



**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:

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 enslaved people, and the list gives each individual's name, their date of birth, and their parents' names. However, this list only represents entries numbered 71-126. Thompson actually began the list later in the account book and added these two pages once he ran out of room for the initial list. 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 (spelled "receipts" in the book), 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 or maladies (such as scarlet fever, croup, burns, or frostbite). 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 volume

Accession/Record Group Number:

Ac. No. 2020-030, Mf. No. 2045

Language:

English

Permanent Location:

IV-J-3, 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 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 2700 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 underwent slight damage because it sat between the first and second day's line of battle. Union troops also used it as a hospital 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-great-granddaughter) in 2006, the house and property were bequeathed to the Land Trust for Tennessee.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Single bound volume.

Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:

No restrictions.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:

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Index Terms

Personal/Family Names:

Thompson, John, 1793-1876

Subjects:

Farms -- Tennessee -- 19th century
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:**

Ledger was initially loaned for microfilming by Ophelia Paine in April 2014. Ledger was donated by John Orr Jordan in March 2020.

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. Finding aid revised by William M. Thomas, May 2020.

Related Archival Materials:

Mary Hamilton Thompson Orr Papers, 1791-1896, and Additions, 1779-1955, Tennessee State Library and Archives.

DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

CONTAINER LIST

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