

**REAMS FAMILY PAPERS  
1829-1934**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Reams Family Papers, 1829-1934, is centered around the Reams and Frazier families, including Absalom H. Reams, Herschel Burger Reams, Martha J. Burger, W.G. Frazier, Jarret C. Frazier, and Tabitha Ella Frazier. The Reams Family Papers is a gift of Mrs. Nathan Osborne of Nashville, Tennessee.

The collection occupies .48 cubic feet of shelf space, and number approximately 300 items.

Single copies of unpublished writings in the Reams Family Papers may be made for the purposes of scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Reams Family Papers, spanning the years 1829-1934, is composed of accounts, cards, correspondence, genealogical data, invitations, journals, notes, notices, poetry, speeches, addresses, etc.; writings, and several miscellaneous items.

The bulk of the collection is comprised of correspondence, journals, and speeches, addresses, etc.; written by members of the Reams and Frazier families.

The correspondence is mostly from family members, friends, and professional colleagues. A majority of the family correspondence is comprised of letters from Absalom H. Reams, Herschel Burger Reams, S.I. Burger, W.A. Burger, and R.B. Ragland.

The journals contain material pertaining to the lives of W.G. Frazier, Jarret C. Frazier, and Tabitha Ella Frazier. W.G. Frazier and Jarret C. Frazier shared a journal giving accounts of their daily lives, these include a recipe for female weakness, abstracts from Kirkman's Grammar (1859), accounting of farm labor, boarding records with Jarret

Walker(1860), notes, drawings, school attendance records(1865), a partial tax list for Hickman county, seventh district (1872); list of books of deeds with number of acres, poetry, genealogical data, and Jarret C. Frazier's notes taken during his service in the Civil War (December 10,1861-December 26, 1864). Mr. Frazier was in the 48th Tennessee Infantry, Confederate States of America. Miss Tabitha E. Frazier's journal reflects her school days at the Edgewood Academy. This academy was established on Yellow Creek, Dickson county, in 1885 by Professor W.T. Wade and certain interested citizens of Yellow Creek. Five years later it was moved to Dickson when as Dickson Normal College, it became one of the outstanding institutions of the state.

Included in the Reams Family Papers are several sermons (1857-1875) written by Absalom H. Reams. In 1823, the Tennessee Legislature granted the church (Old Short Mountain Methodist Church) four acres of ground on the camp meeting site. Absalom H. Reams entered the ministry from this church in 1843 as did his son H.B. Reams in

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE, continued:**

1875. The church at Short Mountain, at Half Acre, was located between Stone's River Valley and Caney Fork Valley. Half Acre is another name for Mechanicsville. It is located on the Highland Rim in the extreme northeastern section of Cannon county, at the base of the east spur of Short Mountain and on the Smithville road. It was organized in 1815, it was the site of Methodist camp meetings.

During the 1800's and early 1900's, the place had a post office, a tannery, schools, a store or two, and two or three blacksmith shops. After the Civil War, Mechanicsville was an education center. For many years it had a boarding school. A Mr. Maddux and Robert Motley ran stores there from about 1900 until about 1925. Nothing is left of the hamlet today, except two or three rotting buildings and dwellings, one of the oldest and best kept cemeteries in the county, and Old Short Mountain Methodist Church.

Martha J. Burger of Short Mountain, Tennessee, has seventeen essays (ca. 1857) included in the Reams Family Papers.

There is genealogical data on the following families: Burger, Reams, Curl, Frazier, Fraser, Gamblen, Coal, Rayburn, Jones, and Fowlkes.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Box 1

1. Accounts--Bills, notes, and receipts, 1849-1859.
2. Cards--Political -Frazier Reams, 1934.
3. Correspondence--Author unknown.
4. Correspondence--Burger, Hannah-Burger, S.E.
5. Correspondence--Burger, S.I.-Burger, W.A.
6. Correspondence--Fisher, S.A.--Hopper, Elizer L.
7. Correspondence--Johnson, Sarah M.-Price, Rev. W.J.
8. Correspondence--Ragland, R.B. (1851-1860)
9. Correspondence--Reams, A.H. (1834-1854)
10. Correspondence--Reams, Herschel Burger (1873-1874)
11. Correspondence--Reams, J.M.-Reams, Martha J. (1854-1855)
12. Correspondence--Smallman, Eliza-Turpin, L.C.
13. Genealogical data--Tabbie Frazier Reams
14. Invitations--marriage-Henry Frazier Reams & Crystal Berdice Petree, 1924.
15. Journals--Frazier, W.G. and Frazier, Jarret C.
16. Journals--autograph book-Tabitha Ella Frazier, Edgewood Academy.
17. Miscellaneous--envelopes, etc.-Mechanicsville, Tennessee
18. Miscellaneous--envelopes-Rev. Absalom H. Reams, Short Mountain, Tenn.
19. Notes--Martha Jane Reams Burger
20. Notice--School notice-Hanner High School, Oct. 1854.
21. Poetry--ca.1850-ca.1851.
22. Speeches, addresses, etc.--Sermons by Rev. A.H. Reams (1857-1875).
23. Writings--essays-Martha J. Burger.