TALBOT-FENTRESS
FAMILY PAPERS
1817-1953

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INTRODUCTION


The Talbot–Fentress Family Papers were given to the Manuscript Division of the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Mrs. Fentress Ott of Chicago, Illinois.

Materials in this collection measure 1.26 linear feet. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Talbot–Fentress Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Talbot–Fentress Family Papers, containing approximately 230 items and nine volumes, span the period 1817-1953. Included in the collection are account books, clippings, correspondence, diaries and memoirs, genealogical data, legal documents, obituaries, photographs, printed materials, resolutions, sketches, writings, and miscellaneous items.

The collection is centered on the descendants of Colonel James Fentress (1763-1843) of Montgomery County, Tennessee, a Revolutionary War soldier, Legislator, Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives (1815-1823), friend of Andrew Jackson; his son David Fentress (1794-1855), pioneer and Legislator of Bolivar, Tennessee; and his grandson, James Fentress (1837-1903), Civil War soldier, planter, lawyer, Legislator, and delegate to the 1870 Tennessee Constitutional Convention; and his great-grandson Calvin Fentress (1879-1957), banker, investment counselor, and genealogist of Chicago, Illinois.

Included in the correspondence are seventeen letters written by James Fentress to his wife between 1860 - 1870 and eleven letters by Eli Talbot to his wife from 1817-1818. Persons mentioned include the Earl of Shrewsburg, Lord Baltimore, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Andrew Jackson, Light Horse Harry Lee, William Byrd, Abraham Lincoln, and Generals Polk, Pillow, Smith, and Buckner.

The diary included in the collection was kept by Sally Wendel Fentress for the period August 1863-February 1866. Among the persons mentioned are Gladstone, Lord Aberdeen, Generals Forrest, Lee, Sherman, Grant, and Johnston, Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, John Wilkes Booth, Andrew Jackson, William Seward, E. M. Stanton and John C. Breckenridge.

Genealogical data is included for members of the Byrd, Cantrell, Charters, Farrar, Fields, Fentress, Henderson, Hughes, Lyon, Rice, Talbot, and Wendel families.

Photographs include a portrait of Delia Waters Talbot ca. 1840, Mary Tate Perkins Fentress (1842-1933), James Fentress (1837-1903), and six pictures of the Fentress Family Vault at Polk Cemetery in Hardeman County, Tennessee.
**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

*James Fentress*

*(1763-1843)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1763</td>
<td>February 16 – born in New Hanover County, North Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1779</td>
<td>April – Joined Volunteer Light Cavalry under Colonel Diars</td>
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<tr>
<td>1780</td>
<td>Married Barbara Wells of New Hanover County, North Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1787</td>
<td>Moved to Montgomery County, Tennessee, near Yellow Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>Became Justice of the Peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>1807</td>
<td>Barbara Wells Fentress died</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1809</td>
<td>Entered the State House of Representatives, Tennessee General Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1810</td>
<td>Married Ann Read of Montgomery County, Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1815</td>
<td>Became Speaker of the House, Tennessee General Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1817</td>
<td>Ann Read Fentress died</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823</td>
<td>Retired as Speaker of the House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fentress County created and named for James Fentress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1836</td>
<td>Presidential elector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1843</td>
<td>June 26 – died at home in Montgomery County, Tennessee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

James Fentress
(1837-1903)

1837    July 27 – Born in Murfreesboro, Tennessee at the home of his grandfather, David Deaderick Wendel

1853    Entered University of Virginia

1858    Began practicing law at Bolivar (Hardeman County, Tennessee)

1859    August 22 – Married Mary Tate Perkins of Hardeman County, Tennessee

1861    Enlisted in Confederate Army as Captain of 4th Tennessee Infantry

1864    Transferred to Forrest’s 7th Tennessee Cavalry

1870    Elected to the Tennessee Constitutional Convention

1871    Elected Judge of the Tenth Chancery Division

1876    Became counsel for Mississippi Central Railroad

1889    Moved to Chicago, Illinois; became Head of Legal Department, Illinois Central Railroad

1903    January 27 – Died at home in Chicago, Illinois
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Calvin Fentress

1879 May 22 – Born at Bolivar (Hardeman County, Tennessee)
1890 Moved to Chicago, Illinois
1897 Entered Princeton University in Princeton, New Jersey
1903 January 14 – Married Pauline Stearns Lyon of Chicago, Illinois

Treasurer and Director of Lyon, Gary Company
Treasurer and Director of Chicago Tubing and Braiding Company
Secretary Treasurer and Director of Bagdad Land and Lumber Company
Treasurer of Lyons Cypress Lumber Company
President of Consolidated Tidewater Pine Company
President and Director of the Great Northern Lumber Company
President of the Naval Stores Company of Florida
President of Baker-Fentress Investment Company
Founder of the Chicago Galleries Association

1957 Died in Chicago, Illinois
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4. Correspondence – Fentress, James
5. Correspondence – Hogue - Perkins
6. Correspondence – Talbot - Miscellaneous
7. Diaries, memoirs, etc. – Sally Wendel Fentress, 1863-1866
8. Diaries, memoirs, etc. – Memoirs – Mary Tate (Perkins) Fentress, 1913
9. Genealogical data – Bond family
10. Genealogical data – Cantrell, Carter, Deaderick, and Wendel families
11. Genealogical data – Deaderick family
12. Genealogical data – Fentress family
13. Genealogical data – Hill family

**Box 2**
1. Genealogical data – Lyon family
2. Genealogical data – Lyon, Kellogg, Rice, and Wade families
3. Genealogical data – Perkins family
4. Genealogical data – Searcy family
5. Genealogical data – Talbot family
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11. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Photograph – Fentress, Mary Tate (Perkins), 1842-1933
12. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Photograph – Fentress family vault
13. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Photograph – Polk cemetery, Hardeman County
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16. Printed materials – Visa regulations – Portugal
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22. Writings – Miscellaneous
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Hogue, A. R. to Calvin Fentress, 1940, re: thank you note, 1-5
Illinois Society, Sons of the American Revolution to Calvin Fentress, 1919, re: invitation to become a member of the S. A. R., 1-5
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