

**ALEXANDER FAMILY PAPERS
1803-1885**

Processed by:

E. O. and Harriet C. Owsley
Archives & Manuscripts Unit
Technical Services Section

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INTRODUCTION

The Alexander Family Papers, 1803-1885, are centered around Richard Alexander (ca. 1786-ca. 1856), a Captain in the War of 1812, and his son James Lauderdale Alexander (ca. 1818, 1881), a medical doctor living in Smith County, Tennessee. The papers were the gift of Miss Neille Wright Alexander, Hartsville, Tennessee.

The collection numbers approximately 100 items. There are no restrictions on the collection and single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Alexander Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly or individual research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Alexander Family Papers, containing approximately 100 items, covering the period 1803-1885, are composed of accounts, correspondence, military records for the War of 1812, deeds, land records, invitations, notices, and a will.

The military papers, largely requisitions for supplies, are the records of Richard Alexander, Quartermaster of the First Brigade of Tennessee Volunteers in the War of 1812.

The correspondence is primarily that of James Lauderdale Alexander, a medical doctor, and son of Richard Alexander. His incoming correspondence includes letters from his father Richard while he was in medical school in Lexington, Kentucky, 1838-1839; two letters, 1938, of N. B. Hamilton, a cousin, regarding mistreatment of the Indians by the whites and political comments about James Knox Polk and others; and one letter from William Sanders, a nephew, written in 1842, while he was in school at the University of Alabama, commenting on the high quality of the school. The outgoing letters of James L. Alexander were written to his father Richard, 1838, and Sarah Donoho, 1845, who later became his wife. There is one letter written by James' son of the same name, 1875, who was also a doctor but had decided to go into agriculture, and a letter of Hugh Robertson to Major William Alexander written in 1843 concerning the Cage family.

There are also small number of accounts (1814-1818); twelve deeds and indentures (1813-1840), one of which was a slave deed and almost all of which were papers of Richard Alexander; an invitation; two notices; family almanacs; and the will of William Sanders dated 1803 make up the remainder of the papers.

Some printed bulletins listed as follows have been transferred to the State Library Section:

1. Sumner County Agricultural and Medical Society Ninth Annual Exhibition, September 11, 1877, Gallatin, Tennessee
2. Smith County Fair Association, Rome, Tennessee
3. Tennessee Fair, Nashville, Tennessee, September 26, 1887
4. Speech of the Honorable J. J. Hemphill of South Carolina, entitled, "More Money."

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Richard Alexander

1812 Living in Smith County, Tennessee, wife named Nancy (Cunningham) Sanders Alexander, widow of William Sanders.

1812-1814 Richard Alexander was also Captain and Quartermaster of the First Brigade of Tennessee Volunteers during the War of 1812; his five children were Elizabeth Burford, Mary Hamilton, William Sanders Alexander, Richard Cunningham Alexander, and James Lauderdale Alexander.

ca. 1856 Died in Smith County, Tennessee

James Lauderdale Alexander

1818 Born in Smith County, Tennessee, of Scotch ancestry; son of Richard and Nancy Sanders Alexander.

1839 Attended medical school in Lexington, Kentucky, probably Transylvania.

ca. 1841 Began medical practice near Dixon Springs (Smith County), Tennessee, and owned one of the finest farms in the county.

ca. 1845 Married Sarah Donoho who was born in 1829 in Sumner (now Trousdale County), Tennessee, who was of French ancestry.

1849 Son, G. D. Alexander, was born in Smith County, Tennessee, and became a merchant there.

1875 Son, James L. Alexander, Jr., was also a medical doctor but decided to become a farmer.

Death date unknown.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Accounts, 1814-1818
2. Correspondence--Incoming--James L. Alexander
3. Correspondence--Outgoing --James L. Alexander
4. Correspondence-- Miscellaneous, 1843,1875
5. Military Records-- Quartermaster Reports, 1812-1814
6. Deeds and indentures, 1813-1840
7. Invitations, Programs, and Notices
8. Wills-- William Sanders, 1803