

A Guide to the George W. Janney Collection, 1804-1884

George W. Janney Collection, 1804-1884
1804-1884



A Collection in Thomas Balch Library M 093, BV 010
Thomas Balch Library
2014

History

Processed by: Donna Jamison and Elizabeth E. Preston

Title Statement

A Guide to the George W. Janney Collection, 1804-1884

Subtitle: George W. Janney Collection

Collection: M 093, BV 010

Author: Elizabeth E. Preston

Publication Statement

Date: © 2014 By Thomas Balch Library. All rights reserved.

Publisher: Thomas Balch Library

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record, created by Elizabeth E. Preston, 17 April 2014

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Collection number

M 093, BV 010

Language

English

Abstract

The collection is made up of the business and personal papers of George W. Janney. The business papers contain accounts and inventories from various stores, court records, tax and insurance information, and paperwork from the settlement of his father's estate. Included is Janney's business correspondence, which contains information about purchasing wholesale goods for his stores, transporting goods, settling debts and collecting on debts owed to him, and negotiating prices. There are 20 account books in the collection from various stores and from the Loudoun and Berlin Bridge Company. Also included in the collection are papers relating to Janney's family, the education of his children, his appointments as postmaster, and involvement in fraternal groups, as well as some personal correspondence.

Creator

George W. Janney (1821-1873)

Extent

3 cu. ft. and 20 volumes.

Repository

Thomas Balch Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open for research.

Use Restrictions

Physical characteristics and conditions affect use of this material. Photocopying not permitted.

Acquisition Information

Esther Cowart, Hamilton, VA

Processing Information

Donna Jamison and Elizabeth E. Preston, 31 March 2014

Preferred Citation

George W. Janney Collection (M 093), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Accruals

1994.0001

Alternative Form Available

None

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Separated Material

None

Related Material

None

Bibliography

Between Reb and Yank: A Civil War History of Northern Loudoun County, Virginia

Confederate Papers Relating to Citizens or Business Firms, 1861-1865. Fold3 (www.footnotelibrary.com accessed 7 April 2014).

Federal Census, 1860 and 1870. Ancestry Library edition, (www.ancestrylibrary.com accessed 3 April 2014).

FindAGrave (www.findagrave.com accessed 3 April 2014).

Union Cemetery Leesburg, Loudoun County, Virginia: Plats A & B, 1784-1995

George W. Janney Collection (M 093), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Other Finding Aid

None

Technical Requirements

None

Biographical Information

George Wells Janney (1 September 1821-26 October 1873) was born near Hamilton, Virginia to John Janney (1788-1850) and Susan Wells Janney (1790-1822). His father was a storekeeper and businessman with stores in Hamilton and Evansville (in what is now West Virginia). Janney joined his father in business, and in the 1840s they began businesses in Gainsboro, VA, Wardensville, VA (now WV), and Berlin (now Brunswick), Maryland. Janney traded in agricultural products, such as guano, farm implements, and seed, as well as dry goods like fabric, household items, and hardware. He bought much of his supply of goods from merchants in Baltimore, and spent considerable time there.

He married Mary Compher (1822-1913), from the Lovettsville area, on 31 December 1844. He had been courting her for some time, but Mary's mother did not approve of the match and the couple eloped to Frederick, MD. The Janneys had seven children, including John Compher Janney (1851-1880) who became a treasurer of the town of Hamilton.

Janney's father died in 1850, leaving him to administer his estate and take over operations of all the businesses. Janney appears to have sold his father's interest in the Evansville store, but continued to maintain the Hamilton store. His family moved house with some regularity, living in Hamilton, Barry (MD), Berlin (MD), and Baltimore (MD). In the 1850s he served as an officer in the Loudoun and Berlin Bridge Company; Janney was appointed postmaster of Barry, MD in 1851 and Hamilton in 1859.

He did not serve in the Civil War, but his sympathies were with the Confederacy. When the Confederate government reappointed postmasters in Loudoun County, Janney kept his position in Hamilton. He did occasionally own slaves, but they usually came to his household as part of a business transaction with someone liquidating his estate or paying debts to Janney, who would then sell them quickly. Janney regularly hired slaves from nearby farms when he needed labor or household help. Despite his known sympathies and trade with the Confederate forces, Janney was able to secure passes from the US Provost Marshal to cross the Potomac River at Point of Rocks, MD, and engaged in trade with the US Army. In 1863 he signed an oath of allegiance to the United States, which he reaffirmed at the conclusion of the Civil War.

After the Civil War, Janney's business ventures saw continued success. He began working with partners in many of his stores. The store in Hamilton was known as Janney & Slaymaker as well as VanDevanter & Janney; a business in Baltimore was known first as Ridenour, Janney & Co., then Janney, Jordan & Co. He invested in a real estate venture in Pana, Illinois. Janney was an active member of the International Order of Odd Fellows and a founding member of the Hamilton-Thompson Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. At their organizational meeting on 5 May 1868, Janney was appointed "Worshipful Master."

Janney died unexpectedly, after a short illness, while in Baltimore on 26 October 1873. His wife, Mary, lived until 1913. They are both buried in Union Cemetery in Leesburg.

Scope and Content

The collection is made up of the business and personal papers of George W. Janney. The business papers contain accounts and inventories from various stores, court records, tax and insurance information, and paperwork from the settlement of his father's estate. Included is Janney's business correspondence, which contains information about purchasing wholesale goods for his stores, transporting goods, settling debts and collecting on debts owed to him, and negotiating prices. Many bills, notes, and receipts survive, documenting Janney's purchases and debts, as well as items bought at his establishments and monies owed to him. There are 20 account books in the collection from various stores and from the Loudoun and Berlin Bridge Company.

Also included in the collection are papers relating to Janney's family, the education of his children, his appointments as postmaster, and involvement in fraternal groups, as well as some personal correspondence. The personal correspondence is general in nature, mostly concerning small family matters. In the correspondence with Mary Compher Janney is the letter Janney wrote to Mary's mother after the couple

eloped. Also of interest is a letter from Dr. Eli Nathan Love (1820-1882). Dr. Love was driven out of Loudoun County because of his loyalty to the Union. His wife died while he was in exile, and Love wrote to Janney, whom he called a "bosom friend," on 5 October 1863 to thank him for kindnesses shown his wife.

NOTES: Formerly catalogued as NUCMC 64

Arrangement

Box: Folder

Contents List

M 093

Box 1

Folder 1: Accounts and Inventories, n.d.

Folder 2: Accounts and Inventories, 1846-1859

Folder 3: Accounts and Inventories, 1860-1866

Folder 4: Accounts and Inventories, 1867-1873

Folder 5: Act to Incorporate the Virginia and Maryland Railroad Company, 1870

Folder 6: Articles of Agreement, 1816-1849

Folder 7: Articles of Agreement, 1853-1874

Folder 8: Business Cards and Envelopes

Folder 9: Court Documents (summons, judgments), 1843-1872

Folder 10: Deeds, n.d., 1854-1870

Folder 11: Estate of George W. Janney, 1873-1874

Folder 12: Independent Order of Odd Fellows, 1847-1871

Folder 13: Insurance, 1853-1874

Box 2

Folder 1: Janney, Elizabeth: Will and Estate, 1804-1869

Folder 2: Janney, John: Accounts and Inventories for Evansville store, n.d., 1849-1850

Folder 3: Janney, John: Business Correspondence re: Evansville store, 1849-1850

Folder 4: Janney, John: Estate, 1847-1860

Folder 5: Janney, John: Will, 1831

Folder 6: Janney, John Compher (treasurer of Hamilton), n.d., 1876-1878

Folder 7: Janney, John Compher (treasurer of Hamilton), Payment Slips, 1876-1879

Folder 8: Oath of Amnesty, 1865

Folder 9: Payroll, 1871

Folder 10: Passes from the Office of the Provost Marshal, 1861-1863

Folder 11: Poetry and Writings, n.d.

Folder 12: Postmaster Appointment (Hamilton), 1861

Folder 13: Real Estate, Pana, IL, 1860s

Folder 14: School Receipts, 1850-1873

Folder 15: School Reports and Correspondence, 1870-1872

Folder 16: Tax Receipts, 1857-1874

Folder 17: Wells, Thomas (Fayette Co., PA): Will, 1825

Box 3

Folder 1: Correspondence, Personal, 1837-1839

Folder 2: Correspondence, Personal, 1840-1844

Folder 3: Correspondence, Personal, 1845-1846

Folder 4: Correspondence, Personal, 1847

Folder 5: Correspondence, Personal, 1848-1849

Folder 6: Correspondence, Personal, 1850-1855

Folder 7: Correspondence, Personal, 1856-1857

Folder 8: Correspondence, Personal, 1858-1859

Folder 9: Correspondence, Personal, 1860-1865

Folder 10: Correspondence, Personal, 1866-1869

Folder 11: Correspondence, Personal, 1870-1873

Folder 12: Correspondence, John Compher Janney, 1860-1878

Folder 13: Correspondence, Mary Janney, 1844-1868

Folder 14: Correspondence, Sarah Hamilton, 1853-1869

Box 4

Folder 1: Correspondence, Business, n.d.

Folder 2: Correspondence, Business, 1844-1848

Folder 3: Correspondence, Business, 1850

Folder 4: Correspondence, Business, 1851

Folder 5: Correspondence, Business, 1852

Folder 6: Correspondence, Business, 1853

Folder 7: Correspondence, Business, 1854

Folder 8: Correspondence, Business, 1855

Folder 9: Correspondence, Business, 1856

Folder 10: Correspondence, Business, 1857

Folder 11: Correspondence, Business, 1858

Folder 12: Correspondence, Business, 1859

Folder 13: Correspondence, Business (Gov. Francis Thomas), 1859

Folder 14: Correspondence, Business, 1860

Folder 15: Correspondence, Business, 1861-1864

Folder 16: Correspondence, Business, 1865

Box 5

Folder 1: Correspondence, Business, January-August 1866

Folder 2: Correspondence, Business, September-December 1866

Folder 3: Correspondence, Business, January-June 1867

Folder 4: Correspondence, Business, July-December 1867

Folder 5: Correspondence, Business, 1868

Folder 6: Correspondence, Business, 1869

Folder 7: Correspondence, Business, January-May 1870

Folder 8: Correspondence, Business, June-December 1870

Folder 9: Correspondence, Business, 1871

Folder 10: Correspondence, Business, January-June 1872

Folder 11: Correspondence, Business, July-December 1872

Folder 12: Correspondence, Business, 1873

Folder 13: Correspondence, Business, 1874

Box 6

Folder 1: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, n.d.

Folder 2: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1828-1829

Folder 3: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1831-1839

Folder 4: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1840-1841

Folder 5: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1842-1843

Folder 6: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1844-1845

Folder 7: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1846

Folder 8: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1847

Folder 9: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1848

Folder 10: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1849

Folder 11: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1850

Folder 12: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1851

Folder 13: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1852

Folder 14: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1853-1854

Folder 15: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1855

Folder 16: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1856

Folder 17: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1857

Folder 18: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1858

Folder 19: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1859

Box 7

Folder 1: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, January-September 1860

Folder 2: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, October-December 1860

Folder 3: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, January-June 1861

Folder 4: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, July-December 1861

Folder 5: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1862

Folder 6: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1863-1864

Folder 7: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1865

Folder 8: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, January-May 1866

Folder 9: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, June-August 1866

Folder 10: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, September-October 1866

Folder 11: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, November-December 1866

Box 8

Folder 1: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, January-April 1867

Folder 2: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, May 1867

Folder 3: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, June-July 1867

Folder 4: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, August 1867

Folder 5: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, September-December 1867

Folder 6: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1868

Folder 7: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1869

Folder 8: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1870

Folder 9: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1871

Folder 10: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1872

Folder 11: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1873

Folder 12: Bills, Notes, and Receipts, 1874-1879

Box 9

Folder 1: Advertisements and Circulars, n.d.

Folder 2: Advertisements and Circulars, n.d.

Folder 3: Advertisements and Circulars, 1865-1867

Folder 4: Advertisements and Circulars, 1869-1871

BV 010

Volume 1: Customer Accounts, 1835

Volume 2: Wardensville (WV) store, Accounts, 1846-1850; Inventory of Stock, 15 October 1861; 3 April 1869

Volume 3: Gainsboro (VA) store, Customer Accounts, March 1846-October 1847; Wardensville (WV) store, Customer Accounts, March 1848-November 1848

Volume 4: Berlin (MD) store, Customer Accounts, 14 June 1848-7 November 1849

Volume 5: Customer Accounts, October 1848-September 1849

Volume 6: Wardensville (WV) store, Daybook, 1 November 1848-July 1851

Volume 7: Berlin (MD) store, Daybook, March 1851-August 1852

Volume 8: Bill Book of George W. Janney, 1851-1857

Volume 9: White and Janney, Wheat Book, 1 August 1851-31 August 1854; Janney and Hamilton, Wheat Book, 1 September 1854-8 January 1856

Volume 10: Loudoun and Berlin Bridge Company, Minutes of Shareholders, 15 February 1855-10 November 1859

Volume 11: Loudoun and Berlin Bridge Company, List of Shareholders; Payment Records, 1855-1860

Volume 12: Hamilton (VA) store, Daybook, March 1859-January 1861

Volume 13: Hamilton (VA) store, Daybook, 12 January 1861- 16 April 1861; 17 October 1865

Volume 14: Janney & Slaymaker, Customer Accounts, November 1865-August 1867

Volume 15: Janney & Slaymaker, Customer Accounts and Lists, 1865-1868

Volume 16: Janney & Slaymaker, Customer Accounts, January-November 1866

Volume 17: Janney & Slaymaker (Hamilton, VA), Daily Ledger, July 1866-September 1867

Volume 18: Janney & Slaymaker (Hamilton, VA) Daily Ledger, 16 November 1866-1 March 1867

Volume 19: Hamilton (VA) store, Daily Sales, 29 April 1874-15 January 1875

Volume 20: Account Book, 13 November 1875-20 December 1884; Cash Sale for Week, 16 October 1875-2 October 1880