Imported Edging by Jane Gillespie; part of plot showing and including Hollywood, plot of Carmel Church by W.S. Smith; recipe for blackberry wine   |
| E:23 | 4 | 7 | Undated; 66 items<br>Account figures, bills and receipts of Gillespie family   |
| E:23 | 4 | 8 | Undated; 5 items<br>Printed items: stack of blank checks from First National Bank of Natchez, Mississippi; advertisement for Friedrich's Four Roses; order form and letter from Allied Drug Products Company; and advertisement for Walkden's Fine British Ink Powder for Records  |
| E:23 | 4 | 9 | Undated; 17 items<br>Envelopes, addressed to James A. Gillespie, Jane Gillespie, S. Prentiss Nutt, Anna G. Haydon, R.K. Gillespie, Marian D. Evans, A.H. Gillespie   |
| E:24 | 5 | 1 | 1860-1869, undated; 10 items<br>Newspaper clippings relate to agricultural fairs or news, political figures and speeches, and poetry   |
| E:24 | 5 | 2 | Undated; 4 items<br>Photographs: Various portraits, Photographers: S.L. Stein, Milwaukee; Washburn, Louisville; New Orleans  |
| E:24 | 5 | 3 | Undated; 11 items<br>Photographs; group photograph from Ernest Gillespie; Various portraits, photographers: E. Klauber, Louisville; L.D. Simmons, Natchez; F.H. Gaines, Carrollton, Mo.; G.W. Pach, New York; Butterworth, Wilmington, Ohio; Wright & Holloway, Terre Haute; Earles Galleries, Philadelphia; Otto Mayer, Dresden |
| E:24 | 5 | 4 | Undated; 11 items<br>Photographs; Kodak picture of Kaiser on his way to the Palace   |

- in Mainz taken by Lillie; postcard of Natchez, Mississippi Municipal Building addressed to John Gillespie; postcard of Buffalo Bill; portrait of H.A. Gillespie 1901; various portraits, photographers: Zweifel; G. Gollas; Strauss
- E:24        5        5        Undated; 10 items  
Photographs; various portraits, one addressed to Mr. Stanton, one to Mrs. Estelle Winston, photographers: H.C. Norman, Natchez; L.D. Simmons, Natchez; Glines, Boston; Whitman, Massachusetts
- E:24        5        6        Undated; 9 items  
Photographs; various portraits, photographers: H.C. Norman, Natchez; W.J. Root, Chicago; Giers & Koellein, Nashville
- E:24        6        1        1890-1891; 1 item  
v.7    Memorandum Book
- E:24        6        2        Undated; 1 item  
v.8    Memorandum Book
- E:24        6        3        1856-1857; 1 item  
v.9    Notebook of poems
- E:24        6        4        Undated; 1 item  
v.10   French notebook
- E:24        6        5        1838, undated; 2 items  
Religious materials: *A Book for Beginners or A Help to Young Communicants: That they may be fitted for the Bishop of Ely.* From the Seventeenth English Edition. (New York: Published by the Gen. Prot. Episc., S. S. Union); *Conversations on Prayer.* Written For the American Sunday-School Union, and Revised By The Committee of Publication. (Philadelphia: American Sunday-School Union, 1838)
- E:24        6        6        1853; 1 item  
“Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Order of Sylvania Lodge, No. 114, of the Independent Order of Good Templars.” Instituted at Sylvania, Brad. Co., Pa., July 14, 1853. (Troy, Pa.: Messenger & Colwell, “Trojan” Office, 1853)
- E:24        6        7        1859; 1 item  
“Proceedings of the Police Jury of the Parish of Concordia: at their Special and Regular Sessions in March, April, and July, 1859.” (Vidalia: Printed at the “Concordia Intelligencer”

			Office, 1859)
E:24	6	8	1834-1863; 1 item Register of Alpha Phi Fraternity including lists of members
E:24	6	9	Undated; 1 item "Moore's Toxin for Dog Distemper," Middle Mass. Chemical Co., Palmer, Mass.
E:24	6	10	1865, undated; 3 items German language materials: <i>Meyer's Volksbuscher</i> . Phantalien im Bremer Ratskeller. Ein Herbstgeschenk fur Freunde des Waines von Wilhelm Hauff. (Leipzig: Bibliographisches Institut); "The Meisterschaft-System. German Part VII"; <i>English-German Conversation-Book for Young Ladies</i> . By Dr. F. Ahn. (Leipzig: F. A. Brockhaus, 1865)
E:24	6	11	Undated; 3 items Fashion Materials: "Adjustable Dress Forms, Especially Adapted for Dressmakers and Private Families." (New York: Hall-Borchert Dress Form Co.); "Whitney's Treatise on Crocheting and Knitting in Yarns and Worsteds." (Boston: T. D. Whitney & Co.); <i>The National Garment Cutter Book of Diagrams</i> . (Chicago: Goldsberry, Doran & Nelson)
E:24	7	--	1842-1847; 20 items J. Lion prints, men in politics
E:118	8	--	1793, 1843-1847, 1866, 1872 Deed between Joshua and David Davis for sales of slaves, Land deeds and land grants of John and James A. Gillespie; Newspaper clippings: Agricultural fairs, "Speech of Governor Hoffman at Doylestown, Pa., Sept. 25" and "About Political Conversions"
E:118	8	1	1918 Pedigrees of two pigs bought by A.H. Gillespie
65:G	--	--	Undated; 3 items Sheet music
G:16		v.1	Daybook (1901)
G:16		v.2	Ledger (1905-1907)
G:16		v.3	Ledger (1908-1910)

G:16		v.4	Ledger (1911-1913)
G:16		v.5	Ledger (1913-1916)
G:16		v.6	Ledger (1916-1922)
G:16		v.11	Notebook (undated)
G:16		v.12	Plantation Diary, Hollywood Plantation (1851-1856)
G:16		v.13	Plantation Diary, Sligo and Egypt Plantations (1854-1861)
G:16		v.14	Record Book, Hollywood and Indian Village Plantations (1843-1879)
G:16		v.15	Record Book, Jane Gillespie (1870)
G:16		v.16	Record Book, Hollywood Plantation (1874-1880)
G:16		v.17	Record Book, R.K. Gillespie Hollywood Plantation (1882-1884)
G:16		v.18	Record Book (1887-1888)
G:16		v.19	Record Book, Jane Gillespie Hollywood Plantation (1892-1894)
G:16		v.20	Time Book (1885, 1888-1893)
OS:G	--	1	1804-1898; 11 items 2 Account sheets for John Davis (1804); Contract mentioning land bordered on the north by property of Sarah Davis (1830); Contract signed by J.A. Gillespie (1833); Deed to the trustees of Jefferson College of a portion of Hollywood Plantation by Jane Gillespie (1883); Indenture (1888); Tenant Agreement from Sligo Plantation (1890); Deed of Conveyance (1898); Newspaper clippings: agricultural news, politics, poetry (1863, 1864, 1866)
Vault:38	--	--	Ambrotype (ca.1850) portrait of unknown woman

**Index Terms**

Adams County, Mississippi.

Affleck, Thomas, 1812-1868.

Agricultural laborers – Mississippi.

Beechland Plantation (Miss.)

Cotton growers – Mississippi.

Cotton growing – Mississippi.

Davis family.

Davis, Thomas (planter).

Diaries.

Gillespie, Jane.

Hollywood Plantation (Miss.)

Indian Village Plantation (La.)

Pamphlets

Photoprints.

Plantation owners – Mississippi.

Plantations – Mississippi.

Record Books.

Slave bills of sale - North Carolina.

Slaveholders – Mississippi.

Slaves – Mississippi.

Westmoreland Plantation (Miss.)

**Container List**

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
E:22	1	1-7	1776-1865
	2	1-5	1866-1872
E:23	3	1-6	1873-1906
	4	1-9	1901-1929, undated
E:24	5	1-6	Newspaper clippings and photographs, 1860-1869, undated
	6	1-11	Printed items, volumes 7-10, 1834-1891, undated
	7	--	Prints, 1842-1847
E:118	8	1	Land deeds, grants, newspaper clippings, 1793, 1843-1847, 1866, 1872, 1918
65:G	--	--	Sheet music, undated
G:16	Vols. 1-6, 11-20	--	See volume description, 1834-1922
OS:G	--	1	Contracts, deeds, tenant agreements, newspaper clippings, 1804-1898
Vault:38	--	--	Ambrotype (ca.1850)