



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**CONNER FAMILY PAPERS**  
**1817-1940**

*Processed by:*

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Archival Technical services

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 Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Conner Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.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

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#### 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
6. Correspondence – Incoming – Samuel Conner – E. Love – O.G. Murrell
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 – 28<sup>th</sup> District
14. Wills – Hickey – Welch – 1843-1844

## NAME INDEX

This is a name index to the correspondence in the Conner Family Papers, together with the dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The numbers in parentheses immediately following the name denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the box and folder number in which the material can be found.

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Conner, William, 1841, re: death of nephew, John Conner, Jr., 2-4  
Estes, E.C., 1859, re: obtaining copy of Haywood's Aboriginal History of Tennessee, 2-4  
Fonville, Jno. B., n.d., re: prescription for Mrs. Conner, 2-4  
Gove, R., 1829, re: pension for William Bottom, 2-4  
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- Champion, S.H., 1879, re: execution of case in *Champion vs. Heyhlett*, 2-1
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- Swiggart & Moore 1884, re: legal case of Jack Conner, 2-3
- Taylor, George D. (2), 1880-1881, re: collection of rents and payment of taxes, 2-3
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- Welch, J.L., 1854, re: a loan of \$10 to pay James Gates, 2-3
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- Wingo, T.F. 1861, re: railroad shipment of iron to Conner, 2-3
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- Coleman, Erastus, 1882, to E.P. McNeal, re: payment of debt to E.P. McNeal, 2-9
- Conner, G.W., 1881, to Samuel Hughlett, 2-9
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- Elliott, George S., 1888, to Sam Welch, 2-9
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- Howes, W.W. (2), to G.R. McDade, 1934, 1939, re: post office at Norris, Tennessee, 2-9
- Johnson, Virginia, 1842, to James Allen, 2-9
- Jones, William, 1879, to G.B. Brasfield, re: tax settlement, 2-9
- McDade, G.R. (4), 1934-1939, to McKellar, J. Will Taylor, and W.W. Howes, re: post office at Norris, Tennessee, 2-9
- Ray, John, 1851, to unknown, 2-9
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- Welch, James A. (2), 1857, to W.W. Howes and G.R. McDade, 2-9
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