



**State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives**

**S. A. Weakley Papers and Genealogical Collection,
1789-1971**

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:

Weakley, Samuel Anderson, 1887-1973

Inclusive Dates:

1789-1971

Scope & Content:

Consists of correspondence, documents, geological data, Bible records, clippings, sketches, maps, deeds, obituaries, and photographs. Mr. Weakley assembled the greater part of this collection while preparing his book, The Southern Virginia Weakley Families and Their Descendants, published in 1963.

Included in the papers is Bill Woosley's biography of Mr. Weakley, a retired chief in the Nashville division of the United States Corps of Engineers and noted genealogist. Bill Woosely's piece on Weakley was published in the magazine section of the *Nashville Tennessean*, on December 11, 1949. Included also is a biographical sketch of Weakley appeared in *V-Square*, the Vanderbilt engineering magazine, in January 1959.

The collection focuses on much of the early history of Nashville and vicinity: Nashville's first field of corn; ferries on the Cumberland River; Heaton's Old Station; old Waynesboro on the Cumberland River near Nashville; the McGavock subdivision; Edgefield and the Neill S. Brown property.

Included are many aerial maps, 1938-1954, of sections of Tennessee and Virginia which Weakley used in tracing his family history and the history of early Nashville. Weakley also made notations on many of the maps of the locations of old deeds that show the lands of the early settlers.

Some of the data he accumulated earlier was published in *The Lifeline* between 1941-1942. These include articles on baseball in Nashville and the New Madrid earthquake. Newspaper clippings feature events in Nashville such as Lafayette's 1825 visit, the last remaining stagecoaches in 1904, a reservoir collapse in 1921, and other events concerning people and places of note in Tennessee.

Copies of deeds regarding Weakley's land at Vaughn's Creek, Tennessee, and Appomattox and Prince Edward Counties in Virginia are included. Photographs of Robert Weakley (1764-1845) and his wife Jane Locke Weakley (1769-1838) are found in this collection, as well as Samuel Weakley's snapshots (1952-1961) of houses, springs, tollgates, etc.

A newspaper account highlights a journal that Samuel Harvey Laughlin (1796-1850) kept in 1840. He was a lawyer and landowner of Warren County, Tennessee, a State Senator, and a delegate to the Democratic National Convention held in Baltimore, Maryland in May 1840.

A photocopy of an undated typewritten sketch, describes river traffic on the Cumberland in the 1890s. William T. Hunter and R. A. Goas, two long-time steamboat pilots and masters, provided the sketch.

The genealogical data on the Weakley and allied families is in one volume, *The Weakley Family in America 1730-1904*, compiled by Francis J. Weakley and published in 1904. It includes photocopies of Bible records of the Weakley and allied families of Major, Pearman, Woodard, Stewart, and McCarty.

An addition to the collection consists of three letters and two documents. The letters include one written by Samuel Read Anderson from Mexico in 1847, one written by Susan (Trousdale) Allen from New Orleans in 1848, and one written by Mary (Read) Anderson from Pulaski in 1843. The two documents are appointments for Samuel Read Anderson, dated 1857 and 1861, signed by President James Buchanan and Governor Isham G. Harris. (Ac. No. 71-49)

A second addition the collection consists of a photocopy of a map and of a chart showing the location of William Walker's Nashville residence in Nashville. The map and chart both refer to property on High and Cherry Streets owned by Walker's father, James Walker. (Ac. No. 71-70)

A major supplement consists of photograph albums, correspondence, clippings, a diploma, a map, various publications, Weakley's thesis on Cumberland River floods, and the research data for his thesis. The photograph albums in particular contain images of the various rivers, bluffs and locks. There are also photographs of buildings belonging to the Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged, Tulip Street Methodist Church, Woodland Street Presbyterian Church, Warner Public School, and Engine Company No. 5. Engine Company No. 5 burned to the ground in the 1916 Great Fire in East Nashville.

Eight boxes of negatives and two albums of negatives are stored in the vault at V-A-1v and V-A-2v. (Ac. No. 72-148)

Physical Description/Extent:

7.12 cubic feet

Accession/Record Group Number:

68-266, 69-057, 69-102, 70-026, 70-091, 70-100, 70-102, 70-111, 71-070, 71-167, 71-192, 72-148

Language:

English

Permanent Location:

VI-F-1-2, top; VI-G-1, 5; Mss. Drawer 2-B; V-A-1-2v

Microfilm Number:

1330

Repository:

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

Administrative/Biographical History

Samuel Anderson Weakley is descended from Samuel Weakley who came to Davidson County, Tennessee, from Virginia in 1787, and served for a number of years as County Surveyor.

Mr. Weakley attended Fogg High School in Nashville before entering Vanderbilt School of Engineering in 1907. He was on the basketball team from 1908-1910 and a member of Sigma Chi fraternity and Tau Beta Pi honor society.

After graduating in 1911, Weakley worked with the Nashville office of the U.S. Corps of Engineers. He co-authored engineering designs and studies and reports for improvements to the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers. He also worked on the report of the Cumberland River Basin (the 308 Report) that included surveying and preparing maps from aerial photographs. During his final years with the Corps, Weakley was head of the Operations and Maintenance Division, which was responsible for the operation, maintenance, and repairs of all locks and dams on both rivers.

Weakley also served in World War I, having volunteered as a private in the U.S. Army in 1917. He was honorably discharged in 1919 as a 1st Lieutenant of Engineers. During his service he worked on engineering designs for warehouses, facilities and port terminals.

Weakley died on February 19, 1973. He is buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Nashville, Tennessee.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Materials are filed in their original order.

Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:

No restrictions

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:

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Index Terms

Personal Names:

Weakley, Samuel Anderson, 1887-1973

Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:

Hume-Fogg High School (Nashville, Tenn.)

Sigma Chi Fraternity

Tau Beta Pi

United States. Army. Corps of Engineers

Vanderbilt Commodores (Basketball team)

Vanderbilt University. School of Engineering

Subjects:

Aerial photography in genealogy

Aerial photography -- Tennessee

Aerial photography -- Virginia

Floods -- Cumberland River (Ky. and Tenn.)

Sports -- Tennessee -- History -- 20th century

World War, 1914-1918

Geographic Names:

Appomattox County (Va.) -- Social life and customs

Cumberland River (Ky. and Tenn.) -- History -- Sources

Davidson County (Tenn.) -- Social life and customs

Great Smoky Mountains (N.C. and Tenn.) -- Description and travel

Nashville (Tenn.) -- Social life and customs
Prince Edward County (Va.) -- Social life and customs
Tennessee, Middle -- Description and travel
Tennessee River -- Description and travel
West (U.S.) -- Description and travel

Document Types:

Bible records
Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence
Diplomas
Genealogies (histories)
Land registers
Manuscripts (documents)
Maps (documents)
Military records
Negatives (photographs)
Obituaries
Photographs
Publications (documents)
Sketches

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:

The papers and genealogical collection were donated to the State Library and Archives by Samuel A. Weakley in 1968.

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:

S. A. Weakley Papers and Genealogical Collection, 1795-1971, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Processing Information:

Collection processed September 1968 by Mary Washington Frazier and Frances W. Kunstling.

DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

CONTAINER LIST

Contents/Item Title	Date	Box	Folder
“First Field of Corn” -- Nashville, Tennessee	1957	1	1
McGavock’s Subdivision -- Nashville, Tennessee	Undated	1	2
Marathon Automobile -- Nashville, Tennessee	1960-1961	1	3
Nashville, Tennessee -- History, Lots, etc., in early days	Undated	1	4
Nashville, Tennessee -- History, notes on	1959	1	5
Nickajack Cave, Marion County, Tennessee	1941-1956	1	6
Rattlesnake Springs, Huntland, Tennessee	1947-1956	1	7
Reynoldsburg, Humphreys County, Tennessee	1950-1951	1	8
Robertson’s Station, Davidson County, Tennessee	1955-1967	1	9
Wilson Spring and Branch, Nashville, Tennessee	Undated	1	10
Woodard Family Data -- White’s Creek	1963	1	11
Bell, John -- Home Place	Undated	2	1
Brooks, Christopher and Matthew	Undated	2	2
Brown’s Old Station on Richland Creek	1968	2	3
Draper Manuscripts	1963	2	4
Edgefield and Neill S. Brown Property	1955-1956	2	5
Ferries on Cumberland River, Nashville, Tennessee	1951-1967	2	6
Heaton’s Old Station	1937-1968	2	7
Lowe, Marvel -- Notes on home, etc.	1937-1956	2	8
Nashville -- Lots and Streets	1950-1952	2	9
References to Deeds, etc.	Undated	2	10
Sulphur Lick, Hickman County, Tennessee	1940-1958	2	11
Waynesboro -- On Cumberland River, near Nashville, Tennessee	1951	2	12
Walker, William -- Map and chart	Undated	2	13

showing Nashville property			
Bible records	Undated	3	1
Correspondence	1789-1961	3	2
Correspondence and photograph	1836-1970	3	2a
Documents	1857-1964	3	3
Genealogies (histories)	1879-1954	3	4
Locke Family data	Undated	3	5
Historic Houses, etc.	1952 - 1971	3	6
Records concerning the Weakleys	1938-1962	3	7
Obituaries	1808-1943	3	8
Photographs	1940-1971	3	9
Baseball and basketball, Nashville, Tennessee	1887-1960	4	1
“Fifty Years in Hendersonville” -- Tennessee	1956	4	2
Clippings and notes on Tennessee history	1939-1970	4	3
Sketches -- Baseball in Nashville	1941	4	4
Sketches -- Biography of S.A. Weakley, including WWI papers	1917-1959	4	5
Sketches -- First bridge over Cumberland River, Nashville	1941	4	6
Sketches -- Georgetown College, Kentucky; 1812 recruiting poster	1941-1958	4	7
Sketches -- Meteorites; sinking steamboat “Mechanic”	1941	4	8
Sketches -- New Madrid earthquake, 1811-1812	1941-1942	4	9
Sketches -- Oil; Tombigbee earthquake	1941	4	10
Clippings -- Lafayette’s visit to Nashville	Undated	5	1
Clippings -- Reservoir collapse, Nashville, 1912	1912	5	3
Clipping -- Stagecoach lines, Nashville	1904	5	4
Deeds -- Prince Edward County, Virginia	1946-1954	5	5
Maps -- Aerial photo symbols, Tennessee and Virginia	Undated	5	6
Maps -- Charlotte County, Virginia	1949	5	7
Maps- - Halifax County, Virginia	1949	5	8
Map- - Jefferson, Rutherford County seat	1959	5	9

Maps- - Miscellaneous aerial maps	1937-1949	5	10
Maps -- Sinking Creek, Sumner County, Tennessee	1950	5	13
Maps -- Tennessee -- 1795; 1929; Undated	1929	5	14
Maps -- White's Creek, Nashville	1938	5	15
Clippings -- Civil War	1911-1964	6	1
Clippings -- Nashville	1961-1967	6	2
Clippings -- Springs in Nashville	1959	6	3
Diary -- Laughlin, Samuel Harvey, 1840	1937	6	4
Sketches -- Big Wheels and Little Wagons	1957-1959	6	5
Sketches -- A Boy's River	1936-1955	6	6
Sketches -- Daniel Boone, 1734-1820	1955	6	7
Sketches -- Castalian Springs	1954	6	8
Sketches -- George Rogers Clark, 1752-1818	1944	6	9
Sketches -- Rice Clendenen, 1872-	1950	6	10
Sketches -- "Cudjo," active 1839	1934	6	11
Sketches -- Fulton County, Kentucky	1953	6	12
Sketches -- General, miscellaneous	1927-1970	6	13
Sketches -- General, miscellaneous	1935-1958	6	14
Sketches -- Sam Houston	1937-1962	6	15
Sketches -- William T. Hunter, active 1887-1915	Undated	6	16
Sketches -- Jesse James, 1847-1882	1934-1946	6	17
Sketches -- Land Between the Rivers	1957	6	18
Sketches -- Natchez Trace	Undated	6	19
Sketches -- Tennessee counties	1935-1967	6	20
Sketches -- John Ross, 1790-1866	1966	6	21
Sketches -- Nathan Stubblefield	1950	6	22
Sketches -- Sycamore Powder Mills	1936-1953	6	23
Sketches -- Tennesseans	1935-1963	6	24
Sketches -- Tennesseans on the March	1938-1939	6	25

Sketches -- Trail of the Little Moccasins	1955	6	26
Sketches -- Samuel Anderson Weakley, Biography, 1887-1873	1949	6	27
Sketches -- Old Lebanon Road	1951	7	1
Photographs	1959	7	2
81 negatives of the Old Lebanon Road: Mooney School football team	1900-1957	7	3
Photographs and negatives of subjects discussed in book	1938-1965	8	1a
Photographs and negatives of subjects discussed in book	1945-1960	8	1b
Research of subjects discussed in book	1945-1960	8	2
Photographs and negatives of subjects discussed in book	1908-1948	8	3
Designs, dams, locks, Cumberland River	Undated	9	1
Probably maximum flood at Nashville	1935	9	2
Basketball, Vanderbilt University	1893-1912	9	3
Basketball, Vanderbilt varsity	1909-1910	9	4
Basketball, girls, Vanderbilt University	1908-1909	9	5
Brown's Old Station	1968	9	6
"Idlewild," home of Neill S. Brown	1955-1968	9	7
Sketches -- Biographical - Weakley, S. A.	1906-1971	9	8
Sigma Chi -- Tyree Springs	1954-1971	9	9
Bible records, Revolutionary War papers, William Morrison and will of Peter Coffee	1970	9	10
Letter -- Swain, Geneva	1971	9	11
Manuscript copy of the first 225 pages of Weakley's book, <u>The Southern Weakley Families and Their Descendants</u>	1963	10	
Correspondence -- Butler, William M.	1952-1958	11	1
Correspondence -- Alexander - Author unknown	1917-1955	11	2
Diploma -- Mai Anderson	1875	11	3
Map - drawn by Mai Anderson	1875	11	4

Photographs, drawings, etc. - Warner Fogg School -- 2 nd grade	1897-1968	11	5
Clippings -- Fogg <i>Echo</i>	1958	11	6
Photograph album -- Vol. I	1907-1919	11	7
Photograph album -- Vol. II	1916-1950	11	8
Photograph album -- Vol. III	1926-1966	12	1
Photograph album -- Vol. IV	1926-1968	12	2
Thesis - "Cumberland River Floods Since the Settlement of the Basin, with special reference to Nashville, TN"	1935	13	1
Thesis data -- Cumberland River	1926-1958	13	2
Printed materials -- Publications	1935-1937	13	3
Scientific notes on Cumberland River; newspaper clippings and notes on Tennessee history	1829-1963	13	4
Clippings -- Stories of the Confederacy	June 14, 1904	OV	1
Clippings -- "Battling on Old-Time Fields" by James Morgan -- Historic wars -- Nashville Banner	February 6, 1915	OV	2
Clippings -- "Flood in Dry Weather" by S. A. Weakley	1954-1958	OV	3
Map -- Montgomery County	1932	OV	4
Illustrated map of Cahaba, Alabama	1948	2-B	1
Map of Cheatham County, Tennessee prepared by Albert F. Ganier	Undated	2-B	1
Plat showing location of early land deeds, Nashville, Tennessee	Undated	2-B	1
U.S.G.S. map of Lawrenceville, Virginia	1921	2-B	1
Division of Mineral Resources map of Clarksville, Virginia	1957	2-B	1
U.S. Dept. of the Interior map of Wytheville, Virginia	1945	2-B	1
U.S.G.S. map of Kenbridge, Virginia	1955	2-B	1
U.S.G.S. map of Farmville, Virginia	1951	2-B	1
U.S.D.A. aerial map of Halifax, Virginia	1954	2-B	1
Fourteen aerial maps used in Weakley's research	1938	2-B	2
U.S.G.S. map of the State of	1957	2-B	2

Virginia (one square section cut out)			
Map of Old Lebanon Dirt Road prepared by S. A. Weakley	1951	2-B	2
Map of Old Lebanon Dirt Road (including Nashville) prepared by S. A. Weakley	1951	2-B	3
Photo negatives	Various	Vault 1-8	