



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

**ROBERT H. CARTMELL**  
**(1828-1915)**  
**PAPERS**  
**1849-1915**

*Processed by:*

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**MICROFILMED**

## INTRODUCTION

These are the diaries and other papers of Robert H. Cartmell (1828-1915), Madison County farmer. The papers are composed of an account book, clippings, letters, and thirty-three volumes of Mr. Cartmell's diaries (the first four volumes of which have been typed and edited by Emma Inman Williams). There are two photographs of Mr. Cartmell.

Beginning in 1853, the diaries contain full commentaries on the nature of his farm operation, the weather, and the fluctuations of the cotton market. They contain thoughtful comments on politics and candidates for office and opinions on matters of public interest, such as the price of cotton, slavery, abolition, railroads, agricultural meetings, state fairs, prohibition, religion, secession, the Union, and conditions in Madison County during and after the Civil War. The diaries during the war years are filled with accounts of battles and the movements of Federal armies stationed in west Tennessee.

Except for a break from May, 1867 to January, 1879, the journals are faithfully kept and rich with information through the early years of the twentieth century. Descriptions of farming have many interesting details, and the views expressed on public affairs are both literate and well-informed.

The materials in this finding aid measures 2.1 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the material

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The papers of Robert H. Cartmell are composed of diaries (33 volumes), an account book, clippings, letters, and several chapters, covering the first four volumes of the diaries, typed and edited, by Emma Iman Williams. Earliest diary entries, 1849-1852, cover the period when Robert Cartmell was farming with his father, Martin Cartmell (1797-1864), and contain records of the amounts of corn and cotton raised and the size of acreages. Beginning in 1853 when he became a landowner, his entries are fuller and contain accounts of the weather, routine jobs of hoeing, plowing, picking cotton, digging wells, building fences, hauling wood, and church going.

Jackson, one of the largest towns in the Western District, often had political speakers and evangelists visit there. Alexander Campbell (1788-1866), the founder of the Church of Christ, was one of the number. The diaries contain comments regarding politics and candidates for office, opinions on matters of public interest, such as state fairs, prohibition, churches (especially the Presbyterian), secession, the Union, and conditions in Madison County during and after the Civil War. The diaries during the war years are filled with accounts of battles (Battle of Shiloh, Battle of Fort Donelson, Fort Henry, and others), troop movements, treatment of civilians and the needless destruction of property by the Federal armies stationed in West Tennessee.

There is a break in the diaries from May 1867 to January 1879. Accounts are scattered throughout with one volume for the dates 1897-1900 devoted entirely to accounts. Agricultural data is found in all volumes.

Included is biographical and genealogical data for a number of families with special reference to the families of Baldwin, Cartmell, and Sharp. Persons most prominently mentioned in the diaries include the following: William Brimage Bate, William Jennings Bryan, Edward Ward Carmack, Robert I. Chester, Duncan Cooper, Robin Cooper, Benjamin Augustine Enloe, Nathan Bedford Forrest, James Frazier, Isham Green Harris, Adam Huntsman, Howell Edmunds Jackson, Andrew Johnson, Horace Maynard, Malcolm R. Patterson, Theodore Roosevelt, Thomas C. Rye, William H. Taft, Robert Love Taylor, Thomas Battle Turley, Peter Turney, and John May Taylor.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

### **Robert H. Cartmell**

July 27. Born in Madison County, Tennessee, one mile east of Jackson; son of Martin and Jemina (Sharp) Cartmell

\_\_\_\_\_ Graduated West Tennessee College, Jackson, Tennessee

ca. 1849 Graduated Cumberland Law School, Lebanon, Tennessee

March 27. Married Mary Jane Baldwin of Hardeman County, Tennessee

April 11. Joined Captain R.P. Ford's Company; after a few weeks was given a medical discharge

July 12. Wife died

Member of the Presbyterian Church U.S.

Attended several Confederate Veteran's Reunions

1915 Died at home in Jackson, Tennessee

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