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EATON, JOHN (1829-1906)
PAPERS, 1867-1869

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INTRODUCTION

The papers of John Eaton (1829 – 1906) for the period of his service as Tennessee Superintendent of Public Instruction cover the years 1867 – 1869. This collection occupies .42 linear feet of shelf space and contains approximately 463 items.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT

There are four hundred and sixty-three letters written to John Eaton (1829 – 1906) during the period 1867 – 1869 while he was Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Tennessee. These letters written by the various county superintendents contain reports of the progress being made by the counties in reorganizing their school systems after the Civil War. The reports gave the number of scholars separated into male and female and white and colored. There was a good deal of opposition to the new system of public instruction being put into operation by John Eaton. In addition to the letters from various county superintendents there are some from out-of-state educators. C.H. Adams of Montgomery, Alabama, requested information regarding the laws and regulations as set forth by Eaton. This collection is the property of the Tennessee Historical Society.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Eaton

- 1829 December 5th – Born in Sutton, New Hampshire, the son of John and Janet (Andrew) Eaton
- Attended Thetford Academy in Vermont and Dartmouth College
- 1854 Graduated at Dartmouth and took a position as principal of Ward school
- 1856 Superintendent of schools at Toledo, Ohio
- 1859-1861 Attended Andover Theological Seminary and was ordained in 1861
- 1861 Entered the Union Army as Chaplain of the 27th Ohio Volunteers and served first in Missouri and then in Tennessee
- 1862 Grant selected him to care for the Negroes who flocked into the army camps. He organized the freedmen into camps.
- 1863 Made Colonel of a Negro regiment
- 1864 Married Alice Eugenia Shirley, daughter of a Vicksburg Unionist
- 1865 In March he was brevetted brigadier-general
- 1866-1867 Edited the *Memphis Post*, which supported Grant for the Presidency
- 1867-1869 Elected Tennessee Superintendent of Public Instruction and organized the State Educational System after the war
- 1869 Grant appointed him to the Board of Visitors at West Point
- 1870-1886 Commissioner of Education of the United States
- 1886-1891 President of Marietta College
- 1895-1899 President of Sheldon Jackson College at Salt Lake City
- 1899-1900 Organized a public school system in Puerto Rico
- 1906 February 9th – Died

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Container List

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