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TROUSDALE, WILLIAM (1790-1872)
PAPERS, 1828-1940

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Frances W. Kunstling & Harry A. Stokes
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INTRODUCTION

William Trousdale 1790-1872 Papers 1828-1940 are centered on the life of William Trousdale, resident of Gallatin, Sumner County, Tennessee; veteran of the Creek War, 1813; private during the War of 1812, 1814-1815; lawyer; Tennessee State Senator, 1835; Major General of Militia during the Second Seminole War, 1836; Democratic presidential elector from Tennessee, 1840; Colonel of Infantry, United States Army, during the Mexican War, 1847-1848; Brigadier General of United States Army, 1848; Governor of Tennessee, 1849-1851; and United States Ambassador to Brazil, 1853-1857. The William Trousdale Papers were given to the Tennessee Historical Society by Miss Elizabeth Allen of Gallatin, Tennessee, a great-granddaughter of William Trousdale. The material in this finding aid occupies 3.78 linear feet of shelf space. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the William Trousdale Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research but reproduction on a large scale is restricted.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The William Trousdale Papers, containing approximately 2,370 items, spans the period 1828-1940. This collection is composed of correspondence; accounts; advertisements and circulars; bills of exchange; biographical data; business and calling cards; diplomatic dispatches; diplomatic instructions; an inventory of books, furnishings, etc. belonging to the U. S. Legation in Brazil; invitations; land records (agreements, bills of sale, grants, indentures, maps, etc.); legal documents (affidavits, agreements, promissory notes, commissions, will, etc.); memorandums and memorabilia; military papers; newspaper clippings; passports; pension applications; school reports and receipts; sketches; printed speech of Andrew Johnson, 1867; and account written by William Trousdale about his trip from Brazil to Italy in 1857-1858; and some vital statistics for the Bugg, Huger, Shelby, and Wilhite families.

One of the largest and most interesting parts of this collection is the correspondence among the Trousdales and their related families. There are twenty-two letters, dated 1847-1857, written by William Trousdale to his daughter, Maria Louisa Trousdale Allen; to his son-in-law, Benjamin A. Allen; and to his son, Charles William Trousdale. Most of these letters were written between 1853 and 1857 when Trousdale was the United States Ambassador to Brazil. While her husband was serving in Rio de Janeiro, Mary Ann Bugg Trousdale remained at home in Gallatin, Tennessee. In seventeen of her letters, dated 1853-1857, she reports to him on family and local news. These letters are a particularly good source of data on the Trousdale and related families.

This collection includes, in addition to the papers of William Trousdale, a large number of those belonging to his oldest son, Charles William Trousdale. Forty-one of Charles William's letters, written to various family members from 1854-1884, are to be found among the Trousdale family correspondence. In a letter of May 28, 1847, to his father, the younger Trousdale declares it to be "the first one I ever wrote." The rest of the letters were written between 1882 and 1884 from Europe, where C. E. Trousdale had taken his daughter to study in Paris and to travel on the continent. They contain most interesting accounts of travel in Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium, and Holland, as well as lengthy descriptions of life in Paris. Also included are observations on French politics during the early 1880's and comments about Tennessee politics in the same period. Nine letters written by Charles William Trousdale's daughter, Katherine (known to the family as Kate, or Katie, and later Allen), give more information about their trip to Europe, including descriptions of the sights in Paris, Prague, and Vienna. Kate Trousdale's letters also contain much Trousdale family news.

Seventeen letters in the family correspondence were written between 1855 and 1882 by Julius A. Trousdale, William's second son. In two letters written to his mother during the Civil War, he reports his capture and imprisonment and asks that extra clothes be sent to him. Another letter was written in 1877 when Julius Trousdale was speaker of the lower house of the state legislature; it outlines his views on funding and revenue bills then being debated by that body.

Benjamin F. Allen, who married William Trousdale's daughter, Maria Louisa, managed William's financial affairs while he was in Brazil and Charles William's finances while he was in Europe. In addition to references about business and the financial situation, B. F. Allen's letters contain much data about the Trousdale family.

Included in his correspondence to William Trousdale are comments about the American, or Know Nothing Party, and the Fremont campaign in 1856. In one letter Allen reports to his father-in-law about a slave insurrection scare in Sumner County, Tennessee, in 1857, which resulted in the hanging of four Negroes. For the complete listing of all of the correspondents included in the Trousdale family correspondence see the index in this register.

The incoming correspondence of William Trousdale contains several letters from persons requesting aid from the United State Ambassador in their quarrels with the Brazilian government and some reports to the ambassador about damages done by the United State Navy. Trousdale's incoming correspondence also offers some material on his attempts to persuade the Brazilian government that the Amazon River should be opened to the commerce of other nations.

Correspondence addressed to Charles Williams Trousdale makes up a large part of these Trousdale Papers. Included are letters from Civil War friends who report on their situation after the war and reminisce about their wartime experiences; letters dealing with the estate of C. W. Trousdale's father-in-law, Eli Odom, for which Trousdale was the executor; and letters giving data on the life and Revolutionary service of James Trousdale, Charles William's paternal grandfather. A veteran of the Confederate army, C. W. Trousdale had his left leg amputated as the result of wound received at the Battle of Chickamauga. Thus, a number of the letters in his incoming correspondence have to do with the purchase and maintenance of artificial limbs.

In the biographical data is an obituary (1900) for Charles W. Trousdale and a memorial from the Daniel S. Donelson Bivouac, of which Trousdale was a member, giving his service record during the Civil War. Two other memorials from the Donelson Bivouac give biographical information about Julius A. Trousdale and his daughter Mary, both of whom died in 1899. Two copies of *The Tennessean*, Gallatin, Tennessee, for August 24, 1878, contain obituaries for Balie Peyton, whose son John Bell married William Trousdale's daughter Frances,

Most of the biographical data, however, concerns William Trousdale himself. Included are handwritten copies of materials about him which appeared in the *Tennessee Historical Magazine* in 1916, in *Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography* and in *Heitman's Historical Register of the U. S. Army*. A Handwritten sketch by Trousdale about himself is most useful source of information for his military services in the Creek War, the War of 1812, the Second Seminole War, and the Mexican War. Included are descriptions of the Battles of Pensacola (1814), New Orleans (1815), and Molino del Rey (1847). Julius a. Trousdale's handwritten memoir about his father adds still more biographical data; in addition, it tells much about early Tennessee when James Trousdale, William's father, first emigrated from North Carolina in 1796. Also included is an obituary for William Trousdale which was published in *The Examiner*, Gallatin, Tennessee, on March 30, 1872.

For a study of William Trousdale as United State Ambassador to Brazil, his diplomatic dispatches, dated 1854-1857, are more important sources than are his letters. Major subjects covered in these dispatches are free navigation of the Amazon River; requests from U. S. citizens for such things as passports; finances; naval cases involving seizure officers of the U. S. Navy; Brazilian tariffs on foreign commerce; legal cases involving U. S. citizens; and the building of railroads in Brazil. Several of the dispatches

concern a proposed convention between Brazil and the United State to discuss open navigation for the Amazon River and the entry of Brazilian coffee into the United States duty-free. In these dispatches Trousdale outline in detail the U. S. position on these matters, with particular emphasis on the Amazon question. Other dispatches have references to an epidemic of cholera in Rio de Janeiro and a revolution in Uruguay, both of which occurred in 1855.

The remaining papers in this William Trousdale collection are most accounts, legal documents, and military papers, the majority of which concern either Trousdale himself or his son, Charles William.

ADDITION TO WILLIAM TROUSDALE PAPERS, 1828-1840

This addition to the William Trousdale Papers, 1828-1840, containing approximately 120 items covers the period 1828-1905. The collection is composed of accounts, announcements, cards, clippings, correspondence, invitations, and programs, Negro and slave records, resolutions and several miscellaneous items.

The accounts consist mainly of those of Charles William Trousdale in 1880-1886, while he was with his daughter Katherine in Paris and Europe

A clipping describes a block of stone that Governor William Trousdale has ordered to be inserted in the Washington Monument. Reflecting Governor Trousdale's strong union sentiments, the inscription was to read: Tennessee: "The Federal Union, it must be preserved."

The collection includes family correspondence of William Trousdale, Charles William Trousdale and Katherine "Katie" (Trousdale) Allen. There are twenty letters written by "Katie" to her father Charles William Trousdale while the former was attending school in New Orleans. In her letter of May 11, 1881 she describes the dedication of the "Stonewall" Jackson monument in the Melairie Cemetery. In the same letter "Katie" mentions Jefferson Davis as one of the speakers at the ceremony. Other correspondence includes letters concerning William Trousdale's appointment as a Minister in Latin America and brief references to his campaigns for governor of the State of Tennessee.

There are two resolutions, one by the City of Gallatin, Tennessee and the other by the Tennessee House of Representatives, honoring Governor Trousdale upon his death in 1872.

The Negro and slave records consist of a marriage contract between two "Free Persons of Color" in 1865 and the transfer of a slave from Balie Peyton to Fanny Peyton in 1861.

The historical value of the addition to the original collection is found in the family correspondence which helps to add to the depth of the overall collection of the William Trousdale Papers.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William Trousdale

- 1790 September 23, born in Orange County, North Carolina the son of James Trousdale, a veteran of the Revolutionary War
- 1796 Emigrated to Tennessee with parents; settled on tract of land in what was then Davidson, but is now Sumner County. Land had been granted to James Trousdale by the state of North Carolina for his services during the American Revolution
- During early life was a student of Rev. Gideon Blackburn and John Hall
- 1813 Volunteered as private in Captain William Edwards's Company of Mounted Riflemen; participated in Battles of Tallahatchie and Talladega during the Creek War
- 1814 Re-enlisted; served as private in War of 1812, after being defeated for first lieutenant and third lieutenant; participated in Battle of Pensacola
- 1815 Participated in Battle of New Orleans; returned to Tennessee in the spring
- 1816 Completed education
- 1820 Admitted to bar
- 1827 Married Miss Mary Ann Bugg and they had seven children
- 1827 Ran for Congress and defeated
- 1829 Again defeated in congressional election
- 1835 Elected Senator to serve in Tennessee State Legislature
- 1836 Elected a Major General of Militia; helped to quell Indian disturbances in Florida during the Seminole War; fought against Osceola
- 1837 Nominated as Democratic candidate for Congress; defeated by William Bowen Campbell
- 1839 Again ran for Congress and defeated by Campbell
- 1840 Democratic elector from Congressional district
- 1845 Defeated in bid for congressional seat

- 1847 Commissioned as Colonel of Infantry in United States Army by President James Knox Polk; fought at the Battles of Contreras and Churubusco in The Valley of Mexico during the Mexican War
- 1847 Wounded in the Battles of Molino de Rey and Chapultepec
- 1848 Appointed Brigadier General by President Polk
- 1849 Received Democratic nomination for Governor of Tennessee; defeated Neil S. Brown, the Whig nominee; served until 1851
- 1851 Again received Democratic gubernatorial nomination; defeated by the Whig nominee, William B. Campbell
- 1853 May 24, commissioned by President Franklin Pierce as “Envoy Extraordinary and minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at the Court of the Emperor of Brazil”
- 1853 September, arrived in Rio de Janeiro; remained in Brazil throughout the Presidency of Mr. Pierce; worked to open Amazon River to world commerce
- 1857 December 15, left Brazil; traveled in Europe before returning to the United States
- 1858 May 9, retired to home in Gallatin, Tennessee
- 1872 March 27, died at 83 years of age; buried March 28 in public cemetery, Gallatin, Tennessee

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Charles William Trousdale

- 1838 July 22, born, son of William and Mary Ann Bugg Trousdale, in Sumner County, Tennessee
- 1853 Went with father; then minister to Brazil, to his new diplomatic post in Rio de Janeiro
- 1855 Became secretary of American legation in Rio de Janeiro
- 1857 Left Brazil with father; went to England; toured Europe; studied in Paris for one year
- 1858 Returned to Tennessee; studied law; later practiced at Memphis for short time
- 1860 Married Ellen Odom, daughter of Eli Odom; one daughter, Katherine (Kate)
- 1862 Joined Captain Micajah Griffin's 2nd Company, confederate volunteers; elected lieutenant
- 1863 Wounded at Battle of Chickamauga; leg had to be amputated; afterward became member of General Marcus Wright's staff and did not post duty until the close of the Civil War
- 1865 Returned to Gallatin, Tennessee, where he lived until his death
- 1882-1884 Accompanied daughter, Katherine, to Europe in order that she might study in Paris, and that they might travel on the continent
- 1900 January 13, died in Gallatin, Sumner County, Tennessee

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Roll #1

Box 1

Accounts (bills, notes, receipts) – Charles William Trousdale

1. undated and 1857-1869
2. 1870-1871
3. 1872-1873
4. 1874
5. 1875
6. 1876
7. 1877
8. 1878
9. 1879
10. 1880
11. 1881-1882
12. 1883-1895

Box 2

Accounts (bills, notes, receipts)

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2. Trousdale, William, 1855
3. Trousdale, William, 1856
4. Trousdale, William, 1857
5. Trousdale, William, 1858-1872
6. Trousdale family, undated and 1857-1864
7. Trousdale family, 1870-1876
8. Trousdale family, 1877-1888
9. Brazil, undated and 1855-1860
10. General, undated and 1832-1888

Box 3

1. Advertisements and circulars
2. Bills of exchange, 1855-1857
3. Biographical data – Charles William Trousdale
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5. Biographical sketch – Balie Peyton
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7. Business and calling cards

Box 4

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Microfilm Roll #2

3. Incoming – Trousdale, Charles William – Jones – Merrill
4. Incoming – Trousdale, Charles William – Morton, James W. – 1867-1882
5. Incoming – Trousdale, Charles William – Palmer – Wright
6. Outgoing – Trousdale, Charles William – 1864-1871
7. Incoming – Trousdale, William – Barrick – Ettings
8. Incoming – Trousdale, William – Fletcher – Hunter
9. Incoming – Trousdale, William – Jones – Marcy
10. Incoming – Trousdale, William – Meade – Rainey
11. Incoming – Trousdale, William – Ramsey – D'Azambuja
12. Incoming – Trousdale, William – undated

Box 5

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2. Allen, Maria Louisa – Trousdale, Bryson B.
3. Trousdale, Charles William – 1847 – May 31, 1883
4. Trousdale, Charles William – July – December, 1883
5. Trousdale, Charles William – 1884
6. Trousdale, Ellen O. – Trousdale, Leonidas
7. Trousdale, Mary Ann Bugg – Trousdale, Valeria
8. Trousdale, William – 1847-1855
9. Trousdale, William – 1856-1857

Box 6

1. Correspondence – General – Author unknown and Allen – Keith
2. Correspondence – General – Levy – Wynne
3. Counties, formation of new
4. Diplomatic dispatches – Brazil – Trousdale, William – 1854
5. Diplomatic dispatches – Brazil – Trousdale, William – 1855
6. Diplomatic dispatches – Brazil – Trousdale, William – 1856
7. Diplomatic dispatches – Brazil – Trousdale, William – 1857

Box 7

1. Diplomatic instructions – 1845-1853
2. Envelopes
3. Inventory of books, furnishings, etc., belonging to U. S. Legation in Brazil
4. Invitations extended to William Trousdale in Brazil
5. Invitations, notices, and programs
6. Land records – Agreements, bills of sale, court records – 1868-1880
7. Land records – Grants, indentures, maps, rentals, etc. – 1830-1878
8. Legal documents – Affidavits, re: current rates of exchange in Brazil – 1855-1857
9. Legal documents – Agreements, promissory notes, summons – 1833-1844

Microfilm Roll #3

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10. Legal documents – commissions, diplomatic and military – 1847-1854
 11. Legal documents – Wills – Bug, Henry W., and Oma Jones

12. Memorandum book, 1851 – Bugg, Henry W.
13. Memorandums and memorabilia
14. Memorial of John Gardner, re: mail service

Box 8

1. Military papers – Orders, 1863-1864 – Trousdale, William
2. Military papers – Orders, passes, service record, etc. – Trousdale, Charles William
3. Military records – List of officers in the Mexican War
4. Newspaper clippings – Railroads
5. Newspaper clippings – Various subjects
6. Passports of William Trousdale, 1853-1858
7. Pension applications
8. Railroads – Paducah and Elizabethtown Railroad – 1878 – 1881
9. Sketches
10. Passport, 1882 – Charles William Trousdale
11. Political career of Julius A. Trousdale
12. Schools – Reports and receipts
13. Speech (printed) – Andrew Johnson – 1867
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15. Vital statistics – Bugg, Huger, Shelby, and Wilhite families

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1. Accounts – General – Allen, B. F., 1883
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7. Cards – Christmas – C. W. Trousdale
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10. Correspondence – Allen, Katherine (Trousdale) – Charles W. Trousdale, 1875-1877
11. Correspondence – Allen, Katherine (Trousdale) – Charles W. Trousdale, 1881
12. Correspondence – Allen, Katherine (Trousdale) – Charles W. Trousdale, 1881-1882
13. Correspondence – Anderson, S. R. – Frazer, Preston
14. Correspondence – Gaxon, C. O. – Thermor, B.
15. Correspondence – Trousdale, Bryson – William Trousdale
16. Correspondence – Trousdale, Julius – Charles W. Trousdale
17. Correspondence – Trousdale, William – Charles Lewis
18. Correspondence – U. S. Patent Office – Yancy (?), Alphonso
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22. Programs – Recital – Katie Trousdale, 1875
23. Programs – Miscellaneous
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1872

25. Resolutions – Death of Governor William Trousdale – Tennessee House of Representatives, 1872
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28. Taxes – assessments – Charles W. Trousdale, 1885

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- Author unknown (2), to Charles William Trousdale, 1870, 1884, re: military service in Egypt; sailing date, 4-1
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