



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives

Glen Leven Ledger, 1847-1852

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:

Thompson, John, 1793-1876

Inclusive Dates:

1847-1852

Scope & Content:

The Glen Leven Ledger consists of an account book that is a bound volume of 98 total pages (although several of those pages are blank). The first two pages of the account book are an inventory of beds, mattresses, pillows, etc. owned by the Thompsons in 1847. Following the inventory are two pages of a list of miscellaneous events such as: "1851 paid Doct Wilson Bill 7⁰⁰" or "1852 planted Potatoes 18th Feb." Next comes a page that is a month-by-month comparison of income versus expenses for the year 1848. Following that are 56 pages of month-by-month accounts from 1848-1852 of produce/foodstuffs grown on the farm and sold. While those accounts list how many units of each item were sold, the amount of income received from the sale represents the total income from everything sold on a given day and is not broken down by item. After those accounts are twelve pages of monthly expenses from 1848-1849.

Subsequent to the 1848-1849 monthly expenses are two pages labeled "A Record of ages of Negroes belonging to John Thompson." This is a numbered list of slaves owned by Thompson, and the list gives each slave's name, their date of birth, and their parents' names. However, this list only represents entries numbered 71-126. The list of slaves was actually begun later in the account book, and these two pages were added once Thompson ran out of room for the initial list of slaves. The list stops at 126 entries because approximately half of the last page was torn out of the account book.

Following the second half of the list of Thompson's slaves is a page of expenses for 1850. Next comes fifteen pages of various aphorisms, recipes ("receipts"), and a list of trees planted by Thompson for the orchard he created in 1835. The

recipes run the gamut from how to make "light waffles and batter cakes" to how to dye yarn yellow to treatments for various illnesses/maladies (such as scarlet fever, croup, burns, or frost bite). Many of the recipes are dated by year, but that date probably reflects the date of the original recipe rather than the date it was entered into the account book.

The last entry in the book is the first half of the list of John Thompson's slaves. The list is three pages and contains the entries numbered 1-70. There are also the names of two additional slaves written on the inside of the back cover.

Physical Description/Extent:

1 bound volume of 98 total pages plus writing on the inside of the front and back covers.

Accession/Record Group Number:

Mf. No. 2045

Language:

English

Permanent Location:

Available only on microfilm, Mf. No. 2045.

Repository:

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

Administrative/Biographical History

Glen Leven is currently a sixty-five acre farm located on Franklin Pike in Nashville. The property was originally a 640-acre land grant to Thomas Thompson (1759-1837), who was a Revolutionary War veteran and one of the original settlers of Nashville in 1789-1790. After Thomas' death in 1837, the property passed to his son, John Thompson (1793-1876). The property was heavily in debt at the time of Thomas' death, but John was able to pay off the debt and to enlarge the property. In 1857, John built a stately home on the property, and the home is still standing.

Typical for the period, John owned numerous slaves and was, in fact, one of the largest slave holders in Davidson County. The slave schedule for the 1860 Federal Census lists him as owning 62 slaves (35 male and 27 female). After Union troops occupied Nashville in February 1862, they impressed approximately 2,700 free blacks and slaves to construct Fort Negley on St. Cloud Hill, just south of the city. Among the impressed slaves were ten belonging to "J. Thompson."

Later in the Civil War, Glen Leven played a part in the Battle of Nashville (December 15-16, 1864). The house was slightly damaged because it sat between the first and second day's line of battle. It was also used as a hospital by Union troops during the battle.

After John's death in 1876, the property passed to his son, John M. Thompson (1852-1919). Except for a brief period from 1969-1971, Glen Leven stayed in the possession of the Thompson family. Upon the death of Susan McConnell West (Thomas Thompson's great-great-granddaughter) in 2006, the house and property were bequeathed to the Land Trust for Tennessee.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

The ledger was microfilmed in its entirety, so the arrangement of the collection represents the arrangement of the ledger itself.

Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:

No restrictions.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:

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Index Terms

Personal Names:

Thompson, John, 1793-1876

Subjects:

Historic buildings -- Tennessee -- Nashville
Nashville, Battle of, Nashville, Tenn., 1864
Slavery -- History -- 19th century -- Sources
Slavery -- Southern States -- History -- 19th century -- Sources
Slavery -- Tennessee -- History -- 19th century
Slavery -- United States -- History -- 19th century -- Sources

Slavery -- United States -- History -- Sources

Geographic Names:

Nashville (Tenn.) -- Buildings, structures, etc.

Document Types:

Ledgers (account books)

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:

Loaned for microfilming by Ophelia Paine in April 2014.

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:

Glen Leven Ledger, 1847-1852, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Processing Information:

Processing completed by William M. Thomas, May 2014.

Existence and Location of Originals:

The original ledger was returned to Ophelia Paine after microfilming.

Electronic Location and Access:

<http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/mf2045.pdf>

DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

CONTAINER LIST

Contents/Item Title	Date	Box	Volume
Account book	1847-1852	1	1