COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:
Graham, Daniel, 1789-1869

Inclusive Dates:
1819-1866; 1823-1863

Scope & Content:
One-volume ledger containing financial accounts and a slave register kept by Daniel Graham of Davidson and Rutherford counties in Tennessee. The accounts, which include records regarding horse-breeding, personal loans to individuals, and a Bank of Tennessee log, comprise approximately one-fourth of the book and span the period 1819-1866. These accounts (Vol. 1A) are valuable to historians not only because they document Graham’s generic business operations but record substantial land transactions involving three of the state’s most influential men: David McGavock, John C. McLemore, and Judge John Catron. McGavock, an early Nashville settler and Register of the Land Office, amassed vast acreage in Middle Tennessee. McLemore was an intimate friend of Andrew Jackson, a founder of Memphis, and once served as surveyor general of the state. The jurist Catron became a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The paginated slave register (Vol. 1B) spans the period 1823-1863, and is a notable contribution to Tennessee’s antebellum and African American history. Documenting the lives of more than 70 slaves, the slim volume contains yearly comments on each chattel. In most cases Graham devoted an entire page to one slave, and included details such as age, health, marriage, children, vaccinations, work location, and price and place of purchase. The last page contains three lists of slaves: those who were sold, died, and given away.
The excerpts here represent a fraction of the record:

[p.9] John Adams. 1845 vaccinated and took effect 1847 Good plantation hand, gives no trouble

[p. 12] Matilda. 1832 December 22 married Creed 1833 latter part of August an abortion [likely refers to a miscarriage]


[p. 24] Jo: Kelly. 1833 a great brawler – had to whip him frequently for brawling

[p. 35] Viney. 1834 May Whooping cough – died of it and general debility 11 June 1834 ate dirt

[p. 48] 1845 James K. Polk son of [West?] and Ellen born 30 June 1857 Same as 1850 – intelligent

[p. 55] 1851 February 11th Jinny Lind daughter of Henry and Elsa born – sick in fall

[p. 63] 1853 Matilda daughter of Creed & Matilda Born July 3 1855 [active?] and intelligent ’62 24 Sep. Ran off to Nashville returned 26th

[p. 64] Jesse. 1860 quit wife Silvy & took up with a woman belonging to Cartwright & becoming less trustworthy

[p. 70] Monroe. 1858 Separated from Elizabeth & married a free girl at C.E.H. Martins

The account book was microfilmed as Volume 1A, and the slave register was filmed as Volume 1B.

**Physical Description/Extent:**
1 microfilm reel, 35 mm

**Accession/Record Group Number:**
Mf. 2015

**Language:**
English

**Permanent Location:**
Mf. 2015 (available only on microfilm)
**Administrative/Biographical History**

**Daniel Graham**

1789  March 15 – Born in Fayetteville, North Carolina

18--  Graduated from the University of North Carolina, studied law

1807  Assistant teacher at Fayetteville Academy (North Carolina) for six months

1818-1830  Tennessee Secretary of State

1823  May 8 – Married Maria Grace McIver, daughter of John and Margaret (Cooper) McIver, in Rutherford County, Tennessee

1836-1843  First Comptroller of the State of Tennessee

1847-1848  Register of the Treasury of the United States

1849  Returned to Nashville and lived on his farm on Harding Pike, adjoining Belle Meade Plantation

1850  According to the federal census, owned 44 slaves

1860  According to the federal census, owned 77 slaves

1869  April 11 – Died in Nashville

From the slave register, it appears that Graham also may have owned property in Arkansas. Several entries note that slaves had been sent there to work.
Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Single-volume ledger with financial accounts on recto and slave register on verso. Entries related to estate settlements and land transactions occur in front of the slave register.

Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:
No restrictions.

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Index Terms

Personal Names:
Catron, John, ca. 1786-1865
Graham, Daniel, 1789-1869
McGavock, David, 1789-1838
McLemore, John, 1790-1864

Subjects:
Slaves -- Arkansas -- 19th century
Slaves -- Tennessee -- Davidson County -- 19th century
Slaves -- Tennessee -- Rutherford County -- 19th century
Slaveholders -- Tennessee -- Davidson County
Slaveholders -- Tennessee -- Rutherford County
Slave records -- Arkansas
Slave records -- Tennessee -- Davidson County

Document Types:
Account books
Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:
This collection was loaned to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Konnetta Alexander of Nashville, Tennessee, on March 12, 2012. The collection was microfilmed by TSLA and returned to the donor.

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:
Daniel Graham Account Book, 1819-1866, and Slave Register, 1823-1863, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Processing Information:
The finding aid was prepared by Susan Gordon, May 4, 2012.

Existence and Location of Originals:
Held privately.

Related Archival Materials:
McIver Family Papers, 1801-1929, Tennessee State Library & Archives

Electronic Location and Access:
## Container List

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