



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

**GOVERNOR ISHAM G. HARRIS**  
**(1818-1897)**  
**1857-1862**

**GP 19**

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**PARTIALLY MICROFILMED**

## INTRODUCTION

This finding aid covers the gubernatorial papers of Tennessee Governor Isham G. Harris, who served from 1875-1862. It consists of five boxes and two oversized folders. Document types include correspondence, petitions for pardons, pardons, monthly sick report, messages to the legislature, resignations, and bank drafts.

In July 2020, archival staff moved items from Box 3, Folder 10, to Oversize Folder 2. These are Provisional Army of Tennessee sick reports from Nashville General Hospital as well as monthly sick reports from Camp Brown, Camp Cheatham, Camp Trousdale, Fort Henry, and Fort Pillow from June, July, and August 1861. What remains is a typewritten list of casualties for the Provisional Army of Tennessee.

Five bank drafts joined the collection on a later date and do not appear on the microfilm. Drafts are valued at \$3,600, \$1,628, \$1,520, \$1,760, and \$2,220, dated September 1860 to February 1861, and signed by Governor Isham G. Harris (B. 4, f. 2).

There are no restrictions on the use of the materials, and researchers may make copies of individual items for individual or scholarly use.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

### **Governor Isham G. Harris**

- 1818 Born February 10, the youngest of nine children of Isham Green and Lucy (Davidson) Harris, near Tullahoma, Franklin County, Tennessee.
- 1832 Moved to Paris, Henry County, Tennessee. Worked as a clerk in a mercantile and studied law.
- 1841 Admitted to the bar in 1841.
- 1843 Married Martha Travis, there were eight children from this marriage.
- 1847 Elected to the State Senate where he served until 1849 representing Henry, Obion and Weakley Counties.
- 1848 Served as presidential elector for the Democratic ticket of Lewis Cass.
- 1849-51 Elected to Congress.
- 1853 Moved to Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee.
- 1856 Served as presidential elector for the Democratic ticket of James Buchanan.
- 1857 Elected Governor of Tennessee.
- 1859 Re-elected Governor of Tennessee.
- 1861 Re-elected Governor of Tennessee and supported the secession movement. He was forced to vacate his office and leave the state in 1862. He left the state when Tennessee was overrun by Federal troops.
- 1862-65 Served as a volunteer staff officer for Confederate generals A.S. Johnston, Braxton Bragg, and J.E. Johnston.
- 1865-67 Fled to Mexico and eventually to England.
- 1867 Returned to Memphis where he resumed the practice of law.
- 1877 Elected to the United States Senate serving until his death.
- 1897 Died July 8. Buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis, Tennessee.

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box 1**

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 1. Correspondence – General-Atkins-Travis     | 1857 |
| 2. Correspondence – General-Arnold-Gray       | 1858 |
| 3. Correspondence – General-Hallett-Yancey    | 1858 |
| 4. Correspondence – General-Andrews-Wright    | 1859 |
| 5. Correspondence – General-Archer-Zinnerman  | 1860 |
| 6. Correspondence – General-Abernathy-Cummins | 1861 |
| 7. Correspondence – General-Dahlgren-Guinn    | 1861 |

### **Box 2**

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 1. Correspondence – General-Hammond-Kountz       | 1861 |
| 2. Correspondence – General-Lee-Newton           | 1861 |
| 3. Correspondence – General-Palmer-Rumbough      | 1861 |
| 4. Correspondence – General-Sale-Turner          | 1861 |
| 5. Correspondence – General-Vaughn-Zollicoffer   | 1861 |
| 6. Correspondence – General-Alverson-Wintersmith | 1862 |
| 7. Correspondence – General-Bullen-Guy           | 1864 |

### **Box 3**

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Correspondence – Governor Isham G. Harris                                       | 1858, 1859, 1863 |
| 2. War Correspondence – May 1, 1861-February 19,                                   | 1863             |
| 3. Letter Book   | 1861             |
| 4. Undated Correspondence – Adams-Stevenson  |                  |
| 5. Correspondence relative to Commissioners<br>of Deeds                            | 1857-1861        |
| 6. Correspondence – Re: Medical Board, Surgeon<br>General, etc.                    | 1861             |
| 7. Messages to the Legislature   | 1859-1860        |
| 8. Message to the Legislature, Re: Secession<br>from the Union                     | 1860             |
| 9. Resignations  | 1861             |
| 10. Special Subject – Provisional Army of Tennessee<br>Casualties                  | undated          |
| 11. Special Subjects – Re: Report on defenses of<br>Tennessee and Cumberland River | 1861             |

**Box 4**

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Index Cards A-Z   | 1857-1862      |
| 2. Miscellaneous Material<br>(Including State of Tennessee war bond, dated June, 1861) | 1858-1861      |
| 3. Requisitions – Car-Wya  | 1857-1858-1859 |
| 4. Petitions for Pardon, -Fos-Kee  | 1857           |
| 5. Petitions for Pardon, -Flo-Wes  | 1858           |

**Box 5**

- |                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| 1. Petitions for Pardon – Ber-Tat | 1859 |
| 2. Petitions for Pardon – Cas-Rob | 1860 |
| 3. Petitions for Pardon – Bar-Rey | 1861 |
| 4. Petitions for Pardon – Bar-Sam | 1862 |
| 5. Pardons – Cor-Woo              | 1857 |
| 6. Pardons – Bal-Wri              | 1858 |
| 7. Pardons – Bea-Wil              | 1859 |
| 8. Pardons – Bea-Woo              | 1860 |
| 9. Pardons – And-Wil              | 1861 |
| 10. Pardons – All-Ray             | 1862 |

**Oversize Folder 1**

Bond Certificate from the State of Tennessee, dated June 1, 1861; signed by Governor Harris, relative to an act passed by the General Assembly in Extraordinary Session.

**Oversize Folder 2**

Monthly Sick Reports -- Nashville General Hospital, Camp Brown,  
Camp Cheatham, Camp Trousdale, Fort Henry, Fort Pillow 1861

## NAME INDEX

This index contains names of persons holding influential positions during the period. In some instances, however, correspondence is included because the content is important enough to warrant attention in the index. The figures in the parentheses immediately following each name denote the total number of letters in the folder from that person. The identification of the writer and the site from where the letters were written are included whenever possible.

### **Box 1, Folder 2, 1858**

F. C. Dumington (2) Banker, Columbia, Tennessee.

S. Fowlkes (2) Memphis, Tennessee.

### **Box 1, Folder 3, 1858**

Cave Johnson (1) former United States Congressman, Nashville, Tennessee.

Gideon J Pillow (1); Merchant, Memphis, Tennessee.

Sam Tate (1) President, Memphis and Charleston Rail Road, Memphis, Tennessee.

### **Box 1, Folder 5, 1860**

Sam Tate (2) President, Memphis and Charleston Rail Road, Memphis, Tennessee.

### **Box 1, Folder 6, 1861**

William B. Bate (1) Governor of Tennessee, 1883-1887, Camp Winchester, Virginia.

H. S. Bradford (3) Fort Wright, Tennessee, (Discussed General Pillow's liabilities as a capable commander).

Neil S. Brown (3) Former Governor of Tennessee, Nashville. (Declines to serve on Committee of Safety).

W. H. Carroll (2) Brigadier General, Chattanooga, Tennessee. (Tells of political conditions in East Tennessee).

S. R. Cockrill (3) Bath County, Virginia. (Reports Tennessee troop movements and participation in battles).

### **Box 1, Folder 7, 1861**

Andrew Ewing (1) United States Congressman, Nashville, Tennessee.

J. Fowlkes (3) Memphis, Tennessee. (Writes about political conditions in East Tennessee).

**Box 2, Folder 1, 1861**

A. Heiman (5) Colonel, Commanding 10<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Regiment, Fort Henry.  
Albert Sydney Johnston (7) Commanding General, Army of the Mississippi, Bowling Green, Kentucky.  
Bushrod R. Johnson (1) General, C.S.A. Army, mouth of Sandy, Tennessee.  
James W. McHenry (3) Adjutant General, Nashville, Tennessee.

**Box 2, Folder 3, 1861**

Gideon J. Pillow (26) Major General, Headquarters Army of Tennessee.  
J G. M. Ramsey (1) Knoxville, Tennessee.

**Box 2, Folder 5, 1861**

L. P. Walker (2) Secretary of War, Confederate Government, Montgomery, Alabama.  
H. K. Walker (1) Publisher, Nashville Republican Banner, Nashville, Tennessee.  
F. K. Zollicoffer (2) Brigadier General Confederate Army, Knoxville, Tennessee.

**Box 2, Folder 6, 1862**

General G. T. Beauregard (2) Corinth, Mississippi.  
General Braxton Bragg (1) Corinth, Mississippi.  
Joseph E. Brown (1) Governor of Georgia, Milledgeville, Georgia.  
General B. R. Johnson (3) Fort Donelson.  
General Albert Sydney Johnston (4) Bowling Green, Kentucky.  
C. G. Memminger (4) Secretary of Treasury, C.S.A., Richmond, Virginia.  
General Gideon J Pillow (10) Fort Donelson, Cumberland City, Columbus, Kentucky.  
General L Polk (1) Columbus, Kentucky.  
J.G.M. Ramsey (1) Knoxville, Tennessee.  
Same Tate (1) President, Memphis and Charleston Rail Road, Memphis, Tennessee.