



DALLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
"Remembering Dallas' past builds her future"

Murray Gin Company records

Overview

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| Creator: | Murray Gin Company |
| Title: | Murray Gin Company records |
| Dates: | |
| Abstract: | The Murray Gin Company, formerly The Murray Company Plant, and Murray Ginning Systems Company, was founded in 1900, when it took over a small gin manufacturing plant in East Dallas. It was one of the largest manufacturers of cotton gin machinery in the world. Murray Gin marketed cotton gin machinery in all cotton producing states in the Union as well as in foreign countries where the crop is grown. The company maintained a staff of consulting and research engineers and utilized its own patents and developments in the manufacture of its various machines and equipment. |
| Identification: | 2019.11, unprocessed |
| Quantity: | 1.5 box; 1.58 linear ft. |
| Language: | Material is in English |
| Repository: | Dallas Historical Society |

Historical Note

Among the important contributions the Murray Company has made to the improvement of cotton ginning processes have been an all-steel, high speed, air blast gin; the Murray elevating system an all-steel, self-cleaning, fireproof condenser, an improved airline cleaner; and the Hancock Cotton Picker. It was also the first company to perfect a machine for cleaning cotton at the gin and the first to build a gin to run at 700 revolutions a minute with a loose roll. At the Murray Company's plant, which was equipped with the most modern machinery, the visitor could see the casting and stamping out of the individual parts as well as the assembling of the complete gins.

The manufacturing process was highly mechanized and included many labor-saving devices, which made it possible to build all steel gins that sell at practically the same price as wooden gins. Huge power machines and stamping dies shaped metal with the greatest speed and

precision, and modern electric welders welded the parts together with the ease of a simple household task.

John H. McDonough, a Kentuckian who came to Texas in 1884, was a member of the federal civil service, and entered private industry in Dallas in 1900 by buying control of the Murray Ginning Systems Company. At the end of his first year as a manufacturer, his firm was doing a yearly business of \$312,000. Within a decade this volume had been expanded to approximately \$1,500,000 a year.

McDonough's first job in Texas was at the Fort Worth post office. He subsequently served as assistant postmaster at Denison where he met his wife. They married in 1890.

McDonough bought a block of raw land on Ross Avenue between Fitzhugh and the Episcopal College (present St. Matthew's Cathedral) and built his first Dallas home there. Ross Avenue at that point was not paved, and the property was so far out in the country that the entire block had to be fenced to prevent stray cattle from intruding on it. The McDonough children, including J. Kirby McDonough, were born at this Ross Avenue home. "Among our neighbors," J. Kirby McDonough recalls, "was a brilliant young lawyer, Hatton W. Sumners, who made a home nearby for his two maiden sisters and himself."

In 1945, ninety-three service men, were furloughed for 90 days and brought to the Murray Gin Co. of Dallas and Fort Worth ammunition plants to meet a shortage of skilled workers. The Murray Gin Co. produced fragmented bombs and artillery shells for the war effort.

Sources:

John H. McDonough, Maple Ave, <https://dallasgateway.com/john-h-mcdonough-3001-maple-ave/>

"Army Men Furloughed For War Plant Work." Lubbock Avalanche, January 14, 1945.

Holmes, Maxine, and Gerald Saxon. WPA Dallas Guide and History. Denton, TX: University of North Texas Press, 1993.

Scope and Contents Note

The Murray Gin Company records are comprised of mostly photographs of the gin, the war effort, and employees. Also contains resumes, patent information, catalogs, bios, newspaper clippings and magazine clippings.

Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is organized into two series:

Series 1: Murray Gin Company records

Series 2: Murray Gin photographs

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research use. Some records contains sensitive information.

Publication Rights:

Permission to publish materials must be obtained from the staff of the Dallas Historical Society.

Copyright Statement:

It is the responsibility of the user to obtain copyright authorization.

Sensitive Material Statement:

Manuscript collections and archival records may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in this collection without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications for which the Dallas Historical Society assumes no responsibility.

Index Terms

This collection is indexed under the following terms.

Subjects (Persons)

J. Kirby McDonough -- Dallas, Texas

Harold Nash Mitchell -- Dallas, Texas

Harold A. Boggs-- Dallas, Texas

John Calvin McDonald -- Dallas, Texas

Subjects (Organizations)

The Murray Company Plant -- Texas

Murray Ginning Systems Company -- Dallas, Texas

Cotton Gin and Oil Mill Press

Subjects

Cotton Gins

Hancock Cotton Picker – Dallas, Texas

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Collection of the Dallas Historical Society, Murray Gin Company records.

Acquisition Information

Records are arranged in folders with no particular order.

Processing Information

Collection remains unprocessed.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series 1: Murray Company Plant records, 1.04 linear ft.

Resumes, magazine articles, some photographs and newspaper articles.

Series 2: Murray Company photographs, .54 linear ft.

Photographs, magazine articles, and newspaper articles.
