



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

**HARDEMAN FAMILY PAPERS**  
**1806-1885**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Hardeman Family Papers (1806-1885) are centered around Thomas Hardeman, (1750-1833) of Davidson and Williamson Counties, Tennessee and two of his sons, Thomas Jones Hardeman (1788-1854) of Davidson and Hardeman Counties, Tennessee and Bastrop County, Texas and Bailey Hardeman (1795-1836) of Davidson and Williamson Counties, Tennessee and Matagorda County, Texas. The papers were a gift by the heirs of Judge Walter W. Faw, Franklin, Tennessee and by William Allen Barnett, Madison, Tennessee.

The materials in this finding aid measure .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Hardeman Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Hardeman Family Papers, containing 45 items, spans the period of 1806-1885, although it is concentrated between the years 1806-1850. The collection is composed of an account book, certificates, correspondence, court records, land records, legal documents, military records, an obituary, and promissory notes.

The bulk of the collection is made up of correspondence, which consists of twenty-eight letters written by various members of the Thomas Hardeman (1750-1833) family. Subjects discussed in these letters include the War of 1812, value of money in Texas in the late 1830s, buying and selling slaves in the early 1800s, a [yellow] fever epidemic in Natchez, cotton prices, land sales in the Mississippi Territory, and the manufacture and sale of plows.

An account book, with an accompanying index, for the Hardeman Store (operated by Bailey Hardeman, 1795-1836, near Triune, Tennessee) for 1832 is included in the collection. The military records consist of a furlough pass granted to Lieutenants [Peter] Hardeman (1784-1820) in 1815. The Hardeman Family Papers provide valuable information for a pioneer family for which Hardeman County, Tennessee is named.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

### Thomas Hardeman

- 1750 January 8, born in Virginia, the son of John and Dorothy Edwards Hardeman
- 1770 Married Mary Perkins, daughter of Nicolas and Bethenia Harden Perkins of Pittsylvania County, Virginia
- 1777 Removed to the “Watauga Settlement” in North Carolina (now East Tennessee)
- 1780 As a member of Captain William Bean’s Militia Company he was engaged in wars with the Indians, and fighting Colonel Ferguson’s “British and Tories” at King’s Mountain
- 1783 Removed to Davidson County, Tennessee and settled on a plantation about three miles from Nashville
- 1788 Along with Elijah Robertson (brother of James Robertson) he represented Davidson County in the North Carolina House of Commons. Member of the North Carolina Convention call to consider the ratification of the Federal Constitution
- 1796 One of five delegates from Davidson County to the Convention at Knoxville which adopted the first Constitution of the State of Tennessee
- 1797 Senator in the second General Assembly of Tennessee
- 1798 Death of Mary Perkins Hardeman; later married her sister, Mrs. Susan Perkins Marr
- 1803 Established his residence in southeastern Williamson County, Tennessee and later named his home “Sugar Hill”
- 1816 Migrated to the Missouri Territory and settled in Howard County
- 1833 April 8, returned to Williamson County, Tennessee
- 1833 June 3, died in Williamson County; burial place unknown

Sources: Speeches—Faw, Walter W., Archives and Manuscript Section, Tennessee State Library and Archives

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

### **Thomas Jones Hardeman**

- 1788        January 31, born in Davidson County, Tennessee, the son of Thomas and Mary Perkins Hardeman
- 1813/1814   Married Mary Ophelia Polk, daughter of Colonel Ezekiel Polk of Maury County, Tennessee
- After 1819   Removed to that part of Hardin County which in 1823 became Hardeman County (named in honor of Thomas J. Hardeman)  
Elected County Clerk of Hardeman County
- 1835        Removed, along with his brother, Bailey, to Texas where they settled in "Matagorda Municipality," afterwards Matagorda County  
Served as member of the Congress of the Texas Republic  
Removed to Bastrop County where for a time he was "Chief Justice of the County," and at other times represented Bastrop County in the State Legislature
- 1854        January 15, died in Bastrop County and buried in family graveyard
- 1936        Remains re-interred, by the Centennial Commission appointed by the Texas State Legislature, to the State Cemetery at Austin

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

### Bailey Hardeman

- 1795 February 26, born in Davidson County, Tennessee, son of Thomas and Mary Perkins Hardeman
- 1803 Removed with his family to Williamson County, Tennessee
- 1812-1813 In the "War of 1812," served in the Second Regiment of Tennessee Volunteer Mounted Gunmen
- 1820 June 19, married to Rebecca A. F. Wilson, daughter of Samuel Wilson of Williamson County
- Ca.1820-35 Operated a mercantile business at Hardeman Cross Roads (now Triune), Tennessee
- 1835 October, with brother Thomas J. Hardeman, removed to Texas, where they settled in "Matagorda Municipality," afterwards Matagorda County
- 1836 One of the framers and one of the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence
- Member of the Convention that adopted the Constitution of the Republic of Texas
- Secretary of the Treasury of the Republic of Texas from March until September 24
- 1836 September 24, died in Matagorda County and buried in family graveyard there
- 1936 Remains re-interred, by the Centennial Commission appointed by the Texas Legislature, to the State Cemetery at Austin

Sources: Speeches—Faw, Walter W., Archives and Manuscript Section, Tennessee State Library and Archives

## CONTAINER LIST

### Microfilm Roll #1

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#### Box 1

1. Account Books – Hardeman Store, 1832 (with Index)
2. Certificates – Stock – George E. Wilks, 1885
3. Correspondence – Corzine, E.O.
4. Correspondence – Hardeman, Bailey
5. Correspondence – Hardeman, Franklin
6. Correspondence – Hardeman, John
7. Correspondence – Hardeman, Rebecca Amanda F.
8. Correspondence – Hardeman, Sam W.
9. Correspondence – Hardeman, Thomas
10. Correspondence – Lewis, Seth
11. Correspondence – Perkins, P.
12. Correspondence – Steele, T. A.
13. Correspondence – Stone, H.
14. Court Records – Court order to allow North Carolina Grant # 17 (dated 1780) to be processed – Peter and Thomas Jones Hardeman to Williamson County Court, 1818
15. Court Records – Judgments – Miscellaneous
16. Land Records – Deed – William Hardeman to Franklin Hardeman, 1834
17. Legal Documents – Estate Papers – Hardeman, Bailey, 1837
18. Legal Documents – Estate Papers – Hardeman, John, 1819 (copy)
19. Military Papers – Furlough – Lt. [Peter] Hardeman, 1815
20. Obituaries – Hardeman, Franklin, 1815-1878
21. Promissory Notes – Miscellaneous

## NAME INDEX

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

- Corzine, E. O. to Dolly McRae, 1854, re: disappointed not to receive a letter from home; still at William Hardemans; family news, 3
- Hardeman, Bailey to Thomas Hardeman, 1836, re: [copy] "no time to say one word" about political situation in Texas; promissory notes; settlement of account with Franklin Hardeman in Williamson County, [Tennessee] Court, 4
- Hardeman, Franklin to [Susan Stone Hardeman], n.d., re: reports that Cousin D. Hardeman has returned from North Carolina; news of relatives, 5
- Hardeman, John (3) to Peter Hardeman, 1810-1818, re: forwarding propositions for sale of land on Harpeth [River]; believes that offer for land is inadequate; Battle of New Orleans; capture of their brothers preferred to that of being killed; would rather die than become a subject of the British king; business matters; had written to General Coffee re: Peter's whereabouts; promissory note, 6
- Hardeman, Rebecca A. F. (Wilson) to Franklin Hardeman, 1838, re: sending an apology rather than money; Texas money much below par in [New] Orleans; concern about children's education; will be in Tennessee next spring; hopes that F. H. has "administered on the estate;" Uncle Tome quite ill; children well pleased with their stepmother, 7
- Hardeman, Sam W. to Franklin Hardeman, 1838, re: questions concerning his schooling at Nashville University, 8
- Hardeman, Sam W. to F. Hardeman, 1839, re: clothes and school books needed for [college], 8
- Hardeman, Thomas (8) to Peter Hardeman, 1809-1815, re: proposes to rent out his farm and sell or rent out his six slaves; terms for selling slaves; proposed to sell his slave Levi; disagreement over plantation arrangement; increase in the price of slaves; brother Thomas will take possession of the plantation and Negroes; more about slaves increasing in price; family news; in need of payment of money; sons Glen and Thomas prisoners of the British; hope for prisoner exchange, 9
- Lewis, Seth "To the Humane Society for the Abolition of Slavery," 1806, re: introducing Mr. Peter Hardeman who holds a commission to take the deposition of some witnesses in a suit brought to recover the freedom of some persons of color who had engaged the writers as Counsel to prosecute the suit, 10
- Lewis, Seth to Peter Hardeman, 1815, re: business matters; apology to his creditors for failing to pay them on time; marriage of daughter Sally; inquiry about brother T. J. Hardeman and Mr. Owens, 10
- Perkins, P. to W. P. Hardeman or J. Wilson, 1809, re: purchasing negro slaves, 11

Perkins, P. (5) to Peter Hardeman, 1807-1813, re: describes seriousness of fever [yellow] in Natchez; expecting to leave for Tennessee shortly for purposes of speculating in negroes or merchandise; President, [Madison] has ordered the selling of lands in Madison County ["Mississippi Territory"]; buying of Negroes; cotton prices; in need of money, 11

Steele, T. A. to Franklin Hardeman, 1850, re: the death of Mr. Stone, 12

Stone, H. (2) to Franklin Hardeman, 1849, re: views about his plows and ability to produce them fast enough to send some castings; selling plows, 13