

JOSIAH CONLEY COLLECTION

Accession Number 22
1835-1865 and undated
1 box (.5 linear foot)

Provenance: This collection of personal papers was found among county records returned from the Paul Fink Collection to the archives by the McClung Historical Collection, Knoxville, Tenn., on August 26, 2019. In July 2020, the papers were processed as a separate manuscript collection.

Access Note: The papers are available for research use.

Biographical Note: Josiah Conley was born November 30, 1804 in Washington County, Tennessee, the son of John Conley and Agnes Stuart. He married Mary Ann Allison on August 4, 1829 in Washington County, and they were the parents of nine children. Mary Ann died in 1852, and Josiah died on December 7, 1865. He is buried in the Fairview Cemetery in Washington County.

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of personal letters, receipts, notes and accounts documenting the life of Josiah Conley. The collection is arranged alphabetically by document type and then chronologically.

Important subjects include:

Conley family
Conley, Josiah

Box and Folder/Item List

Folder 1: Account lists: 1835, 1837, 1844, 1845, 1846 (2), 1847 (2), 1854 (2), 1857, 1858, and undated (3).

Folder 2: Personal letters, 1853-1865 and undated.

- Letter to Josiah Conley from L. W. Duncan, May 1853.
- Letter to Josiah Conley from “your friend,” July 1853.
- Letter to Josiah Conley from R. G. Stuart, January 1854.
- Letter to Josiah Conley from [illegible] Stuart, September 1854.
- Letter to Josiah Conley (“Brother and family”) from Sam Conley, October 1854.
- Letter to Josiah Conley from William G. Stuart, November 1854.
- Letter to “Dear Sir” from James G. Stuart, January 1855.
- Letter to Josiah Conley from M. C. Russell, February 1855.
- Letter to Josiah Conley from James G. Stuart, March 1855.
- Letter to Josiah Conley from David Stuart, July 1855.
- Letter to “Dear Brother” from Samuel Conley, November 1855.
- Letter to Josiah Conley from R. G. Stuart, December 1855.
- Letter to Josiah Conley from J. C. Stuart, February 1857,

- Letter to “Dear Brother & Family” from unknown, presumed to be his Conley’s brother, Samuel Conley, April 1857.
- Letter to Josiah Conley from R. E. Thompson, November 1858.
- Letter to Josiah Conley from W. M. Vaughn asking his assistance in getting him brought home from the war so that he could get his crops planted, March 1863.
- Letter to Josiah Conley from Smith Lofland, August 1865.
- Letter to “Father” from N. A. C., undated.
- Document mailed to Conley from R. A. Conley describing the agricultural conditions in an unknown area, presumably west of Tennessee, undated.

Folder 3: Promissory notes: 1826, 1845, 1846, 1852 (2), 1854, and 1855. One note with no signature is dated 1889.

Folder 4: Receipts for notes: 1821, 1826, 1830, 1833, 1836, 1838, 1839, 1841, 1845, 1848, 1850, 1854 (5).

Folder 5: State vs. Skelton McCray, Kit M. Genny (alias Taylor), and Jink Taylor, a man of color, the slave of Henry Taylor court case document, 1853 (copy). Warrant for the arrest of the three defendants, who are accused of stabbing and mortally wounding a “fine bull, the property of s^d Conley...”, July 19, 1853. The original document was removed to Circuit Court case files, RG3.B, 1853: State vs. Skelton McCray, Kit M. Genny (alias Taylor) and Jink Taylor, a man of color, the slave of Henry Taylor.

Folder 6: Tax receipts for payments: 1843, 1844, 1845, 1851, and 1855.

Folder 7: Miscellaneous documents, undated.