



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

HOWLETT GENERAL STORE (Mooreville and Culleoka, Tenn.)
EVINS BROTHERS STORE (Culleoka, Tenn.)
ACCOUNT BOOKS AND RECORDS
1839-1947

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INTRODUCTION

These 39 volumes of account books plus 2 folders of accounts and tax records, 1839-1947, of the Howlett General Store in Mooresville and Culleoka, Tennessee (both in Maury County), later known as the Evins General Store in Culleoka, were given to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Samuel Carroll Evins, a Baptist preacher and relation of the store owner.

The materials in this finding aid measure 7.2 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Evins Brothers Store collection may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

These thirty-nine account books and two folders of accounts and tax records from 1839 through 1947 contain accounts of the Howlett General Store in Mooresville, which later moved to Culleoka where it became the Evins Brothers Store in 1893. The business was organized in Mooresville and acquired by Sterling Brown Howlett around 1850. It was then called Howlett's Store. In 1859, when the Nashville and Decatur Railroad reached Culleoka, Mr. Howlett built the first store in the new village. Howlett's store was not operated during the Civil War but was opened again afterward. Mr. Howlett died in 1879, leaving the store to his nephew, Captain I.J. Howlett. In 1893, W.S. and Benson Evins bought the store. It then became known as Evins Store or Evins Bros. Store.

Included in the collection are twenty-two Howlett's Store volumes, 1847-1883; and seventeen Evins Store volumes 1895-1947. These consist of shopbooks, account books, cash books, and one folder of tax records and related correspondence for the years 1919-1924. The pages for 1839, before Howlett acquired the store, were removed from volume 4 prior to donation and are housed in oversize folder #2.

Some volumes are in very poor condition, with portions of pages missing.

This account of the chain of custody of the store records was copied from the inside cover of Vol. 4:

This ledger was brought from Moorefield to Culleoka when S.B. Howlett moved his store from the former to the later place. Culleoka was laid out in 1857 by W.H. Wilkes when the Nashville and Decatur Railroad was being projected. In 1859, the railroad reached Culleoka. Mr. Howlett [opened] the first store in the new village and was ready to occupy it when the Civil War broke out. During the war, Federal soldiers stabled their horses in the building. After the war, Mr. Howlett opened for business. On December 2, 1879, Mr. Howlett died, leaving the store to his nephew, Captain I.J. Howlett. A few years later (1882), W.S. Evins went to work as clerk for I.J. Howlett and worked until going to Columbia, November 25, 1889, to become manager of the Cumberland Telephone & Telegraph Company. In 1893, W.S. and Benson Evins bought the store and Captain Howlett's stock and went into business for themselves. This ledger (No.4) and quite a good many other old ones were for years stored in the cellar of the store where more than half of them rotten [sic] and fell to pieces. The remaining ones were rescued

by Samuel Carroll Evins and taken to W.S. Evins' home in August 1935 where they were stored in a dry place. The front part of this ledger had some entries for the year 1839 but those sheets were in such a bad condition that he detached them before rebinding the book and wrapped them up in a bundle to themselves. The bundle is stored with the ledgers.

(Signed)

Samuel Carroll Evins

CONTAINER LIST

Volumes

1. Howlett - Mooresville, 1847-1850
2. Howlett - Mooresville, 1849-1851
3. Howlett - Mooresville, 1849-1850
4. Howlett - Mooresville, 1849-1851
5. Howlett - Mooresville, 1851-1852
6. Howlett - Mooresville, 1852-1853, 1859-1860
7. Howlett - Mooresville, 1853-1856
8. Howlett - Mooresville, 1854-1855
9. Howlett - Mooresville, 1858-1859
10. Howlett - Mooresville, 1859-1861
11. Howlett - Culleoka, 1859-1861
12. Howlett - Culleoka, 1867-1868
13. Howlett - Culleoka, 1869
14. Howlett - Culleoka, 1870-1871
15. Howlett - Culleoka, 1871-1872
16. Howlett - Culleoka, 1871-1872
17. Howlett - Culleoka, 1872-1874
18. Howlett - Culleoka, 1876-1877
19. Howlett - Culleoka, 1876-1877
20. Howlett - Culleoka, 1876-1881
21. Howlett - Culleoka, 1882
22. Howlett - Culleoka, 1883
23. Evins - Culleoka, 1895-1897
24. Evins - Culleoka, 1898
25. Evins - Culleoka, 1898
26. Evins - Culleoka, 1899-1900
27. Evins - Culleoka, 1901-1902
28. Evins - Culleoka, 1901-1903
29. Evins - Culleoka, 1903-1904
30. Evins - Culleoka, 1903-1904
31. Evins - Culleoka, 1905-1906
32. Evins - Culleoka, 1907-1912
33. Evins - Culleoka, 1913-1917
34. Evins - Culleoka, 1918-1925
35. Evins - Culleoka, 1920
36. Evins - Culleoka, 1919-1927
37. Evins - Culleoka, 1932-1939
38. Evins - Culleoka, 1935-1947
39. Evins - Culleoka, 1935-1947

Oversize Folder 1 - W.S. Evins Store Tax Returns, 1919-1924

Oversize Folder 2 - Mooresville Store loose pages, 1839