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**PEYTON FAMILY  
PAPERS  
1790-1999**

*Processed by:*

Lori D. Lockhart  
Archival Technical Services

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Peyton Family Papers, 1790-1999, is centered around items that focus on the Peyton family of Sumner County, Tennessee. The items with accession number THS 923 are a gift of Ms. Mabel Neal of Rock Hill, South Carolina. The items with accession numbers THS 773 and THS 790 were purchased by the Tennessee Historical Society from George E. Webb of Tennessee Books and Autographs in Rogersville, Tennessee.

The materials in this collection measure 2 linear feet of shelf space. There are approximately 597 items included in this collection. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Peyton Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

### Peyton Family

Balie Peyton, was born, in Sumner County, Tennessee, November 26, 1803 and died, near Gallatin, Tennessee, August 18, 1878. He earned his law license and, in 1824, he opened a law office in Gallatin, Tennessee. In 1832, he was elected to represent Tennessee in the United States House of Representatives. He served until 1837 when he moved to New Orleans and opened a law practice. In 1841, he was appointed as the U. S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana. He served as aide-de-camp on the staff of General William J. Worth during the Mexican War. Peyton was later awarded a sword by the Legislature of Louisiana for gallantry in this war. While serving in the Mexican War, Balie Peyton earned the respect of General Zachary Taylor for riding through enemy fire to deliver a message to him. In 1848, he was appointed minister of Chile and sent to Santiago, Chile. He served in Chile until 1853 when he resigned his position and moved to San Francisco, California. He lived in California until 1859 when he returned to Gallatin, Tennessee, and reopened his law practice there. In 1860, he was a presidential elector on the Bell and Everett ticket. He served as a Tennessee State Senator from 1869-1871. In addition to all of his other accomplishments, Balie Peyton was also a horse breeder and avid horse racer. He married Ann C. Smith (b. June 26, 1811), daughter of William Smith, on May 20, 1830. They had several children including Emily Turner, Balie II, and John Bell before Ann's death in 1845.

John Bell Peyton was born February 13, 1836, in North Carolina, and died, in Florida, May 18, 1914. He was the son of Balie Peyton and Ann C. (Smith) Peyton. John Bell married Fannie Trousdale, daughter of Governor William Trousdale and Mary (Bugg) Trousdale, on October 8, 1861. John Bell Peyton graduated, with a law degree, from Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee. After obtaining his law degree, he practiced law for five years in Memphis, Tennessee. He gave up the practice of law and returned to Gallatin, Tennessee, where he went into the milling business. He and his wife, Fannie, had several children including Balie III, Julius T., Mary Bugg, Louise Allen, Fannie, and William T.

Fannie Trousdale Peyton (Mrs. John Bell Peyton) was born, in Gallatin, Tennessee, in 1843 and died, in Gallatin, Tennessee, March 21, 1914. She was the daughter of Governor William Trousdale and Mary (Bugg) Trousdale. She was a sister to Julius A. and Charles W. Trousdale. Mrs. Peyton was of the Presbyterian faith.

Source: Information in the biographical note was gleaned from various items within this collection.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Peyton Family Papers, containing approximately 597 items, spans the period 1790-1999. The collection is composed of assorted bank account items, correspondence, ephemera, funeral notices, genealogies, newspaper clippings, photographs, receipts, sketches, a deposition, a court case and a diploma. All of the items in this collection relate to the Peyton family of Sumner County, Tennessee. The arrangement of the collection is alphabetical by format with the exception of the photographs and oversized items, which have been placed at the end of the collection.

The bank account items, located in folder 1 of box 1, are comprised of a check, signed by J. B. Peyton, and a bank account summary from First American National Bank in Nashville, Tennessee. The bank account summary is for a joint account owned by Louise A. and Mary B. Peyton.

The calling cards, located in folder 2 of box 1, are a collection of calling cards from various members of the Peyton and Trousdale families. Individuals with calling cards in the collection include Balie Peyton, Mrs. Balie E. Peyton, Mrs. John Bell Peyton, Miss Louise Allen Peyton, William T. Peyton, Miss Mary Trousdale and Mr. William Trousdale.

The correspondence is located in folders 3-11 of box 1, folders 1-10 of box 2 and folders 1-11 of box 3. The John H. Gatlin correspondence, located in folder 3 of box 1, consists of a photocopy of a letter written by J. P. Gatlin to his father, John H. Gatlin. The letter was written from Nashville University and is dated May 13, 1843. The Mabel Neal correspondence, located in folder 4 of box 1, is centered around various letters addressed to Mabel Neal. The majority of the letters were written by Jonathan Smith and pertain to genealogy. The Balie Peyton correspondence, located in folder 5 of box 1, is centered around various letters, either outgoing or incoming, to Balie Peyton. The majority of the correspondence is from his grandchildren, William T., Balie and Fannie Peyton, and his son, John Bell Peyton. One item of note, in the Balie Peyton correspondence, is a letter written by Balie Peyton to Dr. R. W. Gibbes. The letter, written from New Orleans, Louisiana, and dated December 16, 1847, discussed correspondence that Peyton had received from President Jackson regarding horses. The Balie Peyton III correspondence, located in folder 6 of box 1, is centered around various letters addressed to Balie Peyton (son of John Bell and Fannie Trousdale Peyton). The majority of the letters are from his mother, father and sister, Fannie. One item of note in the Balie Peyton III correspondence is a letter, dated December 26, 1872, from William R. Reagan concerning Balie's grandfather, Balie Peyton I. The Emily Peyton correspondence, located in folder 7 of box 1, consists of one letter addressed to Emily Peyton from Lewis Peyton. The Fannie Peyton (Mrs. John Bell) correspondence, located in folders 8-11 of box 1, folders 1-10 of box 2 and folders 1-2 of box 3, is centered around various letters to Mrs. John Bell Peyton. The majority of the letters are from her children. Two items of note, in the Fannie Peyton (Mrs. John Bell) correspondence, are invitations from John Bell Peyton, dated February 18, 1856 and August 10, 1857. The invitations were sent to Mrs. Peyton prior to their marriage in 1861. In the invitations, John Bell Peyton requests to be "Miss Fannie's" escort to a concert and a party. It should also be noted that there are several letters from Mrs. Peyton's son, William Trousdale Peyton. Some of these letters were written from Seattle, Washington, and from the

Klondike. William T. Peyton went to the Klondike to find gold and later died there when his ship sank. The John Bell Peyton correspondence, located in folder 3 of box 3, consists of letters to John Bell Peyton from his father (Balie Peyton), his sons (William T. and Balie III Peyton), J. R. Barry, and J. B. Frierson. Also contained in the John Bell Peyton correspondence is an invitation from Mr. and Mrs. Horatio Berry to the marriage of their daughter, Emma Horatia Berry, to Dr. Worcester Allen Bryan. One item of note in the John Bell Peyton correspondence is the letter from J. B. Frierson, dated, September 13, 1898. The letter is in regards to unsupported reports of the "Jessie". The "Jessie" was the ship, carrying William T. Peyton, which sank. The Julius T. Peyton correspondence, located in folder 4 of box 3, consists of various correspondence written to Julius T. Peyton. The Louise and Mary Bugg Peyton correspondence, located in folders 5-7 of box 3, contain various correspondence written to Louise and Mary Bugg Peyton. The majority of the letters in the Louise and Mary Bugg Peyton correspondence were written by members of their family. The William Trousdale Peyton correspondence, located in folder 8 of box 3, contains various correspondence, both incoming and outgoing, to William T. Peyton. Two items of note in the William Trousdale Peyton correspondence are letters written by William T. Peyton when he was on board the "Admiral". One of the letters, dated June 23, 1898, is addressed to his father, John Bell Peyton. The other letter, dated June 24, 1898, is addressed to someone named Felix. The Charles W. Trousdale correspondence, located in folder 9 of box 3, consists of two letters. One of the letters was written to Charles W. Trousdale from his nephew, Balie Peyton. The other letter was written by Charles W. Trousdale to his brother. The J. A. Trousdale correspondence, located in folder 10 of box 3, contains one letter written to J. A. Trousdale from his nephew, William T. Peyton. The William Trousdale correspondence, located in folder 11 of box 3, contains two letters addressed to Governor Trousdale and dated 1859.

The court case, located in folder 12 of box 3, consists of copies of an excerpt from *North Carolina Reports*, vol. 22, regarding the North Carolina Supreme Court's case of Balie Peyton vs. Richard I. Smith. Also included in the court case materials is a handwritten analysis, titled *The William Smith Estate Litigation*.

The deposition, located in folder 13 of box 3, consists of a typed deposition of Richard Chilcott in which Mr. Chilcott recounts the events that lead to the sinking of the "Jessie". The deposition was taken in King County, Washington. Mr. Chilcott also lists the passengers known to be on board the "Jessie" when it sank. William T. Peyton of Gallatin, Tennessee, is included in the passenger list.

The diploma, located in folder 14 of box 3, belonged to Balie Peyton. It was presented by Vanderbilt University and states that Mr. Peyton had completed the course of study to receive his B. S. degree in German.

The ephemera, located in folder 15 of box 3, is a vast collection of horse advertisements, tickets, report cards, ribbons, circulars, wallets and name plates. There are several items of note found in the ephemera folder. One item of note is a ticket to the United States International Exhibition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The ticket is dated September 30, 1876, and is in the name of William T. Peyton. Another interesting item in the ephemera folder is a circular letter for The Trousdale Place in Gallatin, Tennessee. The circular not only describes the house itself but also describes the William Trousdale family. The last item of note in the ephemera folder is a copy of horse advertisements,

titled *List of Blood Stock, The Property of Balie Peyton, Which He Will Sell During the Fair and Race Week*.

The funeral notices, located in folder 16 of box 3, consist of funeral notices for Ophelia Alice Trousdale (daughter of William and Mary A. Trousdale), Julien Peyton (son of John Bell and Fannie T. Peyton) and Mrs. Mary Trousdale.

The genealogical information, located in folder 17 of box 3 and in oversized folder 5, contains various genealogical information regarding the Peyton, Trousdale, Smith and Bugg families. One item of note, located in folder 17 of box 3, is a copied image showing the sword that was presented to Balie Peyton for his service in the Mexican War. Another item of note, located in oversized folder 5, is an oversized drawing of the Smith Family Tree.

The newspaper clippings, located in folder 18 of box 3, contain articles regarding the sinking of the "Jessie". Also included in the newspaper clippings are several obituaries for individuals in the Peyton and Trousdale families.

The receipts, located in folder 19 of box 3, are comprised of various receipts for taxes and general merchandise. Several of the earlier receipts are signed by Balie Peyton.

The sketches, located in folders 20 and 21 of box 3, contain biographical sketches of Balie Peyton (located in folder 20 of box 3) and Mary Bugg Peyton (located in folder 21 of box 3). The included sketch of Mary Bugg Peyton is a draft of an article, written by Kenneth C. Thompson, Jr., in May of 1999.

The wills, located in folder 22 of box 3, contain the wills of John Peyton, Sr., John Peyton, Fannie T. Peyton, Mary Bugg Peyton, Louise A. Peyton and Katherine Trousdale Payton. Also included with the will materials is a receipt to Balie Peyton (executor of the estate of Mrs. Fannie T. Peyton) from Mrs. Fannie Peyton Neal.

The photographs, located in box 4, contain individual and group pictures of various members of the Allen, Guild, Neal, Peyton, Smith and Trousdale families. Also contained in the photographs are photos of the John Bell Peyton house and the Peyton Cemetery.

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box 1**

1. Bank Accounts, 1903-1953
2. Calling Cards, n.d.
3. Correspondence -- Gatlin, John H., 1843
4. Correspondence -- Neal, Mabel, 1983-1986, n.d.
5. Correspondence -- Peyton, Balie, 1841-1878
6. Correspondence -- Peyton, Balie III, 1872-1905, n.d.
7. Correspondence -- Peyton, Emily, 1873
8. Correspondence -- Peyton, Fannie (Mrs. John Bell), 1856-1895
9. Correspondence -- Peyton, Fannie (Mrs. John Bell), 1896
10. Correspondence -- Peyton, Fannie (Mrs. John Bell), 1897
11. Correspondence -- Peyton, Fannie (Mrs. John Bell), January 1898

### **Box 2**

1. Correspondence -- Peyton, Fannie (Mrs. John Bell), February-March 1898
2. Correspondence -- Peyton, Fannie (Mrs. John Bell), April 1898
3. Correspondence -- Peyton, Fannie (Mrs. John Bell), May 1898
4. Correspondence -- Peyton, Fannie (Mrs. John Bell), June 1898
5. Correspondence -- Peyton, Fannie (Mrs. John Bell), July-August 1898
6. Correspondence -- Peyton, Fannie (Mrs. John Bell), September 1898
7. Correspondence -- Peyton, Fannie (Mrs. John Bell), October-December 1898
8. Correspondence -- Peyton, Fannie (Mrs. John Bell), 1899
9. Correspondence -- Peyton, Fannie (Mrs. John Bell), 1904
10. Correspondence -- Peyton, Fannie (Mrs. John Bell), 1905

### **Box 3**

1. Correspondence -- Peyton, Fannie (Mrs. John Bell), 1909
2. Correspondence -- Peyton, Fannie (Mrs. John Bell), n.d.
3. Correspondence -- Peyton, John Bell, 1877-1905
4. Correspondence -- Peyton, Julius T., 1898-1927, n.d.
5. Correspondence -- Peyton, Louise A., 1896-1951, n.d.
6. Correspondence -- Peyton, Louise and Mary Bugg, 1919-1956
7. Correspondence -- Peyton, Mary Bugg, 1913-1934, n.d.
8. Correspondence -- Peyton, William Trousdale, 1876-1922
9. Correspondence -- Trousdale, Charles W., 1855-1898
10. Correspondence -- Trousdale, J. A., 1895
11. Correspondence -- Trousdale, William, 1859
12. Court Case -- Peyton vs. Smith, 1840
13. Deposition -- Chilcott, Richard, 1898
14. Diploma -- Peyton, Balie, 1887
15. Ephemera, 1800-1889, n.d.
16. Funeral Notices, 1850-1882
17. Genealogy, 1790-1882, n.d.
18. Newspaper Clippings, 1845-1965, n.d.

19. Receipts, 1842-1902
20. Sketches -- Peyton, Balie, 1960, n.d.
21. Sketches -- Peyton, Mary Bugg, 1999
22. Wills, 1830-1961

#### **Box 4 - Photographs**

1. Individual Photographs -- Allen, Katie Trousdale, n.d.
2. Individual Photographs -- Guild, Louise Allen and Neal, Annie Lou, 1892, n.d.
3. Individual Photographs -- Peyton, Balie, n.d.
4. Individual Photographs -- Peyton, Balie II, n.d.
5. Individual Photographs -- Peyton, Balie III, 1870, n.d.
6. Individual Photographs -- Peyton, Emily and Joseph H., 1850, n.d.
7. Individual Photographs -- Peyton, Fannie Trousdale (Mrs. John Bell), n.d.
8. Individual Photographs -- Peyton, John Bell, 1858, n.d.
9. Individual Photographs -- Peyton, Julius Trousdale, n.d.
10. Individual Photographs -- Peyton, Louise Allen, n.d.
11. Individual Photographs -- Peyton, Mary Bugg, n.d.
12. Individual Photographs -- Peyton, William T., 1870-1897, n.d.
13. Individual Photographs -- Smith, Samuel and William, n.d.
14. Individual Photographs -- Trousdale, Julius Augustus, Mary and Mary Ann (Bugg), n.d.
15. Individual Photographs -- Unidentified, 1878, n.d.
16. Group Photographs -- Allen, Katie (Trousdale) and Valeria, Guild, Louise A. and Trousdale, Charles William, n.d.
17. Group Photographs -- Peyton, Balie, Balie III, Gladys and her parents, n.d.
18. Group Photographs -- Peyton, Balie III, Fannie, Louise, Mary Bugg and Will, n.d.
19. Group Photographs -- Peyton, Fannie, Fannie (Trousdale), Louise Allen and Mary Bugg, n.d.
20. Group Photographs -- Peyton, Fannie and Trousdale, Mary, n.d.
21. Group Photographs -- Smith, Samuel and Mary Webb, n.d.
22. Group Photographs -- Unidentified, n.d.
23. Photographs of the Home of John Bell and Fannie Peyton, 1958, n.d.
24. Peyton Cemetery Photographs, n.d.

#### **Oversize Folder 5**

1. Genealogy -- Smith Family Tree, n.d.