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**SIMERLY FAMILY PAPERS
1857-1954**

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INTRODUCTION

The Simerly Family Papers (1857-1954) are centered on the Simerly Family of Johnson City, Tennessee. The Simerly Family Papers were a gift of the Tennessee Historical Commission of Nashville, Tennessee.

The materials in this collection measure 1.68 cubic feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Simerly Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Simerly Family Papers, containing approximately 1,000 items, span the period 1857-1954. The collection is composed of account books, accounts, receipts, cards, certificates, clippings, correspondence, income tax records, legal documents, printed materials, school records, and several miscellaneous items.

The Simerly family, closely related to the Taylor family, were prominent citizens of East Tennessee, and the correspondence, which comprises the bulk of the collection, is concerned with the varied business interests of the family. The remainder of the correspondence is family related. The account books and receipts deal with the daily operations of the family mercantile establishment located in Johnson City, Tennessee. The school records of Lawson G. Simerly are composed of grade reports and final examinations. Printed materials include a large assortment of postal and greeting cards, clippings, booklets, and bulletins. The World War II Rationing Coupon books are particularly interesting to the researcher.

The Simerly Family Papers provide an interesting view of a prominent East Tennessee family from the time after the Civil War to the 1950s. Although there is little genealogical information in the collection, it may hold some interest for the social historian.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Account Books – Simerly, Samuel W., n.d.
2. Account Books – Simerly, Samuel W., n.d.
3. Account Books – Simerly, Samuel W., n.d.

Box 2

1. Accounts – Bills and receipts – Simerly, Samuel W., 1872 - 1873
2. Accounts – Bills and receipts – Simerly, Samuel W., 1873 - 1930
3. Accounts – Bills and receipts – Simerly, Samuel W., 1930 - 1940

Box 3

1. Cards – Greeting
2. Cards – Greeting
3. Certificates – Watauga Valley Farmers' Club
4. Clippings – East Tennessee
5. Clippings – Haynes, Landon C., 1885
6. Clippings – Lincoln, Abraham – Assassination
7. Clippings – Railroads
8. Clippings – Taylor, Robert Lowe
9. Clippings – Miscellaneous
10. Correspondence – Allen - Bowery
11. Correspondence – Brownlow - Dyer
12. Correspondence – Fagan - Nola
13. Correspondence – Fletcher - Haynes, Matthew
14. Correspondence – Haynes, Minter - Johnson
15. Correspondence – Kelley - Mosely
16. Correspondence – Nunnally - Roland
17. Correspondence – Rush - Simerly
18. Correspondence – Simerly, E.
19. Correspondence – Simerly, Lawson - Simerly, Samuel W.
20. Correspondence – Simerly, Vene - Snell
21. Correspondence – Sterling - Taylor, Hugh Lawson
22. Correspondence – Watson - Unknown

Box 4

1. Income tax records – Simerly, Lawson
2. Insurance policies – Simerly, Lawson
3. Land records – Deeds – Simerly, Samuel
4. Legal documents – Affidavits – Simerly, Lawson Gifford
5. Legal documents – Contracts – Railroad Retirement Book
6. Printed materials – Booklets – Miscellaneous
7. Programs – Miscellaneous
8. School records – Simerly, Lawson Gifford
9. School records – Simerly, Lawson Gifford

10. School records – Simerly, Lawson Gifford
11. War Rationing Coupons – World War II

NAME INDEX

This is a name index of the correspondence only in the Simerly Family Papers, together with the dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the box and folder in which the material is to be found.

- Allen, C.M. to Sam Simerly, 1914, re: would like to sell a silo for the farm; represents the Knoxville Lumber and Manufacturing Company, 3-10
- Allen, G.W. to Sam Simerly, n.d., re: wants to purchase some iron for his blacksmith shop, 3-10
- American Literary Review to Samuel W. Simerly, 1870, re: would allow Simerly to be an agent for the journal, 3-10
- Bates, H.C. to Lawson Simerly, 1923, re: would like to give the booklet, "The Cow: The Mother of Prosperity"; advantages of the cow on the farm, 3-10
- Bayless, Lydia Kate to Samuel W. Simerly, 1945, re: would like to sell boxwood trees to beautify the Simerly farm, 3-10
- Bob _____ (2) to Lawson Simerly, 1954, re: promises to pay rent on the farm; sends in another payment, 3-10
- Boring, Edna M. to Vene Simerly, 1915, re: thank you for the Christmas feast of sausage; thank you for the apples, 3-10
- Bowery, E.B. (2) to Lawson G. Simerly, 1951, re: notification of upcoming Elks meetings, 3-10
- Bowman, G.C. to Samuel Simerly, 1873, re: order for iron; discusses payment, 3-10
- Boyd, J.R. to Samuel W. Simerly, 1872, re: purchase of some interest in town lots in Elizabethton, Tennessee, 3-10
- Brown, W.J. to Samuel W. Simerly, 1872, re: request to purchase mica from Simerly; purchase of two horses, 3-10
- Brownlow, Walter P. to Samuel W. Simerly, 1909, re: meeting of agents from the Department of Agriculture to discuss "agricultural matters," 3-11
- Bunnell, A. to Samuel Simerly, 1872, re: sends payment for note, 3-11
- Cadman, S. Parkes to Samuel Simerly, 1931, re: seeks monetary support for the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, 3-11
- Callender, John W. to Lawson Gifford Simerly, 1946, re: sends forms for filing applications for railroad retirement annuity, 3-11
- Clawson, Dr. to Samuel Simerly, 1959, re: will arrive at the farm to test cattle, 3-11
- Cox, C.C. to Samuel Simerly, 1921, re: would like to receive some gravel for his road in Johnson City, 3-11
- Cox, Thad A. to Robert T. Kennerly, 1944, re: deals with a lawsuit over the Simerly lands, 3-11
- Cox, Thad A. (3) to Samuel Simerly, 1944, re: settlement of the lawsuit dealing with the Simerly lands; purchase of this land by the Tennessee Historical Commission, 3-11
- Deakins, Mollie E. to Samuel W. Simerly, 1934, re: seeks support for May A. Ross for trustee, 3-11
- Dyer, W.O. to Samuel Simerly, n.d., re: has been sent to St. Petersburg, Florida by the doctor; will not be able to work for a while, 3-11

Fagan, Nola (12) to Samuel Simerly, 1900-1904, re: sorry to hear that you are in the hospital; invitation to a social; visit to the country fair; news of friends; family news; thank you for the melon; breaks up relationship; discusses engagement, 3-12

Fletcher, Bill to Samuel Simerly, n.d., re: note on the Gifford estate is due, 3-13

Gertrude _____ (2) to Samuel Simerly, 1956, re: invitation to visit her home; thank you for the Christmas gift; 3-13

Gibson, Lee K. to Lawson Simerly, 1948, re: will get in touch with companies who make artificial legs, 3-13

Gibson, T.J. to Samuel Simerly, 1921, re: payment of a note, 3-13

Gray, Fulton to Lee K. Gibson, 1948, re: will call on Simerly for the artificial leg order, 3-13

Gregg, John F. to Sam Simerly, 1936, re: Mr. Bracker would like to rent Simerly's farm for one to five years, 3-13

Grew, Joseph C. to Samuel Simerly, 1947, re: seeks support for the American Bible Society, 3-13

Grindstuff, John to Samuel Simerly, n.d., re: discusses the hauling of coal, 3-13

Gudger, Roy L. to Samuel Simerly, 1941, re: change in a legal contract, 3-13

Hampton, J.W. (2) to Samuel Simerly, 1872-1873, re: orders a load of iron, 3-13

Harris, W.I. to Superintendent of the Atlanta Railroad, n.d., re: discusses his bull hit by a train, 3-13

Haynes, Hal H. to Rhoda Haynes, 1908, re: sends \$50.00 to preserve the graves of David and Rhoda Haynes, 3-13

Haynes, Matthew T. to Lawson Haynes, 1857, re: sold stock in the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad Company; family news; 3-13

Haynes, Minter L. to Samuel Simerly, 1944, re: funeral of Cousin Jimmie; would like to buy Cousin Jimmie's house, 3-14

Haynes, Rhoda Taylor to Samuel Simerly, 1876, re: personal and family news; condition of crops, 3-14

Hodges, H.C. to Samuel W. Simerly, 1872, re: wishes to purchase a load of iron, 3-14

Holesworth, Sophia to Vene Simerly, 1889, re: the peaches were delicious, 3-14

Hughes, A.D. to Lawson Simerly, 1930, re: appreciates support for his candidacy of Justice of the Peace, 3-14

Hunter, R.C. to Samuel Simerly, 1930, re: get well wishes for a speedy recovery, 3-14

Hutchens, O.D. to M.L. Gifford, 1940, re: requests that Gifford do some repairs on the rental property, 3-14

Kelley, Lallie Lyle to Lawson Simerly, n.d., re: would like to have visited you while in Tennessee; get well wishes; old times as a child, 3-15

Kincaid, Robert L. to Samuel Simerly, 1951, re: thank you for courtesies shown to the Tennessee Historical Commission, 3-15

King, Mrs. Ethelbert French to Lawson Simerly, 1952, re: thank you for the enjoyable visit to your historical old home, the Tipton-Haynes Home, 3-15

Lowe, Arthur to Samuel Simerly, 1914, re: would like a load of hay, 3-15

McConnell, Francis J. to Sam Simerly, 1930, re: invited Simerly to become an associate in the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ, 3-15

McDouglass, W. Ray to Sam Simerly, 1957, re: invites Simerly to a pre-Easter Revival, 3-15

Maxwell, Jenie to Sam Simerly, n.d., re: sends Christmas greetings; greetings to those at Sunday School, 3-15

May, Robert M. to S.L. Simerly, 1948, re: county attorney will arrive at your home on November 9, 3-15

Miller, J.K. to Samuel W. Simerly, 1879, re: hoped to visit you while at Johnson City; visit to Knoxville, 3-15

Mitchell, Maggie F. to Samuel Simerly, n.d., re: requests a return of her letters; complains of mistreatment by Simerly, 3-15

Moise and Lee (3) to E. Simerly, 1872, re: discusses legal case *Simerly vs. Jno. H. Dixon*; settlement of legal case involving insolvent notes, 3-15

Morrow, Will H. to Loss ?, 1923, re: requests that he meet Gaye at the train and take her to the hotel; family news, 3-15

Moseley, A.F. to Sam Simerly, 1920, re: has acquired another threshing machine to cut his hay, 3-15

Nunnally, J.E. to Samuel Simerly, 1934, re: would like to buy V-C fertilizer, 3-16

Novell, J.W. to Samuel Simerly, 1893, re: would like to purchase some iron, 3-16

Oliver, E.R. to Lawson Simerly, 1939, re: good public relations, 3-16

Page, Edwin L. to Lawson Simerly, 1956, re: payment of delinquent Elks Club dues, 3-16

Peoples, Carrie to Samuel Simerly, n.d., re: invitation to a picnic, 3-16

Persinger, J.L. to Sam Simerly, 1946, re: will arrive at your place December 2, 3-16

Pope, Thomas J. to Samuel W. Simerly, 1872, re: sale of iron, 3-16

Rabes (?), Josephine to Vene Simerly, 1933, re: family and personal news; family connections; would like to visit the family in Johnson City, 3-16

Reeves, James M. to Samuel W. Simerly, 1920, re: will complete the road near his home, 3-16

Rodie, _____ to Vene Simerly, n.d., re: baby Sam is well; is now completing your bonnet, 3-16

Roland, T.W. (2) to Lawson Simerly, 1957-1958, re: importance of keeping your will up to date; will making, 3-16

Rush, _____ (3) to Samuel Simerly, 1871-1878, re: cannot visit Sam because of bad health; congratulations on your marriage; life in Knoxville; family news; settlement of a loan, 3-17

Simerly, E. (26) to Samuel Simerly, 1871-1873, re: sickness and ill health; sale of property; life in Baltimore; mercantile business; establishment of wholesale supply company in Knoxville; further land purchases, 3-17, 3-18

Simerly, Lawson to Mr. Brown, 1893, re: seeks a position in a hotel, 3-19

Simerly, Lawson to A.J. Davis, 1923, re: discusses vacation time during the year 1923; (reply on same letter states Simerly has no desire to take any vacation time), 3-19

Simerly, Lawson to R.M. Lin, 1893, re: introduces Lin to David Scott, 3-19

Simerly, Lawson to John Smith, 1894, re: introduces William Clark to John Smith, 3-19

Simerly, Nathaniel T. (5) to Samuel W. Simerly, 1871-1873, re: sale of coon and mink furs; order of iron, 3-19

Simerly, Samuel W. to James A. Hammond, 1873, re: cannot see William Simerly for an order of iron, 3-19

Simerly, Samuel to Vene Simerly, 1878, re: personal sickness; personal news, 3-19
Simerly, Vene to Samuel W. Simerly, 1878, re: sale of hogs; discusses his return home, 3-20
Smalling, Hagan to Lawson Simerly, 1958, re: election of new officers for the Elks Club, 3-20
Smelser, W.M. to Lawson G. Simerly, 1938, re: meeting of the Elks Lodge, 3-20
Smith, Audrey to Lawson G. Simerly, 1934, re: sends photographs made of the farm, 3-20
Smith, Delle Dulaney to Vene Simerly, 1928, re: sorry to hear about your illness; mother is not well; plans for a garden, 3-20
Smith, Dixon to Samuel Simerly, 1871, re: inquires about the sale of iron, 3-20
Smith, Ruby W. to Lawson G. Simerly, 1948, re: sends information on artificial legs, 3-20
Sterling, W.R. to E. Simerly, 1872, re: sale of property; examination of property, 3-21
Strong, B.R. to Samuel W. Simerly, 1873, re: places an order for iron, 3-21
Taylor, Hugh Lawson to J.E. Crandell, 1892, re: cannot meet my obligation with you, 3-21
Taylor, Hugh Lawson (3) to David _____, 1891-1893, re: sends money covering interest on the note; money problems, 3-21
Taylor, Hugh Lawson to Mary Gifford, 1869, re: sends commission for person to work in the Department of the Interior, 3-21
Watson, Wes to Lawson Simerly, n.d., re: thank you for the potatoes, 3-22
Williams, Samuel C. (2) to Lawson Simerly, 1946, re: unveiling the monument on the Asheville-Johnson City Highway; planting of dogwood and redbud trees, 3-22
Wolfe, T.M. to Samuel Simerly, 1921, re: sends road report, 3-22
Worth and Company to Samuel Simerly, 1871, re: wishes to sell a selection of Southern dried fruits, 3-22