

HICKERSON, WILLIAM P., Sr.
(1816-1882)
PAPERS
1820-1896

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INTRODUCTION

This finding aid focuses on the papers of William P. Hickerson, Sr., lawyer, jurist, and businessman, born in Franklin County, Tennessee. Spanning the years 1820-1896, the papers contain numerous land records involving Hickerson, Sr., and others in the sale and transfer of substantial tracts of land, mainly in Franklin and Coffee County. Also contained within the collection are copious court records produced by Hickerson, Sr., and numerous account records pertaining to promissory notes. The collection also comprises documents created by his son, William P. Hickerson, Jr., in the form of missives and records produced during his presidency of the Stone Fort Paper Company. Other items within the collection include correspondence, estate papers, notes, publications, slave records, and writings.

The materials were discovered at an estate sale in Denver, Colorado, by Mrs. Christine Genovese of the Colorado Historical Society, Denver, Colorado. These materials as donated by Mrs. Genovese were housed in a single Paige box and arranged in no specific order. It should be noted that the unprocessed materials had been stored for several years within conditions which lacked humidity and temperature control prior to their transfer to the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

The materials in this finding aid measured 1.0 cubic feet while in its original box, but was reduced to 0.84 cubic feet by the removal of numerous canceled checks written by Hickerson, Sr., and his son William P. Hickerson, Jr. An example of some of these checks, written mainly during the mid 19th century, has been retained within the processed collection. There are no restrictions on the material. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the William P. Hickerson, Sr., Papers may be made for scholarly research

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William P. Hickerson, Sr.

1816 November 26, born in Franklin County, TN, the son of John and Nancy Hickerson (maiden name unknown), presumably from Virginia or the Carolinas.

1840s Operated successful law practice in conjunction with Thomas A. Powers in Coffee County, Tennessee.

1843 November 7, Married at Coffee County, Tennessee to Mary Saunders (Martin) Hickerson.

1850 Began service on Board of Commissioners for the McMinnville & Manchester Railroad Company.

1861-1865 Served as Captain of the Sixth Civil District Tennessee Militia.

1865-1867; Circuit Court judgeship for Sixth District of Tennessee.

1869-1877

1882 April 18, died in Manchester, Tennessee.

Organizations

Harmony Lodge No. 214, F. & A. M.

Sources: *Coffee County, Tennessee - Then and Now*, Basil McMahan, 1983

History of Coffee County Tennessee, Leighton Ewell, 1936

Tennessee Democracy, Austin P. Foster and Albert H. Roberts, 1940

The William P. Hickerson, Sr. Papers

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The William P. Hickerson, Sr. Papers, containing approximately 600 items, span the period 1820-1896. The collection is composed of account books, an announcement, correspondence, court records, estate papers, financial records, land records, legal briefs, legal records, lists, McMinnville and Manchester Railroad Company documents, a memorial, notes, publications, recommendations, a report, slave records, Stone Fort Paper Company documents, tax records, Tennessee Supreme Court records, and writings.

A major portion of the collection consists of court records spanning Hickerson's law career. During the 1840s, Hickerson began his law career in Coffee County, Tennessee, with Thomas Powers and created one of Coffee County's earliest law firms-- Hickerson & Powers. In addition to handling legal matters, Hickerson and Powers were involved in various real estate transactions.

In 1850, Hickerson was selected to serve on the Board of Commissioners of the newly chartered McMinnville & Manchester Railroad Company. This railroad operation, funded in large part by Hickerson's brother, Litle D. Hickerson, was one of the first in Tennessee. After ten years of service the railroad was sold to the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway. Much of the correspondence and court records pertain to the creation and maintenance of the business.

At the close of the Civil War, Hickerson served as the Sixth judicial district Circuit Court judge from 1865-1867 and again from 1869-1877. See section concerning court records (Box 1) for proceedings presided over by Hickerson.

Within the accounts are promissory notes, for several of which Hickerson served as a surety. Also included within the accounts section is a bill drawn up by the United States Government for hay purchased from Hickerson by Federal forces during the Civil War.

Included in the land records is an 1836 document which involved Jacob McGavock and his relinquishment of a five thousand acre plot. Some of the land records (See Box 2) show evidence of contractual agreements between Hickerson and free blacks involving tenant farming, a precursor to the practice of sharecropping.

Within the Tennessee Supreme Court records is an 1859 court case involving the assessment of attorney's fees and the inclusion of slaves as parties to a lawsuit (See Box 2). The section on the Stone Fort Paper Company pertains to Hickerson's son, William Jr., who served four terms as a Tennessee state senator (1905-1907; 1911-1913), representing Coffee, Bedford, and Moore Counties. William Jr., also served as Tennessee state treasurer from 1913-1915. In 1879 he organized and built the paper mill which provided paper to several Midstate newspapers.

The William P. Hickerson, Sr., Papers provide information on Tennessee's early legal system and Coffee County's introduction to the railroad and papermaking industry.

CONTAINER LIST

BOX NO. 1

1. Account books--William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1856-1860; 1866
2. Account books--William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1864-1865
3. Accounts--Bills, notes, and receipts--Account of the United States Government with Major William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1862
4. Accounts--Bills, notes, and receipts--William P. Hickerson, Sr., et al., 1839-1859
5. Accounts--Bills, notes, and receipts--William P. Hickerson, Sr., et al., 1860-1882
6. Accounts--William P. Hickerson, Jr., 1888-1889; 1895-1896
7. Accounts--William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1878
8. Accounts--Promissory note--Haggard, James, 1841
9. Accounts--Promissory note--Hickerson, John, 1845
10. Accounts--Promissory note--Hickerson, William P., Sr. and Powers, Thomas, 1845
11. Accounts--Promissory note--Keeling, Larkin, 1853
12. Accounts--Promissory notes--Lowery, William, 1860-1861
13. Accounts--Promissory note--Lusk, Issac, 1843
14. Accounts--Promissory notes--Taylor, Henry J., 1859
15. Accounts--Promissory note--Thompson, J. L. and Thompson, J. P., 1867
16. Accounts--Promissory notes--Whiffen, A. U., 1858
17. Accounts--Promissory notes--Whiteman, W. S., 1869
18. Accounts--Promissory note--Wilkerson, James, 1841
19. Accounts--Promissory note--(Sample), 1867
20. Accounts--Statement--Coltart, S., Stove and furnace manufacturer, 1845
21. Accounts--Stone Fort Paper Company, 1880
22. Accounts--Stone Fort Paper Company, 1888
23. Announcements--Trust Sale of Valuable Property--re: Property deeded from W. S. Whiteman to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1874
24. Correspondence--Business--Campbell Ellin and Company - Mechanics National Bank
25. Correspondence--Business--Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway - Tullahoma Woolen Mills
26. Correspondence--General/Legal--Author Unknown - Hickerson, William P., Jr.
27. Correspondence--General/Legal--Hickerson, William P., Sr. - Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway
28. Correspondence--General/Legal--Owen - Wiley
29. Correspondence--Miscellaneous
30. Court records--Affidavit--Carden, J. A., 1866
31. Court records--Affidavit--Draper, J. C. --re: J. C. Draper et al. vs. J. C. Bockman et al., 1879
32. Court records--Affidavit--Holt, Archibald M. --re: Estate of John Hickerson, 1845
33. Court records--Affidavit--Jenkins, W. H., 1882
34. Court records--Affidavit--Wooten, J. D., 1882
35. Court records--Bill of Complaint--Thomas A. Atchison vs. The McMinnville & Manchester Railroad Company, Inc. et al., 1872

36. Court records--Court case--Asa Faulkner et al. vs. The McMinnville & Manchester Railroad Company et al., 1872
37. Court records--Court case--William P. Hickerson, Sr. vs. W. S. Whiteman, 1868
38. Court records--Court case--Henry Pennington vs. William L. S. Dearing et al., 1873
39. Court records--Court case--State of Tennessee vs. Thomas Scales, 1875
40. Court records--Court cost--State of Tennessee vs. Henderson Goodman, 1873
41. Court records--Court cost--State of Tennessee vs. Samuel W. Smith, 1875
42. Court records--Court cost--State of Tennessee vs. Brad Sweetin et al., 1875
43. Court records--Court cost--State of Tennessee vs. David Willy, 1875
44. Court records--Decree--J. T. Arnold et al. vs. Wyatt Sazni et al., 1868
45. Court records--Decree--Hickerson & Powers vs. Robert Wilson, Sr., 1842
46. Court records--Decree--McMinnville & Manchester Railroad Co. vs. Joseph Work, 1854
47. Court records--Decree--W. B. Shapard vs. William Davidson et al., 1868
48. Court records--Decree--J. L. Thompson vs. S. B. Pennebaker et al., 1868
49. Court records--Ejectment--Davidson Tate vs. Christopher Ruff et al., ca. 1868
50. Court records--Legal brief--J. C. Draper and wife et al. vs. J. C. Bockman et al., 1871
51. Court records--Memorandum--William P. Hickerson vs. James Price, 1873
52. Court records--Memorandum--McMinnville & Manchester Railroad Company vs. Nashville & Chattanooga Railway Company, n.d.
53. Court records--Miscellaneous
54. Court records--Order--Judge W. L. Brixey, 1844
55. Court records--Probate--re: Will of Joab Short, 1866
56. Court records--Settlement--Sarah A. Pearson vs. W. F. Pearson, 1861
57. Court records--Testimony--Hickerson, William P., Sr., n.d.
58. Court records--Witness certificate of John Arnold--re: John O. Duncan vs. Edward Teal, 1848

BOX NO. 2

1. Estate papers--Timmons, Charles, 1863
2. Estate papers--Transfer--Mary Wilson to Joab Howard, 1845
3. Financial records--Bank Statements--Hickerson, William P., Jr., 1881-1882
4. Financial records--Bank Statements--Hickerson, William P., Sr., 1875-1882
5. Financial records--Bank Statements--Stone Fort Paper Company, 1888-1891
6. Financial records--Deposits--William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1857, 1868-1869, 1881
7. Financial records--Memoranda--Stock information, 1875
8. Land records--Agreement--William Collins and William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1850
9. Land records--Agreement--Myra Medley, Joseph Medley, and J. L. Thompson, 1867
10. Land records--Agreement--J. L. Thompson and Frank Lock, 1869
11. Land records--Agreement--W. S. Whiteman and William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1873
12. Land records--Authorization--W. S. Whiteman to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1873
13. Land records--Contract--William P. Hickerson, Sr., and G. W. Daniels, 1877
14. Land records--Contract--William P. Hickerson, Sr., and John D. Otis, 1877

15. Land records--Court-directed notice of sale--re: W. B. Shapard vs. William Davidson et al., 1868
16. Land records--Deed--Robert Blackburn to Daniel McLean, 1844
17. Land records--Deed--James M. Buckaloo to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1853
18. Land records--Land records--Deed--William Collins to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1850
19. Land records--Deed--Sally Cunningham to John S. Moore, 1871
20. Land records--Deed--J. M. Elkins to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1860
21. Land records--Deed--Hiram S. Emerson (Mayor) and James W. Keel (Alderman) et al. to Hickerson & Powers, 1843
22. Land records--Deed--John Epley to Hickerson & Powers, 1844
23. Land records--Deed--W. W. Gill, Virginia M. Wilhoite (executors), and T. P. Wilhoite to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1879
24. Land records--Deed--Jesse Gotcher to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1851
25. Land records--Deed--Claiborne Harp to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1843
26. Land records--Deed--Sam Henderson (executor) to J. L. Thompson, 1867
27. Land records--Deed--Litle Hickerson et al. to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1851
28. Land records--Deed--Wiley Hickerson (administrator of George W. Thompson) to Godfrey M. Fogg, 1851
29. Land records--Deed--John Huffman to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1866
30. Land records--Deed--Charles Matthews to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1843
31. Land records--Deed--Daniel McLean to William A. Hickerson, 1842
32. Land records--Deed--Zachariah and Jane Minton to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1849
33. Land records--Deed--Alexander Neel (Mayor) and Hiram S. Emerson (Alderman) to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1844
34. Land records--Deed--John Patton to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1845
35. Land records--Deed--Benjamin Rodgers to Nancy Lusk, 1851
36. Land records--Deed--Joshua Seagroves to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1877
37. Land records--Deed--Issac Sons to William Collins, 1842
38. Land records--Deed--A. J. Uselton to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1870
39. Land records--Deed of Trust--A. Jacobs to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1876
40. Land records--Deed of Trust--Synthia Nichols to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1850
41. Land records--Deed of Trust--Synthia Nichols to Daniel McLean, 1848
42. Land records--Deed of Trust--W. S. Whiteman to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1874
43. Land records--Deed--Sample, n.d.
44. Land records--Grant--State of Tennessee to Samuel B. Barrell, 1836
45. Land records--Grant--State of Tennessee to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1876
46. Land records--Indenture--John H. French to Dillard G. Stone, 1852
47. Land records--Indenture--Thomas Westall to William Collins, 1820
48. Land records--Relinquishment--William P. Hickerson, Sr. to W. A. Bradley, 1860
49. Land records--Relinquishment--A. Howard, 1868
50. Land records--Relinquishment--J. C. Jackson to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1869
51. Land records--Relinquishment--Mary A. Taylor to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1871

52. Land records--Relinquishment of plat--Jacob McGavock to Samuel B. Barrell, 1836
53. Land records--Rental agreement--William P. Hickerson, Sr. and Daniel Blackman, n.d.
54. Land records--Rental agreement--William P. Hickerson, Sr. and _____ Pierce, 1877
55. Land records--Rental agreement--William P. Hickerson, Sr. and M. M. Taylor, 1877
56. Land records--Rental agreement--William P. Hickerson, Sr. and G. W. Usselton, 1877
57. Land records--Survey--re: Land of _____ Carden--Thomas Anderson, surveyor, 1857
58. Legal briefs--Hickerson, William P., Sr., n.d.
59. Legal records--Affidavit--Sherrill, J. D., 1872
60. Legal records--Bond--John Hickerson to A. U. Whiffen, 1858
61. Legal records--Contract--William P. Hickerson, Sr., and Von Anderson, 1852
62. Legal records--Order for payment--William Lowery to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1860
63. Legal records--Power of Attorney--Sylvanns Cartwright, Samuel Cartwright, and Joseph Cartwright to D. D. Stark (W. P. Hickerson, substitute), 1867
64. Legal records--Power of Attorney--Mary A. Taylor and Pamela Wolfe to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1871
65. Legal records--Relinquishment--Thomas Powers to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1850
66. Legal records--Settlement of accounts--re: William P. Hickerson, Sr., (deceased), 1882
67. Lists--Miscellaneous
68. McMinnville & Manchester Railroad Company--Hearing of Stockholders, 1871
69. Memorials--Remonstrance--Citizens of the Twelfth Chancery Division of Tennessee to the Tennessee General Assembly, ca. 1870s
70. Notes--Hickerson, William P., Sr., n.d.
71. Notes--Hickerson, William P., Sr.--_____ Ramsey vs. Thomas Hull, L. N. Holmes, and James Ogles, n.d.
72. Publications--Pamphlet--The Nashville Life Insurance Company, ca. 1874
73. Publications--Reprint--"Important to Revenue Collectors. What Time Does the Law Require the Collector to Make His Report. The State vs. Robert Chadwell and Others," March 1, 1874
74. Recommendations--Andrew B. Woodard for Circuit Court Clerk, 1873
75. Reports--Conductor's report, 1875
76. Slave records--Work and Boarding--Jess and Tom (slaves of William P. Hickerson, Sr.), 1854
77. Slave records--Work and Boarding--Slaves of William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1854
78. Stone Fort Paper Company--Freight Charges--Hickerson, William P., Jr., n.d.
79. Tax records--Hickerson, William P., Sr., et al., 1860-1882
80. TN Supreme Court records--Court case--James Randols vs. J. T. Randols et al., 1859
81. TN Supreme Court records--Transfer of decree--W. A. Hickerson to William P. Hickerson, Sr., 1871
82. Writings--William P. Hickerson, Sr.--Miscellaneous
83. Writings—Miscellaneous