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William Bethell diary, 1845-1867

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William Bethell diary

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Finding aid prepared by the Arkansas State Archives

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Arkansas State Archives
One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas, 72201
501-682-6900
state.archives@arkansas.gov

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Summary Information

Repository	Arkansas State Archives
Title	William Bethell diary
Date [inclusive]	1845-1867
Extent	0.45 Cubic feet 1 box
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation

William Bethell diary, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Biographical/Historical Note

Dr. William Bethell was born in North Carolina on July 23, 1810 and in 1831 he married Elizabeth Adkins Brown in Stokes, North Carolina. William moved his family to Memphis, Tennessee, sometime in the 1840s where he faced personal tragedy. According to his diary, he and his wife lost two small boys and several slaves due to illness. After the loss of his children he was determined to leave Tennessee and he moved his family to Tulip Ridge, Dallas County, Arkansas, in February of 1845. Two years prior he had sent James Benton, along with two slaves, to build his homestead. Sometime before 1860, William moved his family to Des Arc, Prairie County, Arkansas, where he became involved in the local mason lodge. He died in Des Arc on February 23, 1867. William was a physician and a plantation owner in his lifetime.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains a diary that includes monthly accounts of the weather in Tulip Ridge and Des Arc, types and numbers of wild game hunted, list of crops planted, slaves sold and purchased, account of farm animals, William's opinion of the Civil War, stories of slave maltreatment, bible verses, and advice written from William for his children.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Arkansas State Archives 1/11/2017

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Sidney Bethell Fairchild, 1993.

Collection Inventory

Box

Doctor William Bethell diary

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