



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

WARNER, JAMES CARTWRIGHT (1830-1895)
PAPERS, 1873-1932

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INTRODUCTION

The James Cartwright Warner Papers (1873-1932) deal with life and times of James Cartwright Warner (1830-1895), businessman; member of General Assembly, 1861-1863; President of the Tennessee Manufacturing Company, 1876-1885; and President of the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company, 1882-1885. The papers were given to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Mrs. William Waller, granddaughter of James C. Warner.

The materials in this collection occupy .40 linear feet of shelf space. Literary rights to the unpublished writings of James Cartwright Warner Papers have been dedicated to the public. Single photocopies of unpublished writings may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The James Cartwright Warner Papers, containing approximately 150 items, span the years 1873-1932. The papers deal primarily with the iron and coal interests of James Cartwright Warner in Northern Georgia. The most valuable portion of the collection is comprised of fifty-four letters (1878-1879) between Joseph E. Brown, President of the Western and Atlantic Railroad, and James C. Warner, President of the Chattanooga Iron Company. There are a few letters in the collection from L. S. Colyar, E. M. Dodson, E. D. Graham, John L. Hopkins, George H. Hull, W. C. Morrill, W. Morrow, and P. G. Shook. In addition to the correspondence there are some accounts and some legal documents related almost entirely to the acquisition and sale of the Rising Fawn property (Dade County, Georgia), within the complex of the James C. Warner Company, the Walker Iron Company, and the Dade Coal Company in the years 1878-1882. A small amount of family correspondence, some accounts, Mrs. James Cartwright Warner's will and its execution report, and a memorial to Mrs. Warner make up the remainder of the collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James Cartwright Warner

- 1830 August 20 – Born in Gallatin, Sumner County, Tennessee. Great-grandson of Robert Cartwright who came to Nashville in 1780. He was the son of Elizabeth Cartwright and Jacob L. Warner. His father, Jacob L. Warner, was born in Buckingham County, Virginia in 1806 and moved to Sumner County while still a boy
- Attended school in Gallatin, Tennessee
- 1847-1851 Salesman in the wholesale grocery establishment of Shepherd & Gordon in Nashville, Tennessee
- 1851-1852 Employed by Kirkman and Ellis
- 1852 November 3 – Married Miss Mary Thomas Williams who lived 4 miles from Nashville, Tennessee on the Gallatin turnpike
- 1853-1861 Moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee and went into business on his own account. He was elected Mayor of Chattanooga during this period
- 1861-1865 Member of the General Assembly from the counties of Hamilton, Rhea, Sequatchie, and Bledsoe. He did not join the army because of poor health, but he endured many hardships during the War
- 1866 Cashier of the Bank of the Union
- 1875 Became Secretary of the Tennessee Coal and Railroad Company of which Colonel A. S. Colyar was president. In a few months he became General Manager and the coal output was increased. Iron industry made large advances under his management, new furnaces were built and others bought. The Chattanooga and Sewanee furnace at Cowan and those at Ensley, Alabama were built and also the Southern States; Coal, Iron, and Land Company; the Prat Mines; the Alice Furnace; the DeBardelaben Coal and Iron Company; and the Cahaba Coal Company
- 1876-1885 President of the Tennessee Manufacturing Company. Throughout this period he continued to increase the number of iron furnaces and other businesses

1882-1885 President of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company. Directors were Nat Baxter, Jr., Samuel J. Keath, John P. White, John P. Williams, A. S. Colyar, Thomas Steger, and George A. Washington

1885 October – Resigned because of ill health

1895 July 21 – Died at “Renraw,” his country home, and was buried at Mount Olivet, Nashville, Tennessee

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Accounts: Business memoranda – Minutes of meetings, Bond listings, etc. (17), 1878-1881
2. Accounts: Business records – Receipts (12), 1880-1882
3. Correspondence: Business A-Z (14), 1879-1897
4. Correspondence: Family (11), 1892-1932
5. Correspondence: Special – Brown, Joseph E., (26), 1878-1879
6. Correspondence: Special – Hopkins, John L. (13) 1878-1879
7. Correspondence: Special – Morrow, W. (4), 1878-1879
8. Correspondence: Special – Shook, P. G. (2), 1932
9. Correspondence: Special – Warner, James C. (Drafts) (28), 1878-1879
10. Legal documents: Iron and Coal Companies (5), 1879-1881
- 10 a. Accession number: 490
11. Printed matter: Bill incorporating Georgia iron
12. Warner, Mrs. J. C.: Accounts (5), 1905-1910
13. Warner, Mrs. J. C.: Will, memorial, and executors report (3), 1910