

ABERNATHY, THOMAS EDWARD
(1794-1870)
PAPERS
1787-[1830-1870]-1882

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INTRODUCTION

The papers of Thomas Edward Abernathy, 1794-1870, Justice of the Peace and Land Agent in Giles County, Tennessee, were acquired partially by purchase from Mrs. Martha (Rivers) Adams and partially as a gift of Mrs. Adams to the Tennessee State Library and Archives on November 8, 1938.

The papers occupy .42 linear feet of shelf space, and contain approximately 76 items and one volume. Literary rights in these papers have been dedicated to the public. Single photocopies of unpublished writings may be made for purposes of scholarly or individual research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers of Thomas Edward Abernathy, covering the period 1787-1882 and numbering approximately 67 items, contains accounts (bills, notes, receipts), correspondence, diaries, instructions for the mill, legal documents (including agreements and indentures), information on the Columbia, Pulaski, Elkton, Tennessee, and the Alabama Turnpike Company, and the will of Richard Scott. The bulk of the material falls within the years 1830-1870 during which time Thomas Abernathy was Justice of the Peace in Giles County, Tennessee, and Land Agent for several persons not living in that County. The earliest date found in the collection is 1787 and is a receipt for a business transaction. There are two short diaries in this collection, one dated 1826 containing a few entries that should be of some help to researchers seeking genealogical information. The other diary contains a few entries for the years 1833-1836, primarily concerning Abernathy's religious life. Also, included are instructions for the repair and upkeep of Old Brown Mill, legal documents which include agreements and indentures, a will drawn up for a Richard Scott in 1808, and a few miscellaneous items.

The largest portion of the material in the collection are accounts and correspondence. The correspondence is all incoming with the largest number of letters from A. W. Taylor (1847-1848) and M. S. Temple (1835-1842). Both groups of letters are concerned with land sales and purchases. Other letters are from relatives and Lucy Ann Pully for whom Mr. Abernathy was guardian.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Thomas Edward Abernathy

1794 Born in Meklenburg County, Virginia.

n. d. Married Martha Moore who died in 1835.

n. d. Married Marth (Paine) Rivers, a widow.

ca. 1830-1870 Justice of the Peace and Land Agent in Giles County, Tennessee.

1870 Died.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Accounts- undated.
2. Accounts- 1787-1796.
3. Accounts- 1800-1832.
4. Accounts- 1833-1838.
5. Accounts- 1839-1845.
6. Accounts- 1846-1855.
7. Accounts- 1856-1876.
8. Accounts- 1882.
9. Church Appointments- undated; and Richland Missionary Society.
10. Correspondence- Incoming- Abernathy- Moore, 1836-1853.
11. Correspondence- Incoming- Neblett- Redgway, 1822-1848.
12. Correspondence- Incoming- Taylor, A.W., 1847-1848.
13. Correspondence- Incoming- Temple, M.S., 1835-1842.
14. Correspondence- Incoming- Terry- White, 1846-1853.
15. Diary- Thomas E. Abernathy
16. Instructions for Mill, 1851.
17. Legal Documents- Agreements, etc., 1815-1865.
18. Legal Documents- Indentures, 1819-1869.
19. Miscellaneous Items.
20. Turnpike Company- Columbia, Pulaski, Elkton, and Alabama Turnpike Company, 1841-1842.
21. Wills: Scott, Richard, 1808.

Burwell Abernathy, 1766-1827
married 1769
Mary Brown

Thomas Edward Abernathy
1794-1870
married

1. Martha Moore
2. Martha (Paine) Rivers

Burwell
1822-
married
Samuella
Tannehill

Martha Stout

Ann Mason
1824-

Lucy Paine

Mary
married
1. Captain Barber
2. Milton Carter

elen
married
George
utler

Martha
married
Robert
Dickson
Abernathy

Fanny

Dr. Thomas Edwards
-1926
married
Mary Selman

Edwards Selman Abernathy