



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

JOHNSON, ROBERTSON YEATMAN
(1837-1912)
PAPERS
1870-1900

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INTRODUCTION

The Robertson Yeatman Johnson Papers were given to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Doris Miller, of New York, great-niece of Mr. Johnson.

The materials in this finding aid measure 1.26 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Robertson Yeatman Johnson Collection may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains nine large ledgers and one small one for the dates 1870-1900 kept by Captain Robertson Yeatman Johnson for the farm owned by the Johnson family in Montgomery County near Clarksville, Tennessee. Captain Johnson was a Confederate veteran, lawyer, and legislator. The ledgers contain accounts of his brothers and sisters, Alexander Stewart Johnson, Barbara Elizabeth Williams (Johnson) Dancy, and Ophelia Independence (Johnson) Smith; his father, Alexander Lewis Johnson; his mother Diana Coleman Williams (Terry) Johnson; and his uncle, Ivory Johnson. The ledgers contain complete accounts for farm income and all disbursements including those for labor, repairs, and cash payments to members of the family. There are some accounts for political campaign expenses. In addition to the farm ledgers, there are two volumes containing the minutes for the Dark Tobacco Growers' Protective Association, 1906-1908, and the Planters Protective Association of Montgomery County, 1909; three volumes of R.Y. Johnson's Magistrate's Dockets for 1877-1883, 1884-1888, 1888-1900; and a partial inventory of the property of Alexander Lewis Johnson, dated 1893.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Robertson Yeatman Johnson

- 1837 Born January 24 in Guthrie, Kentucky, son of Alexander Lewis and Diana (Terry) Johnson
- Extent of schooling not determined
- Justice of the Peace
- 1861 December 2, enlisted in Confederate Army at Clarksville, Tennessee and elected 3rd lieutenant
- 1862 February 16, captured at Fort Donelson, sent to Johnson's Island as prisoner of war
- September 1, exchanged and assumed command of Company C 49th Regiment; elected Captain September 27
- 1863 Saw action at Port Hudson; sent for relief of Vicksburg; stationed at Mobile except for short campaigns elsewhere
- 1864 Sent to North Georgia and served in campaign against Atlanta
- 1864-1865 Came back to Tennessee with General Hood and severely wounded at Battle of Franklin, November 30, 1864; rejoined regiment in North Carolina and paroled on surrender of General Joseph E. Johnson's army, April 18, 1865
- 1865-1912 Farmed in Montgomery County, Tennessee
- 1891-1893 Represented Montgomery County as a Democrat in the forty-seventh General Assembly
- 1912 Died October 27 and buried in Montgomery County

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Roll #1

Box 1

1. Farm Ledger – Cash Accounts, 1871-1881
2. Farm Ledger – 1871-1876
3. Farm Ledger – 1871-1887
4. Farm Ledger – 1882-1890

Box 2

1. Farm Ledger – 1884-1887
2. Farm Ledger – 1887-1901
3. Farm Ledger – 1887-1898
4. Farm Ledger – 1888-1892

Microfilm Roll #2

Box 3

1. Farm Ledger – 1890-1892
2. Farm Ledger – 1892-1907
3. Dark Tobacco Growers Protective Association, 1906-1908; Planters Protective Association, 1909 [disintegrated – see Clarksville newspapers for minutes of meetings]
4. Accounts – Miscellaneous bills, notes, receipts, 1892-1896
5. Partial inventory of property of Alexander Lewis Johnson, 1893

Box 4

Oversize

1. Docket Book – 1877-1883
2. Docket Book – 1884-1888
3. Docket Book – 1888-1900