Guide to the John K. and William M. Elliott daybooks
MSS.0482

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March 11, 2013
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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## Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Elliott, John K., 1813-1892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Elliott, William M., b. 1861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>John K. and William M. Elliott Daybooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>1870-1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>0.4 Linear feet (photocopies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Photocopies of the daybooks of John K. Elliott and his son, William M. Elliott, of the Payneville, Sumter County, Alabama area, spanning the years from 1870 through 1911.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Preferred Citation note

John K. and William M. Elliott daybooks, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama.
Biographical/Historical note

John K. (probably Knox) Elliott was a farmer and tanner in Sumter County, Alabama from the early 1850s until his death on 13 February 1892. He was born in Tennessee in 1813 to Andrew and Anne Knox Elliott. He moved to west central Alabama and then married Nancy O. Nowlen on 20 December 1854 in Perry County, Alabama. However, in his daybook for the date 25 August 1879, John states, “This day 29 years ago my first wife died,” which would imply she died in 1850, before they were married. Also the 1850 United States Census for Payneville, Sumter County, Alabama shows John and Nancy Elliott with three small children, Harriet (age 5), Susanna (age 3) and Nancy L.E. (age 8 months).

On 1 Jun 1857 John married Elizabeth (last name unknown) in Mississippi. The couple had seven more children, Martha (13 in 1870 census), John Luther (10), William (8), Anna (6), Calvin (4), Matthew (3) and Mary (1). The oldest son, John Luther, died 21 September 1878.

William was born in February 1861 and helped his father around their various properties by picking cotton, planting corn, and hauling rails for fences. He also helped in the tannery.

Scope and Contents note

This collection consists of photocopies of the daybooks of John K. Elliott and his son, William M. Elliott, of the Payneville, Sumter County, Alabama area, spanning the years from 1870 through 1911. Virtually all entries begin with a brief mention of the weather and then lists what workers went to which places and the work they were doing that day.

All of the earlier daybooks are those of John K. Elliott. In fact, almost all of the entries up to five days of his death at age 79 are in his hand-writing. William noted in his own daybook on 8 February 1892 that “Pa still coughing up very bad blood but knew everything and wanted his corn brought from the mill but would take very little nourishment but wanted me to write in his day book which I did.” And John was actively engaged in working his farms and tannery until a few months before his death.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama January 2009
Revision Description
March 2013

Conditions Governing Access note
None

Conditions Governing Use note
None

Provenance
Gift of Jonnie Knox Poole, 1990 OR Mrs. Thomas E. Seale

Processing Information note
Martha Bace, 2008; updated by Martha Bac, 2013

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

• Daybooks
• Diaries

Geographic Name(s)

• Sumter County (Ala.)

Subject(s)

• Alabama
• Business and Labor
• Cotton farmers--Alabama--History
• Daily Life and Family
• Farmers--Correspondence
• Farming and Agriculture
• Tanneries
# Collection Inventory

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