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William S. Bennett family papers

Title: William S. Bennett family papers
Collection No: MSS.301
Extent: 0.25 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1852-1904

Abstract: The collection comprises receipts, deeds and promissory notes of the William S. Bennett family of Randolph County, Arkansas.

Processed by: Beverly Crawford and Gerald Chaudron, March 2018.
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: William S. Bennett family papers, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: March 2018

Biographical information

William Sorrow Bennett (1841-1891) was born in DeKalb County, Tennessee, to Harrison (1814-1867) and Sarah Hines Bennett (1817-1879). The family was listed in the 1850 census of Smith County, Tennessee, and in the 1860 census of Ripley County, Missouri. Both Harrison and William Bennett served in the Missouri Infantry during the Civil War. William married Susan Hufsteadler (1841-1917) in 1867 and by the 1870 census he was farming in Eleven Point, Randolph County, Arkansas, with two children. By 1880, the couple had five children together – John Harrison, Minnie, Margaret, Harriet, and William Henry. Bennett died in 1891 and was buried in Shiloh Cemetery in Randolph County. Susan Bennett apparently stayed on the land and the tax receipts through 1903 show her name. In 1901, she filed for a Confederate widow's pension based on her husband's service. Susan Bennett died in 1917 and was also buried in Shiloh Cemetery.

Scope and contents

The collection includes property deeds, tax notices, promissory notes, receipts for repayments of promissory notes, payments for supplies such as cottonseeds, tax payments, payments on accounts, occasional payments to doctors, and masonic lodge dues. Some of the receipts indicate that payment was made in cotton. Correspondence includes a letter from Bennett's brother, letters to and from the Department of the Interior regarding land purchases, and a letter of condolence to his widow from Bennett's masonic lodge.

Subject terms

Bennett, William S., 1841-1891.
Randolph County (Ark.)

Inventory

Folder

Box 1

- 1 Correspondence, 1890-1891. Letter to William Bennett from brother John Paradise Bennett (1849-1931); letter to Susan Bennett from nephew Martin McClain.
- 2 Randolph Lodge No. 71, Free and Accepted Masons, 1870-1891. Includes incomplete copy of bylaws, receipts and a letter and resolution on the death of William Bennett.
- 3 Military land warrant, Jackson, Missouri, 1852. Claim by Harrison Bennith [sic] on

- behalf of Elizabeth Booker for 80 acres.
- 4 Deeds and other documents re: land, 1871-1891.
 - 5 Receipts, promissory notes, 1871-1891.
 - 6 Receipts, 1891-1899.
 - 7 Receipts re: estate of Sarah H. Bennett, 1880-1881.
 - 8 Receipts: John H. Bennett, 1887-1894.
 - 9 Tax receipts, 1870-1878.
 - 10 Tax receipts, 1869-1904.
 - 11 Tax receipts, 1881-1887. Non-Bennett family names include M.D. Borons or Bawer?,
Elish Davis.
 - 12 Miscellany, 1892 and undated.
 - 13 Cotton bags (2) that held the collection.