



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

THOMPSON, C. A. R.
(1825-1898)
PAPERS
1819-1935

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Harriet Chappel Owsley
Archival Technical Services

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INTRODUCTION

The papers of Charles A.R. Thompson (1825-1898), merchant, include correspondence and other items of various members of the Thompson and kindred families. These papers were given to the Manuscript Section by Miss Isabel Howell in June 1961.

The materials in this finding aid measure .40 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the C.A.R. Thompson Collection may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The papers of Charles A.R. Thompson and his relations, containing approximately 300 items, are composed of correspondence, an account book, a homemade trigonometry book, several stories written by Mary Allen Thompson, and a few other miscellaneous items. The papers cover the years 1819-1935. C.A.R. Thompson, a prominent merchant of Nashville, married Kate Morton White, the adopted daughter of John J. White, a lawyer of Gallatin, Tennessee. Some of Mr. White's correspondence is among the papers, and these items contain the earliest dates in the collection. Included is a very fine letter written by James C. Jones, United States Senator from Tennessee and former Governor of the State, dated February 4, 1852. In writing of the National political situation he stated that he would not be surprised to see a general breaking up of parties. "I should not be astonished that we had a Southern Whig party, a Northern Whig party, a Southern Democratic party and a Northern one and super-added to them a Fire eating party and an Abolition party."

In addition to the correspondence of J.J. White there are letters written by various relatives of C.A.R. Thompson. A family genealogy chart is included with this register in order to indicate the relationships of the correspondents. There are several letters (1929-1933) from a Scottish friend, Lizzie B. Turner written to the Thompsons on Golf Club Lane. An Armenian friend, Isaac M. Yonan, is the author of a few of the letters.

The papers include several short stories written by Mary Allen Thompson, daughter of C.A.R. Thompson, together with a criticism of one of her stories by Mrs. Julia A. Tutwiler, a play broker. A handmade trigonometry book, a sketch of C.A.R. Thompson prepared for his funeral, and a few other miscellaneous items make up the remainder of the collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

C. A. R. Thompson

- 1825 Born in Cincinnati, Ohio
- 1836 Came to Nashville to live with his brother-in-law, Mr. John Hill, a merchant. From this time until the end of his life, he was identified with the mercantile business in Nashville
- 1842 Elected Librarian of a Mission Sunday School under the care of the First Presbyterian Church, which afterward developed into the Second Presbyterian Church. He was an active member of the Second Presbyterian Church for many years. After the Civil War, he joined the First Presbyterian Church
- 1873 Active in the organization of the Moore Memorial Church
- 1889 Appointed a member of the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church
- 1898 Died in Nashville

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Account Book, Receipts, etc., 1841-1901
2. Correspondence, 1883-1911
3. Correspondence, to E.W. Thompson, 1931-1932
4. Correspondence, E.W. Thompson, 1887
5. Correspondence, to Miss Annie Thompson, 1909-1933
6. Correspondence, Kate White Thompson, 1880-1883
7. Correspondence, Lizzie B. Turner, 1929-1933
8. Correspondence, to J.J. White, 1819-1861
9. Correspondence, Kate White, 1865
10. Correspondence, Mary Woods, 1930-1933
11. Memorabilia, Homemade Trigonometry, etc.
12. Memorabilia, Photographs
13. Resolutions on the death of E.W. Thompson, 1935
14. Sermon prepared for funeral of C.A.R. Thompson, 1898
15. Writings: Mary Allen Thompson, "Bagging of the Billy Goat Man"
16. Writings: M.A. Thompson, "The Ghost of the White Lilac"
17. Writings: M.A. Thompson, "The Master Spirit"
18. Writings: M.A. Thompson, "Our Lady of the New Moon"
19. Writings: Kate White
20. Diary of Mrs. C.A.R. Thompson

