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OVERTON, JOHN
(1766-1833)
PAPERS
1797-1833

(THS Collection)

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INTRODUCTION

These papers are primarily the incoming correspondence of John Overton (1766-1833), lawyer, planter and justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court of Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee.

The materials in this collection measure .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the John Overton Collection may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection of approximately seventy-three items consists primarily of incoming correspondence of John Overton (1766-1833), lawyer, planter and justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court of Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee. Two letters are addressed to Samuel Overton (1768-1832), brother of John Overton and resident of Louisa County, Virginia.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Overton

- 1766 April 9, born in Louisa County, Virginia, son of James and Mary Waller Overton
- Taught school for several years
- 1787 Emigrated to Kentucky for the purpose of studying law
- 1789 Moved to Nashville to practice law where he met and became a close friend of Andrew Jackson
- 1790 Became supervisor of Federal excise in Southwest Territory
- 1794 Became a land speculator and with Jackson purchased the Rice tract upon which the town of Memphis was founded
- 1804-1810 Succeeded Jackson upon the bench of the Superior Court of Tennessee
- 1811-1816 Appointed a member of the Supreme Court of the State to succeed George Campbell which he held for five years
- 1813-1817 Published two volumes of Tennessee Reports which cover cases tried before the Court from 1791-1816
- 1794-1817 Became recognized authority on all matters relating to land legislation
- 1821 Joined with William B. Lewis and John H. Eaton to form an informal committee of close personal friends for the advancement of Jackson's candidacy for the presidency
- Married Mary McDonnell (White) May, daughter of General James White and sister of Hugh Lawson White
- 1833 April 17, died in Nashville, Tennessee

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Roll #1

Box 1

John Overton Correspondence

1. Bedford and MacKey, 1823-1824
2. Cannon, Newton, 1815
3. McAlister, John, 1821
4. McClanahan, Mathew, 1823
5. McClung, Charles, 1820-1822, and James W. McClung, 1819
6. McClung, Mathew, 1820
7. McGavock, R[andall], 1818
8. McGavock, Flower, 1833
9. McIver, John, 1823
10. McLemore, John C., 1820-1823
11. McMillan, Amos, 1823
12. McMinn, Jos., 1818
13. Maclin, Wm., 1798-1799
14. Madison, Gabriel, 1797 and Thomas P. Murrey, 1797
15. Marsh, Samuel, 1807
16. Maury, Abram, 1818-1823
17. Maxwell, George, 1818 and Solomon P. Maxwell, 1822
18. Miller, Pleasant M., 1805-1833
19. Miller, William, 1803
20. Minor, Dabney, 1818
21. Minor, Fanny, 1818-1820
22. Minor, Henry, 1818-1823
23. Minor, W.T.
24. Morris, Henry, 1801 and Col. R. Morris, 1798-1819
25. Murphy, A.D., 1823
26. Mynatt, William C., 1818
27. Winchester, M.B., 1829
28. Maury, Fontaine, 1802 and Nicholas Meriwether, 1800, to Samuel Overton
29. Court Record – Bill of Revivor – Woodfolk v. Blount, Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals, Third Judicial Circuit of Tennessee, June Term, 1815
30. Promissory Note – John Overton to Th. Edmiston, August 31, 1831

NAME INDEX

This is a name index of the incoming correspondence of John Overton in the John Overton Collection together with the dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the box and folder in which the material is to be found.

- Bedford and MacKey (3), 1823-1824, re: business dealings with New Orleans firm; cotton market, 1-1
- Cannon, N[ewton] (2), 1815, re: unable to make visit before returning to Washington, D.C.; agrees to bring petition before committees, 1-2
- McAlister, John, 1821, re: unable to swing election for Colonel Ward for governor; Carroll has spoken effectively for the people, 1-3
- McClanahan, Mathew, 1823, re: sends enclosure; death of General Joseph Coleman's child, 1-4
- McClung, Charles (4), 1820-1822, re: power of attorney for purchase and sale of land and other business dealings; copy of letter written to John C. McLemore; ill health of James White and Colonel Ramsey; land of Colonel Henley in name of McMillin; mercantile business; describes location of best cotton lands, 1-5
- McClung, James W., 1819, re: will of Thomas Milloy and possibility of it being contested, 1-5
- McClung, Mathew, 1820, re: issuance of enclosed land warrant, 1-6
- McGavock, R[andall], re: description of land in Missouri and in town of Franklin, 1-7
- McGregor, Flower, 1833, re: survey of parcel of land, 1-8
- McIver, John C., 1823, re: deed from Donelson as part of Watson's Estate probably lost when James Watson's papers destroyed in Washington in 1814, 1-9
- McLemore, John C. (7), 1820-1823, re: land transactions and warrants; deposition taken by Tatum; hardships undertaken by McPeak and Mitchell to obtain General Winchester's horse; controversy over dead; best route to Memphis; advertisement, 1-10
- McMillan, Amos, 1823, re: purchase of land which had been sold by his father, 1-11
- McMinn, Jos[eph], 1818, re: running the Tennessee Georgia line; moving Cherokees west of Mississippi, 1-12
- Maclin, William (3), 1798-1799, re: land on Station Camp Creek; suit against Peyton; question of levy of tax on land in Montgomery County, Tennessee; tracts of land to be considered, 1-13
- Madison, Gabriel, 1797, re: controversy over land survey, 1-14
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Maury, Fontaine to Samuel Overton, 1802, re: cannot pay Overton due to bankruptcy, 1-28

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Miller, William, 1803, re: U.S. Treasury Dept. examination of accounts of revenue supervisors, 1-19

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Minor, Fanny (2), 1818-1820, re: lost articles; gratitude, 1-21

Minor, Henry (12), 1818-1823, re: business; land (Cyprus Land Co.); legal advice, 1-22

Minor, W.T. (2), 1818, re: advantages of fair; account of prospects as a doctor, 1-23

Morris, Henry, 1801, re: bill of sale for horses, 1-24

Morris, Col. R. (2), 1798-1819, re: solicits patronage of Overton to help son study law; supposed daughter of James Overton found; horse; opinion of Jackson, 1-24

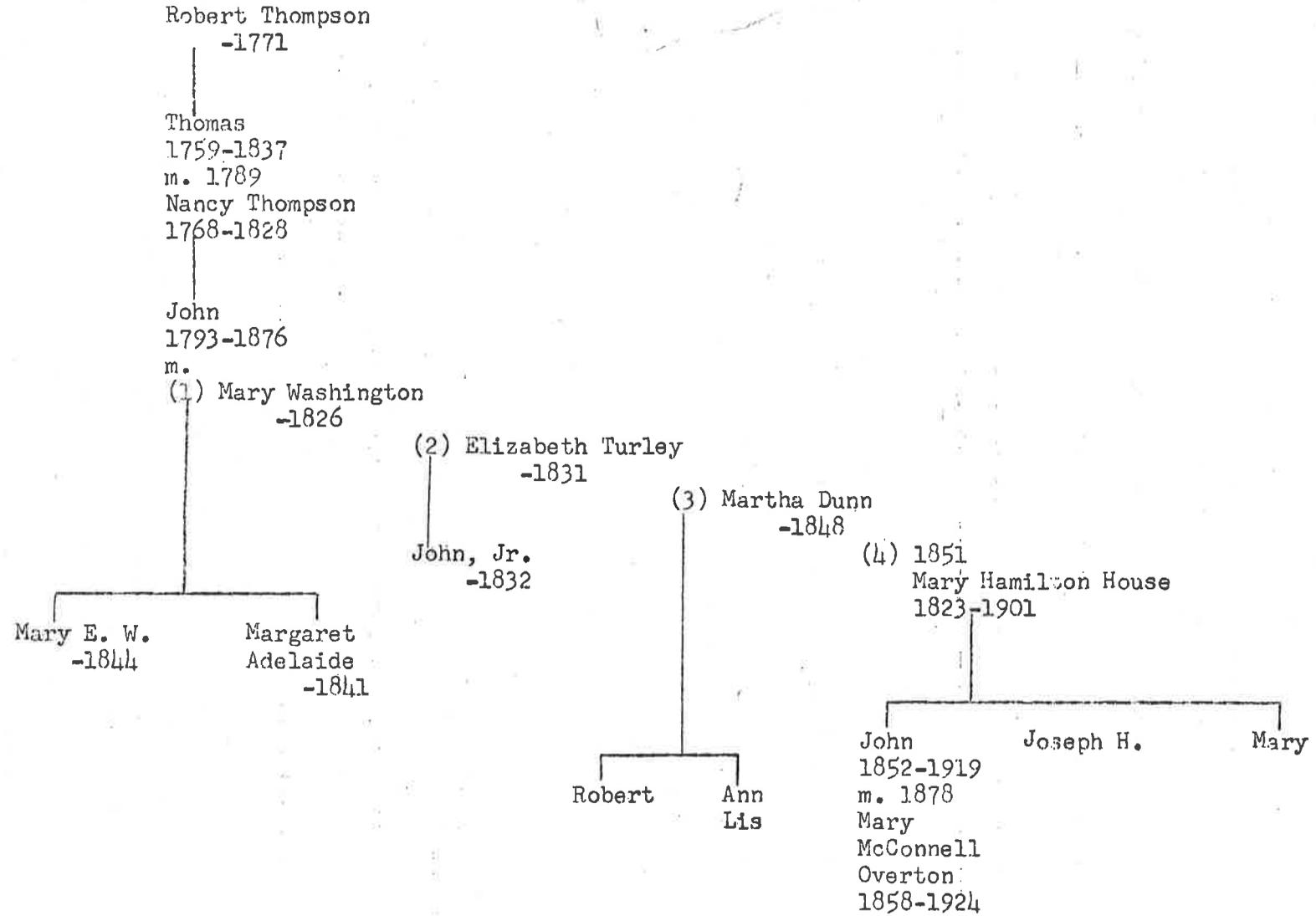
Murphy, A.D., 1823, re: politics (Crawford, Jackson, caucuses), 1-25

Murrey, Thomas P. to Col. Gabriel Madison, 1797, re: survey controversy, 1-14

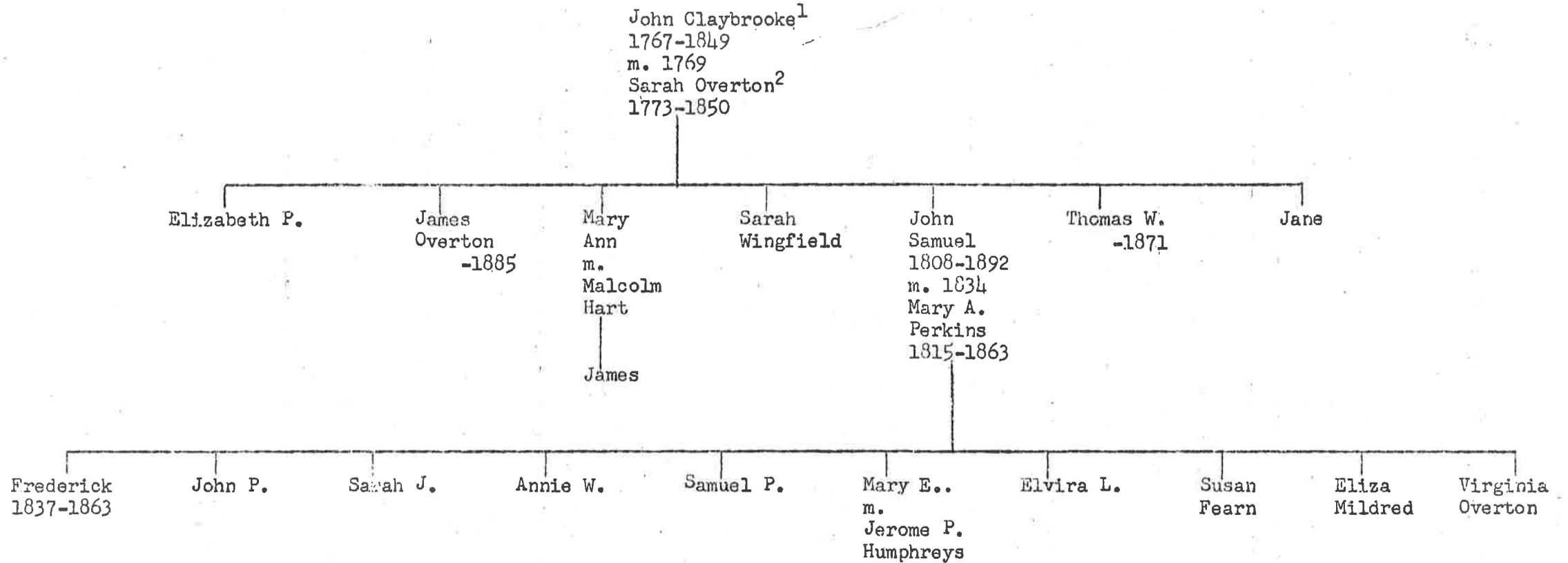
Mynatt, William C., 1818, re: execution to be passed on by Overton, 1-26

Winchester, M.B., re: land opposite Memphis, 1-27

Thompson Family



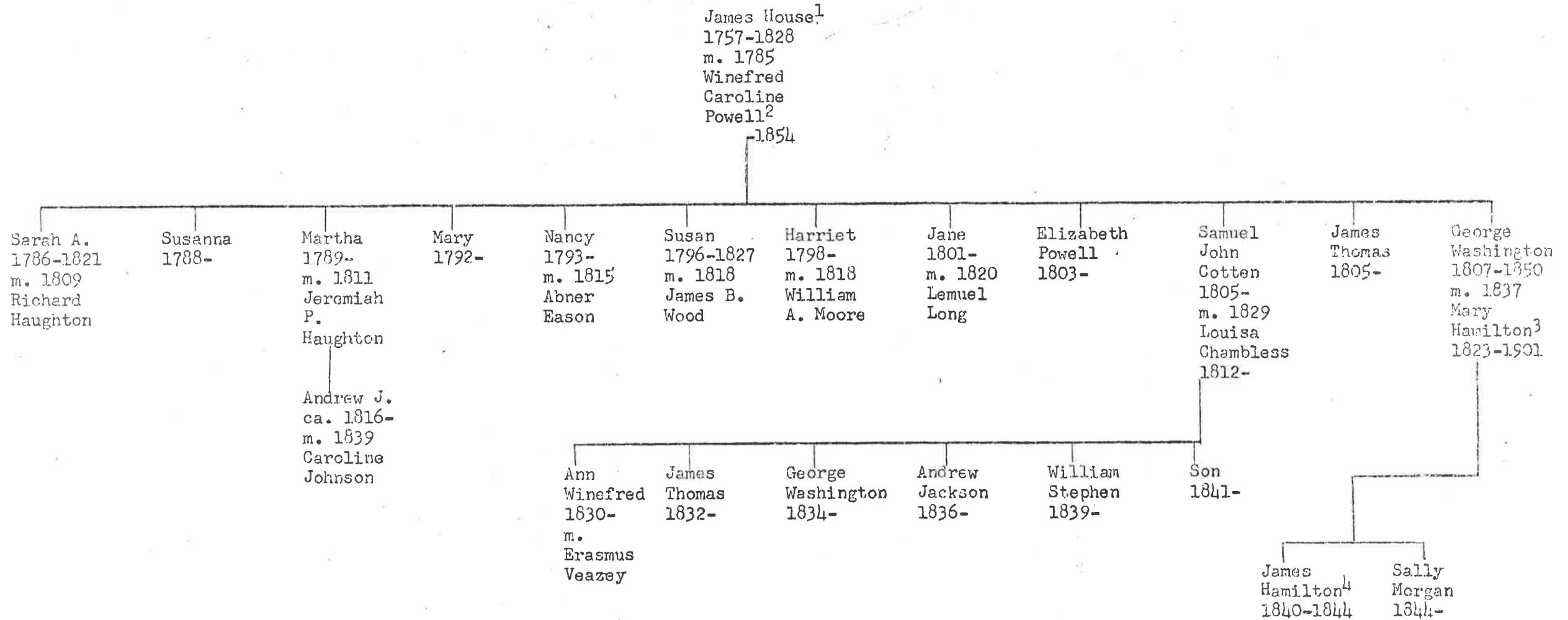
Claybrooke Family



¹His wife's second cousin

²Daughter of James (1725-1816) and Mary (Waller) Overton (1730-1816)

House Family



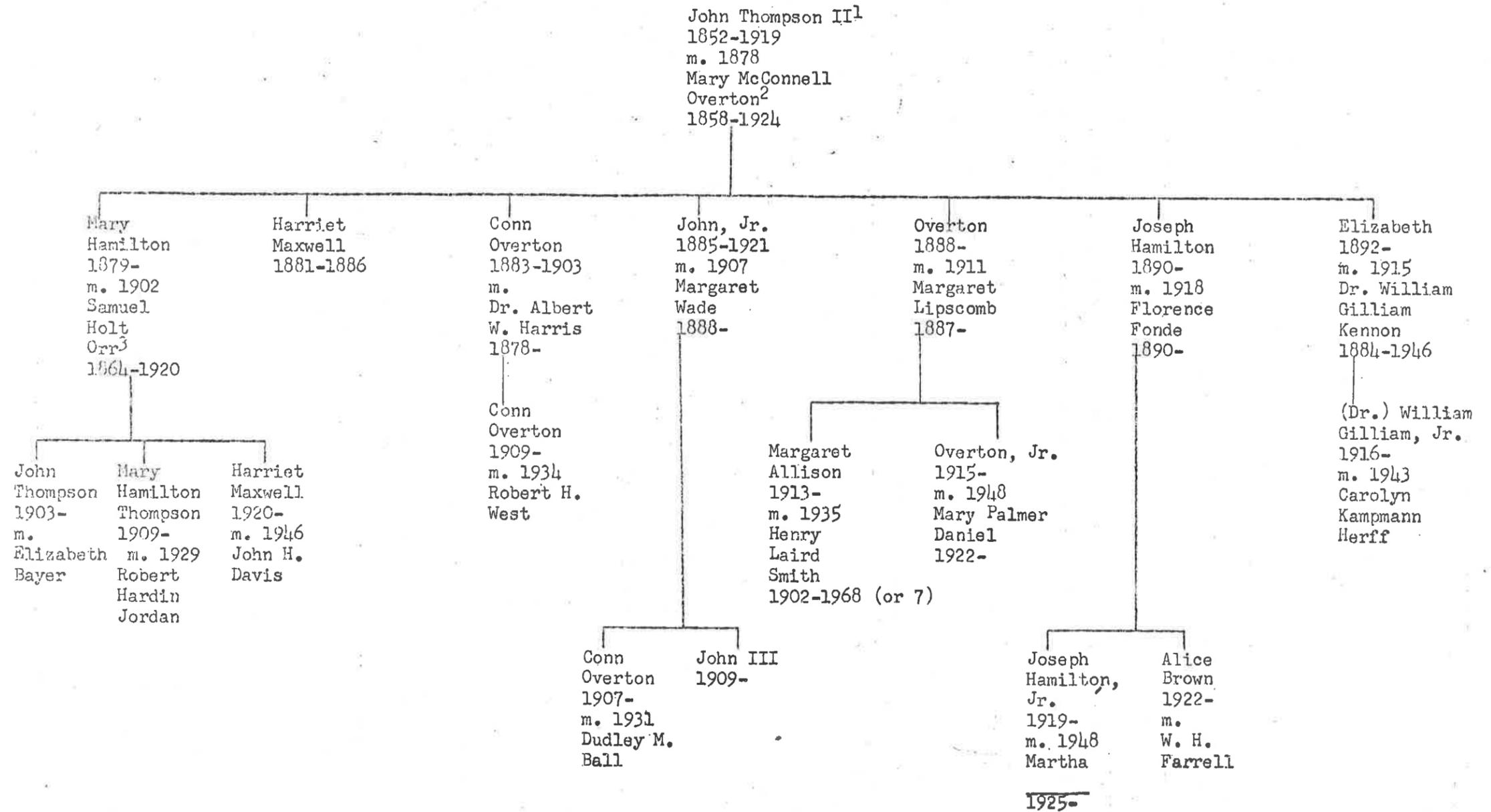
¹Son of John and Martha House

²Daughter of James and Susan Powell

³Daughter of Joseph D. (1782-1837) and Sallie Bedinger (Morgan) Hamilton (1795-1853); her second husband whom she married in 1851, was John Thompson (1793-1876)

⁴Died of scarlet fever

Thompson Family



¹Son of John (1793-1876) and Mary Hamilton (House) Thompson (1823-1901)

²Daughter of John (1821-1898) and Harriet Virginia (Maxwell) Overton (1832-1899)

³Member of Orr family who owned Tyrone Farm, Columbia, Tennessee

Hamilton Family

William Hamilton¹
1748-1801
m. 1773
Mary McClung²

James M.
m.
Mary H.
Davis
fl. 1807-1859

Mary
m.
Stockwell

Joseph
Daviess
1782-1827
m. 1813
Sally
Bedinger
Morgan³
1795-1853

Robert
m.
Narcissa

Daughter
m.
McAfee

Daughter
m.
Jonathan
Nichols

Isabella
m.
Allison

Mary Ann
m. 1827
Edmund H.
Hopkins

Lucy

A'lney
McClellan
1821-

Mary
Hamilton
1827-

Lucie H.

Edmund
Henry

James
Hamilton

William A.

Lucy

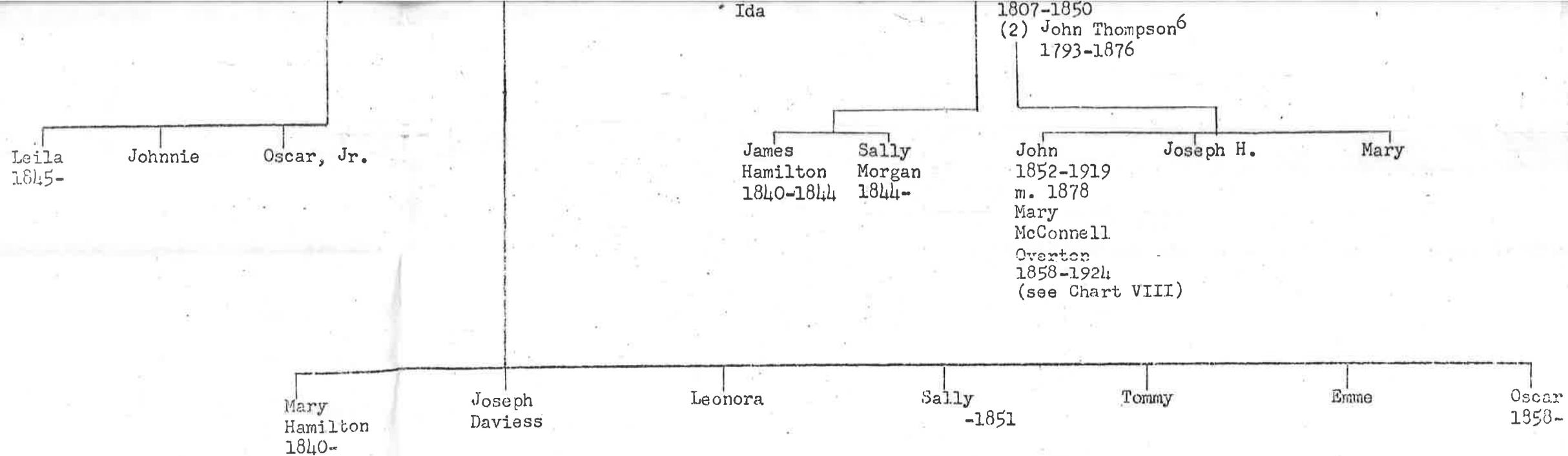
Oscar⁴
1815-
m. 1844
Sigismunda
Mary
Taylor

Mortimer
m. 1839
Emmeline
Hill

James M.
m. 1843
Louisa
Berry
Ida

Mary
1823-1901
m. 1837
(1) George
Washington
House⁵
1807-1850
(2) John Thompson⁶
1793-1876

Joseph
Daviess⁷
1826-1855
(unmarried)



- ¹Son of Robert (-1788) and Margaret (McKee) Hamilton
- ²Daughter of James (-1778) and Anne (Gray) McClung of Rockbridge County, Virginia
- ³Daughter of Abraham (1760-1815) and Anna Maria (Bedinger) Morgan (1763-1804)
- ⁴Physician who lived in Mississippi
- ⁵Son of James (1757-1828) and Winefred Caroline (Powell) House
- ⁶Son of Thomas (1759-1837) and Nancy (Thompson) Thompson (1768-1828). Mary (Hamilton) House was his fourth wife.
- ⁷Drowned in the Cumberland River