

GEORGE M. BRITTON COLLECTION

1817 – 1924

Collection Number: MSS 052

Size: .84 linear feet

Special Collections and University Archives

Jean and Alexander Heard Library

Vanderbilt University

Nashville, Tennessee

GEORGE M. BRITTON COLLECTION

1817 - 1924

Biography/History

George Mellinger Britton [1947 -] received a B.A. degree in 1969 in Political Science from Vanderbilt University. His wife, Shelley Guilford Roberts Britton also attended Vanderbilt. He became a broker in Houston, Texas, collecting rare manuscripts and maps. He has also donated materials, relative to the Early Republic of Texas to Rice University, University of Houston, and the University of Texas.

The collection is comprised of four parts: first, documents of the Republic of Texas, 1837-1845; second, the early documents of Tennessee, 1817-1862; third, Senate and House broadsides from 1835-1848, and finally scrapbooks relative to the American Civil War, 1860-1865.

The collection was donated to Special Collections, during the 1980s by Mr. and Mrs. George M. Britton.

Scope and Contents

This .84 linear feet collection is divided into four series:

Series I contains documents related of the Republic of Texas. These include writs, petitions, and briefs from 1837-1845 regarding persons originally from the State of Tennessee who played a key role in Texas history. The files are alphabetical.

Series II contains pamphlets relating to the history of Tennessee from 1817-1862. Topics are varied by include: vacant lands, presidential candidates, party organizations, tariffs, government expenditures, and foreign relations. The files are chronological.

Series III contains original United States Senate and U.S. House of Representatives broadsides from the 24th through the 30th Congresses in Washington, D.C., relating to the state of Tennessee, from 1835-1848. The Bills cover increases in pensions, invalid pension rolls, payment for horses, establishment of a Marine Hospital at Memphis, and work on the Cumberland Road. The files are chronological.

Series IV contains letters, speeches, circulars, broadsides, monographs, reports, and bills relating to the American Civil War, 1860-1865. The collection was originally assembled as two scrapbooks, on self-adhesive pages but with a backing for each item. The two scrapbooks chronicle the Civil War from beginning to end. The original order of materials has been maintained.

Box I

Series I – Republic of Texas

1. Anderson, Kenneth L., Tennessee jurist who immigrated to Texas in 1829.
June Term 1842. Petition on behalf of Burwell J. Thompson to the Probate Court, filing three part protest to the appointment of John C. Brook as Administrator of the estate of Ephraim Talley. Signed by Anderson as attorney. Anderson was District Attorney of the Fifth Texas Judicial District in 1843 and Vice-President of the Republic in 1844.
2. Chance, Joseph L., Texas jurist born in Tennessee July 4, 1800. Washington County. September 25, 1837. Petition for letters of Administration for Estates of Ewing and Young Caruthers who fell “in the massacre of Mayor Ward’s Battalion in the spring of 1836.” A delegate to the 1833 Convention, Chance was a Captain of Texas Volunteers during the Texas Revolution.
3. Dyer, Clement C., Texas jurist and magistrate born in Dyersburg, Tennessee, January 29, 1800. Fort Bend County, April 4, 1845. Signed as Chief Justice certifying interrogations in the case of Noah Woods vs Harriet Canfield. Dyer, one of the original OLD 300 Colonist of Texas and pioneer Fort Bend settler, was justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic.
4. Gant, William W., Texas jurist born in Tennessee in January 1809. Washington, Texas, February 1840. Signed as attorney. Receipt to Shubal Marsh for legal fee for writing petition for “prolongation of time.” Gant fought at San Jacinto and served in the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Congresses. He was killed by Indians in 1840 and the first memorial of the Texas Bar was published in his honor.
5. Heard, William Jones Elliot, Texas jurist and legislator born in Knoxville, Tennessee on August 16, 1801. Colorado County, September 24, 1838. Signed as Judge of Probate. Appointment of Basil Illiams as Administrator of the Estate of Robert Cunningham. Heard, a captain at the Battle of San Jacinto, was Chief Justice of Wharton County in 1839.

6. Houston, Samuel, Texas jurist, political and military leader, Governor of Tennessee. April 28, 1838. Texas Revolution claim document, payment of which is declined by Houston whilst President of the Republic. Houston served as President, Senator and Governor of Texas and let the Texan victory against Santa Ana at the Battle of San Jacinto.
7. Mayfield, James S., Texas jurist and legislator born in Tennessee in 1809. Fayette County, September 29, 1845. Signed Mayfield and Crutcher, attorneys. Petition for James Callison, auditor for the estate of Jasper A. Sargeant. Mayfield served in the 5th and 6th Republic of Texas Congresses and introduced the Franco-Texienne Bill. He was secretary of State under President Lamar.
8. Oldham, Williamson Simpson, Texas jurist and legislator born in Franklin County, Tennessee on July 19, 1813. Washington County, July 1842. Petition, as executor for extension of time in settling the Estate of James Bowie, who was killed in the Alamo. Oldham, a fire brand secessionist and enemy of Sam Houston, represented Texas in the Confederate Congress. In 1859 he published "A Digest of the General Statute Laws of the State of Texas."
9. Reed, Henry, Texas jurist born in Tennessee on November 10, 1800. Franklin, April 24, 1845. Signed as Chief Justice. Interrogations in the case of Barron vs Hill regarding mortgaged slaves. Reed fought in the Battle of San Jacinto and was first Chief Justice of Robertson County and a member of the Supreme Court of the Republic.
10. Roddy, Ephraim, Texas jurist and magistrate born in Tennessee in 1793. Washington, July 23, 1838. Signed as attorney for McKinney and Williams in suit against D. P. Woodlief, for default on note, Roddy was a delegate to the convention of 1833 and was first Magistrate of Washington, after annexation.
11. Scurry, Richardson, A., Texas jurist and legislator born at Gallatin, Tennessee on November 11, 1811. Montgomery, November 29, 1840, Character witness for Pleasant Gray accepted as evidence in suit. Scurry, a brilliant attorney, fought in the Battle of San Jacinto, was District Attorney of the 5th Judicial District, Judge of the 6th District and a member of the Supreme Court.

12. Terrell, George W., Texas jurist who served as Attorney General under Tennessee Governor Sam Houston. May 14, 1844. Authentication of signature of Samuel Nelson in the case of Nelson vs Nelson. Terrell , a friend of Sam Houston was Attorney General in Tennessee when Houston was Governor. Migrating to Texas he was District Attorney of San Augustine in 1837, and later Attorney General of the Republic of Texas.

Series II- Pamphlets

1. Tennessee. Report of the select committee appointed on the 20th instant, on a memorial of the legislature of North Carolina, remonstrating against the act of Congress, passed in the year 1806, “authorizing the State of Tennessee to issue grants and perfect titles to certain lands therein described, and to settle the claims to the vacant and unappropriated lands within the same.” North Carolina, January 28, 1817.
2. Tennessee. Speeches of Mr. White of Tennessee, delivered in the Senate of the U.S., June 1832 on the Bill to re-charter the Bank of the United States. Washington 1832.
3. Tennessee. Disposal of Vacant Lands. Memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, in relation to the disposal of vacant Lands. Washington, April 9, 1838.
4. Tennessee. Letter of the Hon. Hugh L. White to the Legislature of Tennessee on declining to obey certain of their Resolutions of Instruction, and Resigning the Office of Senator of the United States. Washington 1840.
5. Tennessee. The Governor’s Message: Delivered in the House of Representatives on the 3rd October, 1843. Nashville 1843.
6. Tennessee. Speech of Mr. M. P. Gentry, of Tennessee on the Tariff delivered in the House of Representatives of the U.S., July 2, 1846.
7. Tennessee. Report: The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the “memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, asking a cession and relinquishment of the lands south and west of the congressional reservation line, and an appropriation

in behalf of the West Tennessee College, at Jackson,” according to order, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report: Washington, January 27, 1846.

8. Tennessee. Speech of Hon. H. L. Turney, of Tennessee on the Tennessee Resolutions delivered in the Senate of the United States, February 18, 1846.
9. Tennessee. Speech of Hon. George W. Jones, of Tennessee on the Bill to provide for the better Organization of the Treasury and for the collection, safe-keeping, transfer, and disbursement of the Public Revenue. Washington 1846.
10. Tennessee. Speech of Mr. Stanton, of Tennessee on the Smithsonian Bill delivered in the House of Representatives, April 22, 1846.
11. Tennessee. Speech of Hon. L. B. Chase, of Tennessee on the Tariff delivered in the House of Representatives, June 26, 1846.
12. Tennessee. Speech of Mr. Ewing, of Tennessee on the Tariff delivered in the House of Representatives, June 27, 1846.
13. Tennessee. Speech of Hon. M. P. Gentry, of Tennessee on Presidential Candidates, Party Organizations delivered in the House of Representatives, June 14, 1852.
14. Tennessee. Speech of Hon. John H. Savage, of Tennessee on the Old Soldiers' Pension Bill; delivered in the House of Representatives, December 16, 1858.
15. Tennessee. Speech of Hon. J. D. C. Atkins, of Tennessee, on the Position and Tendency of Parties delivered in the House of Representatives, January 24, 1859.
16. Tennessee. Speech of Hon. William T. Avery, of Tennessee, on Our Foreign Relations delivered in the House of Representatives, January 24, 1859.
17. Tennessee. Speech of Hon. Samuel A. Smith, of Tennessee, on Government Expenditures; delivered in the House of Representatives, January 31, 1859.

18. Tennessee. Speech of Mr. Grundy, of Tennessee, on Mr. Foot's Resolution, proposing an inquiry into the expediency of abolishing The office of Surveyor General of Public Lands, and discontinuing Further surveys delivered in the Senate of the United States, February 29, 1830.
19. Tennessee. Speech of Hon. W. B. Stokes, of Tennessee, on the Election of Speaker, delivered in the House of Representatives, January 7, 1860.
20. Tennessee. The Constitutionality and Rightfulness of Secession. Speech of Hon. Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, in the Senate of the United States, December 18 and 19, 1860.
21. Tennessee. Corruptions in the Navy Department. Speech of Hon. Robert Hatton, of Tennessee in the House of Representatives, June 13, 1860.
22. Tennessee. Let Us Remain One People! An Appeal to the North. Speech of Hon. Horace Maynard, of Tennessee, in the House of Representatives, February 6, 1861.
23. Tennessee. Speech of Hon. Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, on the State of the Union; delivered in the Senate of the United States, February 5 and 6, 1861.
24. Tennessee. Speech of Hon. Horace Maynard, of Tennessee, of the Claim of Joseph Segar to a Seat in the House; delivered in the House of Representatives, February 11, 1862.
25. Tennessee. Impeachment of West H. Humphreys, Judge of the United States District Court of Tennessee, March 4, 1862.

Series III – House and Senate Broadides

1. United States Senate, Washington, D.C., December 21, 1835, S. 9. A Bill for the Relief of John McCartney of Tennessee for cattle taken by "troops in the service of the United States."

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2. U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., January 2, 1839, H.R. 960. A Bill for the Relief of Isaac Justis, of Tennessee, placed on the roll of invalid pensioners by the Secretary of War.
3. U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., January 2, 1839, H.R. 953. A Bill for the benefit of Thomas Collins of the State of Tennessee, placed on the roll of invalid pensioners by the Secretary of war.
4. U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., January 2, 1839, H.R. 966. A Bill for the Relief of William Smith, of Lincoln County, Tennessee, placed on the roll of revolutionary pensioners by the Secretary.
5. U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., January 26, 1839, H.R. 1086. A Bill extending the provisions of the act entitled "An Act to Amend an Act Entitled" An act to provide for payment of Horses lost or destroyed in the military service of the United States."
6. U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., February 16, 1839, H.R. 1156. A Bill granting a pension to Randolph Carter of the State of Tennessee, placed on the roll of invalid pensioners by the Secretary of War.
7. U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., December 31, 1844, H.R. 485. A Bill for the benefit of Arthur R. Frogge of Fentress County, Tennessee placed on the invalid pension roll by the Secretary of War.
8. U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., January 28, 1845, H.R. 558. A Bill for the Benefit of Joseph Craigmiles, of the State of Tennessee, placed on the invalid pensioner's roll by the Secretary of War.
9. U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., January 28, 1845, H.R. 555. A Bill to pay Captain John B. Croner;s Company of Mounted Volunteers, Tennessee Militia.
10. United States Senate, Washington, D.C., February 13, 1845, S. 129. A Bill for the relief of General John Cocke of Tennessee.

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11. U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., February 15, 1845, H.R. 625. A Bill granting a pension to James Davidson of Fentress County, Tennessee placed on the roll of invalid pensioners by the Secretary of War.
12. U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., January 8, 1846, H.R. 45. A Bill for the relief of Joseph M. Rhea, of the County of Sullivan, in the State of Tennessee placed on the roll of invalid pensioners by the Secretary of War.
13. U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., July 13, 1846, H.R. 500. A Bill for the establishment of a Marine Hospital at Memphis.
14. United States Senate, Washington, D.C., February 12, 1847, S. 138. A Bill for the relief of General Robert Armstrong.
15. U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., February 21, 1848, H.R. 230. A Bill to increase the pension of Henry Click of Cocke County, Tennessee.
16. U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., February 29, 1848, H.R. 244. A Bill for the relief of Daniel Steenrod of Tennessee for extra work on the Cumberland Road.
17. U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., May 16, 1848, H.R. 478. A Bill for the relief of Archibald Beard, and twenty-one Other Tennessee Mounted Volunteers.

Box II

Series IV - Scrapbooks

Scrapbook #1

- | | |
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| Page 1 | Confederate Battlefield
Broadside - tinted |
| Page 2 | Address to the Anti-Slavery Christians of the United States
Pamphlet - 1852. |

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- Page 3 Slave Approaching Abraham Lincoln
 Broadside – black and white – n.d.
- Page 4 An Examination of the Mosaic Laws of Servitude
 Pamphlet - by William Jay, 1854.
- Page 5 Statue of Abraham Lincoln
 Broadside – black and white – n.d.
- Page 6 Is Slavery Sanctioned By The Bible?
 Pamphlet – by Isaac Allen, 1860.
- Page 7 A Sumter Casemate During the Bombardment:
 Broadside – black and white – n.d.
- Page 8 Extracts From The American Slave Code
 Pamphlet – No.1, 1860.
- Page 9 Jefferson Davis
 Broadside – black and white – n.d.
- Page 10 Reply of Hon. Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, to the
 Speech of Senator Douglas, in the U. S. Senate,
 May 16 and 17, 1860.
- Page 11 Fatal Wounding of Stonewall Jackson
 Broadside – black and white – 1867
- Page 12 Speech of Hon Robert Toombs on “The Crisis”
 Delivered Before the Georgia Legislature,
 December 7, 1860.
- Page 13 Panic of the Union Troops at Bull Run
 Broadside – black and white – n.d.
- Page 14 An Ordinance – Providing for the Election of Electors of
 President and Vice President of the Confederate States –
 Broadside – 1860.
- Page 15 The Rock of Chickamauga
 Broadside – black and white – n.d.

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- Page 16 Ayer's American Almanac
 Pamphlet – 1861.
- Page 17 Death of Albert Sidney Johnston
 Broadside – black and white – n.d.
- Page 18 Letter to Hon Reverdy Johnson on the Proceeding at the
 Meeting, held at Maryland Institute – January 10, 1861,
- Page 19 Robert E. Lee
 Broadside – black and white – n.d.
- Page 20 Adjutant and Inspector General's Office - Richmond
 General Orders No. 3 – February 6, 1865.
- Page 21 Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg
 Broadside – black and white – n.d.
- Page 22 Circular Instruction, No. 2
 Memminger, C. G., Secretary of Treasury
 Confederate States of America, Treasury Department
 March 8, 1861.
- Page 23 Robert E. Lee
 Broadside – black and white – n.d.
- Page 24 Circular Instruction, No. 1
 Memminger, C. G., Secretary of Treasury
 Confederate States of America, Treasury Department
 March 6, 1861.
- Page 25 Soldiers in Battle
 Broadside – black and white – n.d.
- Page 26 Treasury Circular, No. 6
 Memminger, C. G., Secretary of the Treasury
 Confederate States of America, Treasury Department
 Montgomery, April 5, 1861.
- Page 27 Group of Confederate Prisoners being Marched to the Rear
 Broadside – black and white – n.d.

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- Page 28 Treasury Circular, No. 7
Memminger, C. G., Secretary of Treasury
Confederate States of America, Treasury Department
Montgomery, April 5, 1861.
- Page 29 Richmond and Vicinity
Broadside – map – black and white – n.d.
- Page 30 Treasury Circular, No. 8
Memminger, C. G., Secretary of Treasury
Confederate States of America, Treasury Department
April 10, 1861.

Scrapbook #2

- Page 1 Confederate Soldiers
Broadside – tinted – n.d.
- Page 2 Treasury Department
Memminger, C. G., Secretary of Treasury
Confederate States of America
- Page 3 Richmond During the Evacuation
Broadside – black and white – 1897
- Page 4 Treasury Circular, No. 10
Memminger, C. G., Secretary of Treasury
Confederate States of America, Treasury Department
Richmond, June 7, 1861.
- Page 5 Confederate and Union Soldiers
Broadside – black and white – n.d.
- Page 6 Treasury Circular, No. 11
Memminger, C. G., Secretary of Treasury
Confederate States of America, Treasury Department
Richmond, August 8, 1861.
- Page 7 Grant's Attack on Fort Donelson
Broadside – black and white – n.d.

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- Page 8 Treasury Circular, No. 12
Mimminger, C. G., Secretary of Treasury
Confederate States of America, Treasury Department
Richmond, September 21, 1861.
- Page 9 W. T. Sherman
Broadside – black and white – n.d.
- Page 10 The Causes of the American Civil War
Pamphlet - by John Lothrop Motley, 1861.
- Page 11 The Cavalry Fight at Brandy Station
Broadside – black and white – 1897
- Page 12 Treasury Circular
Memminger, C. G., Secretary of Treasury
Confederate State of America, Treasury Department
February 6, 1862.
- Page 13 General Grant Reconnoitering in the Rain at Belmont
Broadside – black and white – n.d.
- Page 14 The War: Its Cause and Cure
Speech of Hon. William M. Davis, of Penn.,
In the House of Representatives, March 6, 1862.
- Page 15 The Battle of Atlanta
Broadside – black and white – n.d.
- Page 16 The Rebellion: Its Origin, and the Means of Suppressing It
Speech of Hon. Jno. T. Nixon, of New Jersey
In the House of Representatives, April 11, 1862.
- Page 17 Grant's Arrival on the Battlefield
Broadside – black and white – n.d.
- Page 18 The Future Civilization of the South
Sermon by Edward E. Hale
South Congregational Church, Boston
April 18, 1862.

