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**WEAVER FAMILY PAPERS
1820-1916**

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INTRODUCTION

The Weaver Family Papers are centered on Dempsey Weaver (1815-1880), Nashville banker, and were given to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Mrs. Weaver Harris and Dr. Thomas S. Weaver of Nashville, Tennessee, with a few items being obtained by purchase.

The items in this collection measure .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Weaver Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Weaver Family Papers, containing one volume and approximately 330 items, cover the period 1820 to 1916. They are composed of accounts, bills, receipts, documents, legal papers, business and family correspondence, and are centered around Dempsey Weaver (1815-1880), Cashier of the Planters' Bank, one of the three great antebellum banks of Tennessee with the parent bank in Nashville and branches throughout the state. In 1865, Dempsey Weaver was made Receiver of the bank. In the collection are a few papers of the bank, such as: statements of assets and liabilities, 1857-59; a list of Philadelphia stockholders, n.d.; and lists of assets to be sold, 1875.

The bulk of the correspondence in the collection concerns the cotton market in which the Planters' Bank invested and is from W.A. Johnson & Company, cotton factors in New Orleans, 1859-1874. Other correspondence includes a letter of Edwin H. Ewing, December 17, 1863, giving his reasons for accepting Mr. Lincoln's amnesty; three letters from Orville Ewing, president of the Planters' Bank, to Dempsey Weaver, cashier, in regard to bank matters; a letter to D. Weaver (as he was usually called) from his daughter, Fanny, from Hurricane Springs, May 27, 1874, describing the accommodations, etc.; eight letters from his son, Thomas Shadrack Weaver, at school, Washington College, Virginia, and Cumberland University Law School, Lebanon, Tennessee, 1867-1911; and miscellaneous business and family correspondence, 1853-1911.

Included with three lawsuit briefs in the papers is the "joint and several answer of W.W. Berry, etc. to the Complainant, J.W. Williamson & others," which gives a history of the Planters' Bank, defending its actions during the Civil War. There are letters and court documents dealing with the indebtedness of Gideon J. Pillow (1806-1878) to the Planters' Bank.

There is a short report of the Mill Creek Circuit held at Hamilton Chapel (Davidson County) October 10, 1846, which has a list of persons examined, and a list of collections and expenses.

Included is a volume which belonged to Thomas S. King (1786-1851), father-in-law of Dempsey Weaver, that has some account records for repairing wagons, wheels, etc., in 1839-40; and contains also some church records for the Pleasant Grove Church, Davidson County, Tennessee, which show that in 1847, King was appointed secretary and librarian of the church and superintendent for the Sunday School. There is a list of Sunday School classes with students and teachers named, and a list of those who committed to memory portions of Scripture and the number of verses memorized.

Miscellaneous items include a newspaper clipping giving the financial report of the Nashville, Murfreesboro and Shelbyville Turnpike Road from October 1, 1865 to October 1, 1867. Another newspaper clipping shows a picture of "Kingsley" – the Weaver home on the Murfreesboro Pike about six miles from downtown Nashville – painted from a photograph by John Kiser, Nashville, in 1867. There are a few miscellaneous documents which include an agreement, August 1, 1863, to purchase \$60,000 worth of cotton in the upper Red River, Texas, as an investment for the Planters' Bank.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Dempsey Weaver

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| 1815 | Born – Chatham County, North Carolina |
| 1825 | Moved with family to Tennessee and settled in what is now Marshall County; he worked on his father's farm as a young boy; educated in local country school |
| 1835 | Entered the mercantile business |
| 1836 | Offered a clerkship in Nashville, Tennessee, in a produce and commercial house at a salary of \$150 a year |
| 1839 | Married Mary Johnson |
| 1842 | Formed a partnership with James Johnson in mercantile business |
| 1844 | Married Frances King (1823-1889), daughter of Thomas Sewell King (1786-1851) |
| 1854 | Made Cashier of the Planters' Bank, one of the three great antebellum banks of Tennessee |
| 1865 | Bank compelled to liquidate; Dempsey Weaver made trustee and receiver |
| 1880 | Died – Nassau, The Bahamas, where he had gone for his health |

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Thomas Shadrack Weaver

1850	Born – “Kingsley”, Murfreesboro Pike, Davidson County, Tennessee
1870	Graduated from Washington College, Lexington, Virginia
1871	Attended Cumberland University Law School, Lebanon, Tennessee
1871?	Married Martha Strong Cheatham
1874	Counselor at Law
1894	Appointed Clerk and Master of Chancery Court, Nashville, Tennessee, for a term of six years
1911	Died – Nashville, Tennessee

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Accounts, bills, notes, receipts – 1859-1904
2. Arlington Church – D. Weaver, Treasurer of Church Fund – 1873
3. Correspondence – business – 1858-1876
4. Correspondence – cotton market – 1859-1874
5. Correspondence – Ewing, Edwin H. – 1863
6. Correspondence – Ewing, Orville – 1857-1860
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8. Correspondence – miscellaneous – 1853-1911
9. Correspondence – Weaver, Thomas S. – 1867-1871
10. Correspondence – Woolwine, Fanny – 1868-1874
11. Equitable Fire Insurance Company, Nashville – 1875
12. King, Thomas S. – estate administrator – 1837-1858
13. Miscellaneous accounts – King family – 1820-1860
14. Lawsuits – 1865, 1875
15. Legal documents – 1845-1863
16. Annual examinations – Mill Creek Circuit – 1846
17. Miscellaneous – 1857-1967
18. Letter and documents – Pillow, Gideon J. – 1866-1871
19. Papers – Planters' Bank of Tennessee – 1857-1875
20. Record book – Pleasant Grove Church – 1847-1848

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