

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, <u>The Southern Virginia Weakley Families</u> and <u>Their Descendants</u>, 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, <u>The Weakley</u> <u>Family in America 1730-1904</u>, 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:

While the Tennessee State Library and Archives houses an item, it does not necessarily hold the copyright on the item, nor may it be able to determine if the item is still protected under current copyright law. Users are solely responsible for determining the existence of such instances and obtaining any other permissions and paying associated fees that may be for the intended use.

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

"First Field of Corn" Nashville, Tennessee195711McGavock's Subdivision Nashville, TennesseeUndated12Marathon Automobile Nashville, Tennessee1960-196113Marathon Automobile Nashville, Tennessee History, Nashville, Tennessee History, Nashville, Tennessee History, Nashville, Tennessee History, Nickajack Cave, Marion County, Tennessee195915Nickajack Cave, Marion County, Tennessee1941-1956166Reynoldsburg, Humphreys County, Tennessee1950-195118County, Tennessee1950-1951188County, Tennessee1101011Wilson Spring and Branch, Wilson Spring and Branch, CreekUndated110Bell, John Home PlaceUndated222Brown's Old Station on Richland Creek1963242Edgefield and Neill S. Brown Property1955-1956255Property						
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Walker, William Map and chartUndated213		Undated	2	13		

CONTAINER LIST

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,	1887-1960	4	1
Nashville, Tennessee			
"Fifty Years in Hendersonville"	1956	4	2
Tennessee			
Clippings and notes on Tennessee	1939-1970	4	3
history			
Sketches Baseball in Nashville	1941	4	4
Sketches Biography of S.A.	1917-1959	4	5
Weakley, including WWI papers			
Sketches First bridge over	1941	4	6
Cumberland River, Nashville			
Sketches Georgetown College,	1941-1958	4	7
Kentucky; 1812 recruiting poster			
Sketches Meteorites; sinking	1941	4	8
steamboat "Mechanic"			
Sketches New Madrid	1941-1942	4	9
earthquake, 1811-1812			
Sketches Oil; Tombigbee	1941	4	10
earthquake			
Clippings Lafayette's visit to	Undated	5	1
Nashville			
Clippings Reservoir collapse,	1912	5	3
Nashville, 1912			
Clipping Stagecoach lines,	1904	5	4
Nashville			
Deeds Prince Edward County,	1946-1954	5	5
Virginia	** * -		
Maps Aerial photo symbols,	Undated	5	6
Tennessee and Virginia	10.10		
Maps Charlotte County,	1949	5	7
Virginia	1010		
Maps Halifax County, Virginia	1949	5	8
Map Jefferson, Rutherford	1959	5	9
County seat			

Maps Miscellaneous aerial	1937-1949	5	10
maps			
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	1957-1959	6	5
Wagons	1026 1055	6	6
Sketches A Boy's River Sketches Daniel Boone, 1734- 1820	<u>1936-1955</u> 1955	6 6	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,	1953	6	12
Kentucky			
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	20
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	1949	6	27
	1949	0	21
Weakley, Biography, 1887-1873 Sketches Old Lebanon Road	1951	7	1
	1959	7	2
Photographs	1900-1957	7	3
81 negatives of the Old Lebanon	1900-1937	/	5
Road: Mooney School football			
team Descent particular of	1938-1965	8	1a
Photographs and negatives of subjects discussed in book	1930-1903	0	1a
	1945-1960	8	1b
Photographs and negatives of	1945-1900	0	10
subjects discussed in book	1945-1960	8	2
Research of subjects discussed in book	1945-1900	0	2
Photographs and negatives of	1908-1948	8	3
subjects discussed in book	1900-1940	0	5
	Undated	9	1
Designs, dams, locks, Cumberland River	Undated	9	1
	1935	9	2
Probably maximum flood at Nashville	1955	9	Z
	1902 1012	0	2
Basketball, Vanderbilt University	1893-1912	9	3
Basketball, Vanderbilt varsity	1909-1910	9	4 5
Basketball, girls, Vanderbilt	1908-1909	9	5
University Descendence Old Station	1079	0	
Brown's Old Station	1968	9	6
"Idlewild," home of Neill S.	1955-1968	9	7
Brown	1006 1071	0	0
Sketches Biographical -	1906-1971	9	8
Weakley, S. A.	1054 1071	0	0
Sigma Chi Tyree Springs	1954-1971	9	9
Bible records, Revolutionary War	1970	9	10
papers, William Morrison and			
will of Peter Coffee	1071	0	11
Letter Swain, Geneva	1971	9	11
Manuscript copy of the first 225	1963	10	
pages of Weakley's book, <u>The</u> Southern Weakley Families and			
Their Descendants			
Correspondence Butler,	1952-1958	11	1
William M.	1752-1750	11	1
Correspondence Alexander -	1917-1955	11	2
Author unknown	1717-1733	11	۷
Diploma Mai Anderson	1875	11	3
	1875	11	4
Map - drawn by Mai Anderson	10/3	11	4

Photographs drawings at	1897-1968	11	5
Photographs, drawings, etc	1097-1900	11	5
Warner Fogg School 2 nd grade Clippings Fogg <i>Echo</i>	1958	11	6
Photograph album Vol. I	1938	11	7
	1907-1919	11	8
Photograph album Vol. II			
Photograph album Vol. III	1926-1966	12	1
Photograph album Vol. IV	1926-1968	12	2
Thesis - "Cumberland River	1935	13	1
Floods Since the Settlement of the			
Basin, with special reference to			
Nashville, TN"	100 < 1050	10	
Thesis data Cumberland River	1926-1958	13	2
Printed materials Publications	1935-1937	13	3
Scientific notes on Cumberland	1829-1963	13	4
River; newspaper clippings and			
notes on Tennessee history			
Clippings – Stories of the	June 14, 1904	OV	1
Confederacy			
Clippings "Battling on Old-	February 6, 1915	OV	2
Time Fields" by James Morgan			
Historic wars Nashville Banner			
Clippings "Flood in Dry	1954-1958	OV	3
Weather" by S. A. Weakley			
Map Montgomery County	1932	OV	4
Illustrated map of Cahaba,	1948	2-B	1
Alabama			
Map of Cheatham County,	Undated	2-B	1
Tennessee prepared by Albert F.			
Ganier			
Plat showing location of early	Undated	2-B	1
land deeds, Nashville, Tennessee			
U.S.G.S. map of Lawrenceville,	1921	2-B	1
Virginia			
Division of Mineral Resources	1957	2-B	1
map of Clarksville, Virginia			
U.S. Dept. of the Interior map of	1945	2-B	1
Wytheville, Virginia			
U.S.G.S. map of Kenbridge,	1955	2-B	1
Virginia			
U.S.G.S. map of Farmville,	1951	2-B	1
Virginia			
U.S.D.A. aerial map of Halifax,	1954	2-В	1
Virginia			
Fourteen aerial maps used in	1938	2-В	2
Weakley's research			
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	1951	2-B	2
prepared by S. A. Weakley			
Map of Old Lebanon Dirt Road	1951	2-B	3
(including Nashville) prepared by			
S. A. Weakley			
Photo negatives	Various	Vault 1-8	