Guide to the William Cooper diaries and photograph, 1864-1887

Title: William Cooper diaries and photograph
Creator: Cooper, William, 1802-1887
Extent: .5 linear foot
Inclusive Dates: 1864-1887
Collection Number: 0357
Processed by: Clark Center; updated by Donnelly Walton, 2006
Restricted: no
Copyright Statement: This collection may be protected under Title 17 of the U.S. Copyright Law.
Preferred Citation: William Cooper diaries and photograph, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama.
Reference Code: USALM0357
Language: English

ABSTRACT
The collection consists of six diaries for 1864, 1867, 1876, 1882, 1884, and 1887, and a photograph of Cooper, an attorney from Tuscumbia, Alabama, in his later years. The diaries contain daily entries made by Cooper and, in his absence from home, his wife, and give a great deal of information about the community, his activities, and his family.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE
William Cooper, lawyer, of Tuscumbia, Colbert County, Alabama, was born January 11, 1802 in Brunswick County, Virginia. His family moved to Nashville from Virginia in
1807 and later moved to Alabama. He was admitted to the bar in 1823 and practiced first at Russellville. In 1828 he moved to Tuscumbia. He represented the Choctaws in negotiating the Treaty of Pontotoc with the Federal government, served as bank commissioner from 1845 to 1847, and was a member of the Alabama Secession Convention.

He married, first, on November 12, 1824, Susan Henderson McCullock (died 1834). They had three children: Langston, died young; James Parks; and Jane Foster (married James Pettit). He and his second wife, Elizabeth Blocker, whom he married in 1836, had five children: John William; Susan Henderson (married W.A. Nelson); Sarah A. (married John Goodwin; Mollie R. (married Ben Winter); and Julie Francis (married E.R. Rather). Cooper married his third wife Mrs. Julia Plummer Blocker, December 27, 1869. They had no children.

William Cooper died August 16, 1887, in Tuscumbia, Alabama.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS:
The collection consists of six diaries and a photograph of Cooper in his later years. The diaries contain daily entries made by Cooper and his wife, and give a great deal of information about the community, his activities, and his family.

Many entries include small drawings, some in color. Information contained is mostly weather, but includes travels to Mississippi and Memphis, Tennessee, neighborhood news, births, deaths, and planting in his garden. The diary for 1864 was primarily kept by his wife, who made pencil entries from mid January until August. The remainder of the diary has few entries. A slip of paper laid in says, “All the pencil entries in diary 1864 made by our grand mother – Papa in Miss. valley looking after plantations and Negroes.” The entry for August 15, 1887 includes a notice (incorrect) of his death in his own hand. The entry is corrected the next day in his wife’s hand.

Additional Cooper diaries for the years 1832, 1865, 1872, and 1886 are located at the Southern Historical Collection Manuscripts Department, Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

CONTAINER LIST:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3058</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Diary for 1864</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Diary for 1867</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Diary for 1876</td>
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</table>
4  Diary for 1882
5  Diary for 1884
6  Diary for 1887
7  Photograph of William Cooper in later years.