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CONNER FAMILY PAPERS
1817-1940

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INTRODUCTION

The papers of Samuel Conner (1796-1859) and his son, George Conner (1819-ca. 1890), land agents in Weakley County from 1830 to the 1880s, were given to the Tennessee State Library and Archives in 1956 by the Honorable George R. McDade, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, a grandson of George Conner. The materials in this finding aid measure .84 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Conner Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Conner Family Papers, containing approximately 800 items covering the period 1817-1940, are composed of correspondence, accounts, legal papers, maps, and newspaper clippings. The collection is primarily the correspondence of Samuel Conner and his son, George W. Conner, both of whom served as land agents – collecting rent, paying taxes, arranging sales, etc. on lands in Weakley and Obion counties for a number of persons in Middle and East Tennessee. There are 22 letters written by John M. Lea of Nashville, 17 of which were to Samuel Conner and five to George Conner concerning land owned in Weakley County by both Lea and his father-in-law, John Overton. Other patrons served by the Conners include Colonel O.G. Murrell, James Searcy, I.R. Siler, E.P. McNeal, R.H. Wood, Milton P. Jarnagin, and John H. Bills.

The collection contains, in addition to the correspondence, the wills of Cornelius Hickey, Jefferson Rogers, and John M. Welch; some 1845 church records of the Walnut Grove Methodist Church in Weakley County; some prescriptions and recipes; and a map showing land holdings in Weakley County which lists John Overton. The commission of Ensign given to Samuel Conner when he joined the Tennessee Militia of 1817 is in the collection. There are some legal papers which indicate strife between George W. Conner and the children (by a former marriage) of his stepmother, Mrs. Mary Rogers.

There is some genealogical data for the families of Love, Welch, Hickey, Rogers, and Allen. A few letters of George R. McDade, grandson of George W. Conner, deal with the position he held as postmaster at Norris, Tennessee, beginning in the 1930s. Some miscellaneous letters dealing with land and business make up the remainder of the collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Samuel Conner

- 1796 Born in Virginia
- 1817 Joined Tennessee militia in Knox County
- 1819 George W. Conner born to Samuel and Martha Hickey Conner
- 1830-1850s Served as land agent in Weakley County and surrounding area
- 1844 Joined Walnut Grove Church in Weakley County
- 1847 In February, married Mary Rogers
- 1859 Died in Missouri

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

George Conner

- 1819 Born October 30, in Knoxville, Tennessee
- 1825 Attended common schools
- 1842 Married Martha A. Welch
- 1845 At this time was a member of the Walnut Grove Methodist Episcopal Church
- 1856 January, Martha Conner died
- 1857 October, married Mrs. Gordon Schofield
- 1881 Elected magistrate of Weakley County
- 1906 March 3, died, buried in Walnut Grove, Tennessee

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Reel # 1:

Box 1

1. Accounts – 1840s
2. Accounts – 1850s
3. Accounts – 1860-1884
4. Promissory notes, bills of sale – 1825-1842
5. Promissory notes, bills of sale – 1844-1881
6. Receipts – Conner, Samuel and Mary Rogers – 1822-1850
7. Receipts – Conner, Samuel and George – 1851-1881
8. Business papers – Miscellaneous – inventories, etc. – undated
9. Court cases and legal papers – undated
10. Court cases and legal papers – Miscellaneous – 1837-1848
11. Court cases and legal papers – Miscellaneous – 1850-1856
12. Elections – Miscellaneous – 1836-1883
13. Maps
14. Military papers
15. Biographical data

Box 2

1. Correspondence – Incoming – George Conner – Bailey – R. Love
2. Correspondence – Incoming – George Conner – McNeal, E. P.
3. Correspondence – Incoming – George Conner – Patterson – R.H. Wood
4. Correspondence – Incoming – Samuel Conner – A – Jeter
5. Correspondence – Incoming – Samuel Conner – John M. Lea
6. Correspondence – Incoming – Samuel Conner – E. Love – O.G. Murrell
7. Correspondence – Incoming – Samuel Conner – Searcy – Williams
8. Correspondence – Author unknown and some genealogical data
9. Correspondence – Miscellaneous – Allen – Winston
10. Newspaper clippings – Miscellaneous – 1881-1882
11. Notation (religious) Walnut Grove Methodist Church
12. Prescriptions and recipes – undated
13. Schools – 28th District
14. Wills – Hickey – Welch – 1843-1844

NAME INDEX

This is a name index to the correspondence in the Conner Family Papers, together with the dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The numbers in parentheses immediately following the name denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the box and folder number in which the material can be found.

Samuel Conner – Incoming Correspondence

- Aydelott, J.C. (2), 1848, re: sale of tobacco, 2-4
Baker, G.W., 1845, re: death of his wife, 2-4
Bell, David, n.d., re: bring of clocks from Knox County by Conner, 2-4
Bills, Jno. H. (2), 1850, 1852, re: sale of land for persons in Weakley County, 2-4
Blanton, Carter, 1852, re: opening new drug store in Dresden, Weakley County, 2-4
Brasfield, G.R., 1857, re: settling attorney fee, 2-4
Brinkley, R.C., 1844, re: land owned by John Overton, 2-4
Campbell, James, 1846, re: land claim in Weakley County, 2-4
Conner, George W., 1842, re: vist to John Conners in Knox County, 2-4
Conner, John, 1840, re: family news, 2-4
Conner, William, 1841, re: death of nephew, John Conner, Jr., 2-4
Estes, E.C., 1859, re: obtaining copy of Haywood's Aboriginal History of Tennessee, 2-4
Fonville, Jno. B., n.d., re: prescription for Mrs. Conner, 2-4
Gove, R., 1829, re: pension for William Bottom, 2-4
Jarnagin, M.P. (3), 1857-1859, re: land owned by Col. O.G. Murrell, 2-4
Jeter, R.E. (2), 1851, 1852, re: family news, 2-4
Lea, John M. (17), 1848-1859, re: land owned by John Overton and J.M. Lea in Weakley County, 2-5
Love, Elizabeth, n.d., re: husband's death and writes of settling her husband's land debt in Weakley County, 2-6
Love, Martha, 1845, re: expression of sorry at death of Mrs. Conner, 2-6
Love, Thomas (2), 1842, re: family, tobacco crops, land rented, health, etc., 2-6
McNeal, Billy (2), 1845-1846, re: land and rents in Bolivar and Weakley County, 2-6
Miles, G.L. & Co., 1849, re: sale of produce at Mobile and Ohio Railroad and asking patronage, 2-6
Moran, S.C., n.d., re: election of official for circuit court in Weakley County, 2-6
Murrell, O.G. (6), 1846-1852, re: taxation and rental of land held in Weakley County, 2-6
Searcy, James (5), 1847-1852, re: purchasing and management of land in Weakley County, 2-7
Siler, I.R. (12), 1847-1856, re: land affairs, profits, taxes, crops, rentals, etc. in Weakley County, 2-7
Taliaferro, C.C., 1858, re: gratitude for giving a loan, 2-7
Welch, Jno. M., n.d., re: money sent to be given to a Squire, 2-7
Williams, J.L. (2), 1838, re: payment of a debt, 2-7

George Conner – Incoming Correspondence

- Bailey, John C., 1860, re: note owed to H.C. Ramage, 2-1
- Bell, John (2), 1886-1887, re: house and lot involved in law suit in Fulton, Kentucky, 2-1
- Bigg, W.W., 1886, re: asking support in election for attorney-general, 2-1
- Bradley & Terrell (2), 1870, 1872, re: payment on reaper and condition of crops, 2-1
- Brasfield, George R. (4), 1871-1881, re: collection of rent on his land, 2-1
- Brinkley, N.C., 1861, re: money sent for taxes and discussion of land holdings in Weakley County, 2-1
- Cardwell, W.D. (2), 1880, 2-1
- Champion, S.H., 1879, re: execution of case in *Champion vs. Heyhlett*, 2-1
- Clemons, A.M. (2), 1875, 1882, re: mob in Dresden, 2-1
- Conner, W.B., 1873, re: purchasing of wheat and corn, 2-1
- Fryer, T.C., 1882, re: settlement of S.C. Love estate, 2-1
- Gilliam, M.B., 1885, re: payment of note owed by Conner, 2-1
- Gordon, Brothers and Company, 1879, re: tobacco sold by Conner, 2-1
- Hale, Buchner & Co., 1867, re: tax paid on cotton on shipment from Tennessee to Kentucky, 2-1
- Hearn, S.C., 1874, re: note held by Samuel Love's estate against Conner, 2-1
- Kay, Cobb & Sebree, 1871, re: payment for cotton sold by them for Conner, 2-1
- Lea, John M. (5), 1860-1865, re: Overton and Lea land in Weakley County administered by Conner, 2-1
- Little, Nancy, 1875, 2-1
- Little, T.I., 1880, 2-1
- Love, R., 1876, re: land on Kentucky line owned by Love, 2-1
- McNeal, E.P. (24), 1869-1882, re: land suits, sales, foreclosures, prices, payments, 2-2
- Patterson, S.G., 1881, re: deed to lot of Conner in Fulton, Kentucky, 2-3
- Prater, T.A., 1889, re: trip home to Waco, Texas, from Tennessee, 2-3
- Prestwood, J.A., 1883, re: Quartermaster Department investigating claim of Conner, 2-3
- Reed, Wilson, 1841, re: his coming marriage in Haywood County, 2-3
- Roe, B.F., n.d., re: starting of school in Weakley County by Marvin College of Clinton, Kentucky, 2-3
- Settle Brothers, 1870, re: account and rope sent Conner, 2-3
- Sommerville, J.B., 1879, re: note due payment, 2-3
- Straton, Lieut. W.D., 1861, re: cook desired for use by officers, 2-3
- Swiggart & Moore 1884, re: legal case of Jack Conner, 2-3
- Taylor, George D. (2), 1880-1881, re: collection of rents and payment of taxes, 2-3
- Taylor, W.C., 1876, re: service as land agent for R. Love, 2-3
- Welch, J.L., 1854, re: a loan of \$10 to pay James Gates, 2-3
- Welch, Sam, 1858, re: note payment of Conner, 2-3
- Wingo, T.F. 1861, re: railroad shipment of iron to Conner, 2-3
- Wood, R.H. (8), 1874-1886, re: payment of notes, sale of land, prices of land owned by Wood in Obion County, 2-3

Miscellaneous Correspondence

- Allen, Elizabeth A., 1842, to James Allen, 2-9
- Allen, James, 1861, to James Allen, Sr., 2-9
- Browder, Lillian McDade, n.d., to George (Roy) McDade, 2-9
- Coleman, Erastus, 1882, to E.P. McNeal, re: payment of debt to E.P. McNeal, 2-9
- Conner, G.W., 1881, to Samuel Hughlett, 2-9
- Conner, Samuel, 1849, to Robert Jeter, re: serving as referee in land settlement, 2-9
- Elliott, George S., 1888, to Sam Welch, 2-9
- Gordon, Brothers and Company, 1878, to John W. Freeman, re: sale of cotton for G.W. Conner, 2-9
- Grubb, W. French (2), 1934, to George R. McDade, re: postal help in Norris, Tennessee, 2-9
- Hale, Buckner & Terrell, 1871, to Jim Mason, re: shipment of tobacco, 2-9
- Howes, W.W. (2), to G.R. McDade, 1934, 1939, re: post office at Norris, Tennessee, 2-9
- Johnson, Virginia, 1842, to James Allen, 2-9
- Jones, William, 1879, to G.B. Brasfield, re: tax settlement, 2-9
- McDade, G.R. (4), 1934-1939, to McKellar, J. Will Taylor, and W.W. Howes, re: post office at Norris, Tennessee, 2-9
- Ray, John, 1851, to unknown, 2-9
- Reed, Wilson, 1840, to Elizabeth Spence, 2-9
- Taylor, J. Will, 1934, re: post office at Norris, Tennessee, 2-9
- Welch, James A. (2), 1857, to W.W. Howes and G.R. McDade, 2-9
- Winston, David, 1833, to George Prater, re: collection of a debt from a George Montgomery, 2-9

Samuel Conner
1796-1859

m.

(1) Martha Hickey
1798-1820

(2) Mrs. Mary Rogers

Benjamin Rogers*

Sarah Rogers Welch*

George W. Conner
1819-

m.

(1) Martha Ann Welch
1825-1857

(2) Mrs. Gordon Scofield
1825-

Samuel M.

John C.

Dorcas A.

m.

D. W.
McDade

Martha G.

George W.

Ida E.

m.

J. G.
McDade

Cora E.

Maggie L.

* Her children by a former marriage