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 Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Conner Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.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
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
NAME INDEX

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