



State of Tennessee  
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**COCKE, JOHN**  
**(1772-1854)**  
**PAPERS**  
**1774-1851**

*Processed by:*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

These are the papers of John Cocke (1772-1854) Major General of Tennessee Volunteers, 1813-1815, and member of the Tennessee House and Senate at various times between 1796 and 1845. Cocke was also a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1819-1827. The papers were the gift of Mr. Jesse Morgan, Franklin, Tennessee. The materials in this finding aid measures .01 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the John Cocke Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

These papers are composed of correspondence, indentures, land grants, bills of sale, articles of agreement, and dueling rules for the dates 1774-1851. The most valuable portion of the papers is the correspondence which is largely for the period of the War of 1812. The correspondents include Willie Blount, John Catron, George Doherty, Andrew Jackson, Return J. Meigs, David Ramsay, Robert Weakley, James White, and Felix Zollicoffer. The letters of Blount, Doherty, Jackson, Meigs, and White are concerned with the War of 1812 – lack of supplies, organization of the Cherokees for aiding Americans in the War, reports on the battles and some of the officers. The letters of Robert Weakley and Felix Zollicoffer are concerned with Tennessee politics, candidates, elections, etc. All except two of the letters are addressed to John Cocke.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

### John Cocke

- 1772 Born in Brunswick, Nottoway County, Virginia. Son of William Cocke and Sarah Maclin Cocke.
- Moved to Hawkins County (part of which became Grainger County), Tennessee, and studied law.
- 1793 Admitted to the bar and practiced in Hawkins County.
- 1796-1801 Served in Tennessee Senate, 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly
- 1807-1813 Served in the Tennessee House of Representatives, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies (Speaker of the House during 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly)
- 1813-1836 County Court Clerk, Grainger County
- 1813 Served as Major General of Tennessee Volunteers during Creek War
- 1819-1827 Served in U.S. House of Representatives, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> Congresses. Chairman of Committee on Indian Affairs, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Congresses.
- 1843-1845 Served in Tennessee Senate, 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Whig.
- Farmed in Grainger County and was instrumental in founding School for Deaf and Dumb in Knoxville. Married first cousin, Sarah Stratton Cocke, at unknown date.
- 1854 Died February 16 in Rutledge, Grainger County

## CONTAINER LIST

### Box 1

1. Correspondence
2. Documents

## NAME INDEX

This is a name index of the correspondence in the John Cocke Papers, together with the dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one.

- Blount, Willie (2) June 30, 1812, to Gen. John Cocke re: declaration of War with Britain; December 7, 1813, to Ephraim Foster re: Indian Wars, supplies, term of volunteers, Col. John Williams, Gen. John Cocke, Col. Pope, James McKee, and W.C.C. Claiborne
- Catron, John (1) February 8, 1814, to General John Cocke re: necessity of a navy.
- Doherty, George (1) February 8, 1814, to General John Cocke re: lack of supplies, especially arms.
- Jackson, Andrew (2) January 31, 1814, to General John Cocke re: Lillard's regiment returns to Knoxville; arms; suspicious of Ratlif but not enough evidence to arrest him; November 2, 1813, to James White (copy) with letter of James White re: fighting, prisoners, plans to remain at Ten Islands for a few days; short of supplies.
- Meigs, Return J. (1) September 30, 1813, to General John Cocke re: organization of the Cherokees into companies and battalions with Cherokee officers commanded by U.S. Citizens, General Cocke suggested.
- Ramsay, David (1) December 21, 1823, to General John Cocke re: fraudulent contracts of William Alexander McRae.
- Weakley, Robert (1) July 26, 1814, to General John Cocke re: planning to run for Governor and wants Cocke's support. Jesse Wharton and Robert C. Foster also will be candidates.
- White, James (1) November 7, 1813, to General John Cocke re: maneuvers to join Jackson; has an Indian force of over 400.
- Zollicoffer, Felix K. (1) February 10, 1851, to Col. John Marshall re: hopes Marshall will become a candidate for the Legislature, Gen. Caruthers will probably be a candidate in Wilson. Henry, Netherland, Fogg, and Stokes are already candidates.