

GEORGE WASHINGTON HARRIS PAPERS

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## Biography of George W. Harris

George Washington Harris was born near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on March 20, 1814. In 1819 he moved to Knoxville, Tennessee with his older half-brother, Samuel Bell. Harris worked as an apprentice in Samuel Bell's metalworking shop. He married Mary Emiline Nance in 1835 and bought land in Blount County, Tennessee. George Washington Harris' first writing was in the form of political articles for the Knoxville, *Argus* in the late 1830's. In 1843 he began writing epistles and he was published, under the pen name "Mr. Free." The works published were four letters describing rural customs, sports, and hunts. George Washington Harris reached literary achievement through his character named Sut Lovingood who used a folk dialect common to Tennessee. A compilation of adventures specific to Sut Lovingood, which had previously been published separately in various newspapers from the 1850's to the 1860's came to be contained within *Sut Lovingood's Yarns Spun by a "Nat'ral Born Durn'd Fool."* George Washington Harris is one of a number of seminal writers of southern humor and influenced writers such as Mark Twain and William Faulkner. He died in 1869 in Knoxville, Tennessee.

## Scope and Content Note

The George W. Harris papers contains correspondence, a bound volume of stories, including letters to editor and *Sut Lovingood Yarns*. Also included is the dissertation "The Life and Works of George Washington Harris" – by Donald Day, March 1942 and a typescript of the manuscript "High Times and Hard Times. Sketches and Tales" by George W. Harris – by M. Thomas Inge.

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## Box 1

1. Letters between Donald Day & M. Thomas Inge, April 20 1960, May 14, 1960
2. One bound volume of stories by G.W. Harris – including letters to editors
3. One copy of Donald Day's dissertation titled. "The Life and Works of George Washington Harris"

## Box 2

1. *High Times and Hard Times* by George W. Harris – Table of Contents
2. *High Times and Hard Times* by George W. Harris – Introduction part I
3. *High Times and Hard Times* by George W. Harris – Introduction part II
4. *High Times and Hard Times* by George W. Harris – Sporting Epistles (Sporting Epistles from East Tennessee - Sporting Epistle from East Tennessee)
5. *High Times and Hard Times* by George W. Harris – Sporting Epistles (Footnotes)
6. *High Times and Hard Times* by George W. Harris – Sketches, Tales, and Letters part I (The Knob Dance. A Tennessee Frolic)
7. *High Times and Hard Times* by George W. Harris – Sketches, Tales, and Letters part II (A Snake Bit Irishman – There's Danger in Old Chairs)
8. *High Times and Hard Times* by George W. Harris – Sketches, Tales, and Letters part III (How to Marry – Sut Lovingood's Hark from the Tomb Story)
9. *High Times and Hard Times* by George W. Harris – Sut Lovingood's Yarns part I (Sut Lovingood's Chest Story-Sut Lovingood Escapes Assassination)
10. *High Times and Hard Times* by George W. Harris – Sut Lovingood's Yarns part II (Sut Lovingood's Adventures in New York – Sut Lovingood's Hog Ride)
11. *High Times and Hard Times* by George W. Harris – Sut Lovingood's Yarns part III (Sut Lovingood's Big Dinner Story – Sut Lovingood's Big Music Box Story)
12. *High Times and Hard Times* by George W. Harris – Sut Lovingood's Yarns part IV (Sut Lovingood, A Chapter From His Autobiography – Sut Lovingood "Sets Up With a Gal, One Pop Baily)
13. *High Times and Hard Times* by George W. Harris – Satires part I (Playing Old Sledge for Presidency – Sut Lovingood;s Love Feast at Varmints III)
14. *High Times and Hard Times* by George W. Harris – Satires part II (Sut Lovingood;s Love Feast at Varmints IV – Sut Lovingood Come to Life)
15. *High Times and Hard Times* by George W. Harris – Satires part III (The Rome Egg Affair – The Early Life of Sut Lovingood, Written by His Dad I)
16. *High Times and Hard Times* by George W. Harris – Satires part IV (The Early Life of Sut Lovingood, Written by His Dad II – Bibliography)