

## **Chenault Family Papers, 1797-1870 (.45 cubic feet)**

Processed by Luiz E. Simonetti, March 2003

### **Restrictions**

None

### **Biographical Sketch**

“David Chenault (30 Sep 1771 - 9 May 1851) was a pastor of Unity Church. His father, William Chenault, was of French extraction, but was born in Virginia. He was a soldier under Washington during the American Revolution. He moved to Kentucky in the fall of 1786, and settled near Richmond, in Madison County, where he died of the “cold plague,” in the spring of 1813. Many of his descendants have been and are among the most valuable citizens and church members in Madison County. David Chenault was born of Baptist parents in Albemarle county, Virginia, September 30, 1771, and he came with his parents to Kentucky in 1786. He was married to Nancy Tribble, (6 Nov 1778 - 2 Aug 1862) daughter of Elder Andrew Tribble, in 1793.”

The children of David and Nancy Tribble Chenault were:

1. Cabell Chenault (25 Jul 1795 - 10 Jul 1878) married Emily Mitchell (28 Nov 1805 - 1 May 1883) on 11 Sep 1823.
2. Joyce Chenault (5 Dec 1797 - 18 Jul 1858) married James Munday (5 Dec 1792 - 18 Jun 1858) on 9 Sep 1813.
3. David Chenault (15 Feb 1800 - 2 Dec 1883) married Louisa Quisenberry (29 Sep 1811 - 30 Apr 1887) on 25 Oct 1827.
4. Hervey Chenault (29 Sep 1802 - 18 Sep 1843) married Anne Douglass (24 Jul 1810 - 25 Oct 1891) on 30 Mar 1826. After Hervey's death Anne married William Letcher.
5. Sally Chenault (13 Nov 1805 - 4 Aug 1824) married Duke W. Simpson on February 13, 1822.
6. William Tandy Chenault (17 Feb 1807 - 27 Jun 1862) married Virginia Quisenberry (13 Nov 1828 - 20 Jan 1894) on 13 Nov 1828.
7. Waller C. Chenault (21 Apr 1809 - 25 Aug 1843) married Lydia McRoberts (4 Aug 1818 - 8 May 1843) on 17 Nov 1835.
8. Anderson Chenault (8 Feb 1812 - 18 Jul 1884) married Margaret Kavanaugh Oldham (25 Oct 1829 - 22 Jun 1919) on 30 Sep 1852.
9. John Chenault (16 Dec 1815 - 18 Oct 1843)
10. Nancy Chenault (27 Jul 1819 - 16 Jan 1893) married Alexander Tribble (5 Apr 1810 - 13 May 1888) on 26 Oct 1843.

“He joined the church at Mt. Nebo about the year 1795, and was baptized by Peter Woods. His ministry commenced during the great revival of 1800-3. He possessed only a common school education; but he had a strong intellect and sound practical judgment. He was an extensive farmer, and held the office of Justice of the Peace about twenty years. He was a successful business man and accumulated a fortune of not less than \$100,000; and was inclined to be penurious, rather than liberal. He was, however, an active pastor, usually serving four churches for a period of nearly fifty years. Besides this, he preached a great deal in the mountains of Kentucky, even down to old age.

Among the churches he preached to besides Unity, were Cane Spring, Lulbegrud, Log-lick, White Oak Pond, Mt. Tabor, Stoners Branch and Union.”

“He was a Hyper-Calvinist in doctrine, and very uneven in his religious ministrations. Some times his zeal amounted to a burning enthusiasm, at others he was dull and chillingly frigid. But he swerved from the path of conscientious rectitude. At a ripe old age he fell asleep in Jesus, May 9, 1851.”

*From the book 'A History of Kentucky Baptists', 1886. By J.H. Spencer. Special Collections call number BX6248.K4 S7 V.1.*

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Chenault Family Papers are a very interesting collection for researchers in the area of slavery, religion, and the economic situation in Kentucky during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The collection has very important documents regarding slavery in folder eight. Information regarding religion can be found in folders, one, two and three. In folder two a collection of sixty-two marriage licenses can be found. In folder three important church documents reveal historical breaks in the church. Theological discussions regarding Campbellism and other movements of the time can also be found.

### **Donor Information**

The Chenault Family Papers were donated to the ECU Special Collections and Archives by James S. Chenault, 9 June 1999.

## **Box List**

f.01 Baptist Church Minutes, 1828-1834. (6 documents - as follows):

- 25 Jul 1828 Minutes of the North District Association of Baptists.
- 20 Feb 1830 Minutes of the North District Association of Baptists.
- 19 Aug 1831 Minutes of the South District Association of United Baptists.
- 30 Sep 1831 Minutes of the Organization and Proceedings of the Laurel River Association of United Baptists.
- 15 Sep 1832 Minutes of the Redbird Association of United Baptists.
- 27 Sep 1834 Minutes of the Spoon River Regular Baptist Association. Mill Creek Church, Adams County, Illinois.

f.02 David Chenault - Marriage Licenses, 1806-1847. The folder contains important information for genealogy researchers in Kentucky, these marriage licences are arranged chronologically and include marriages from Madison, Clark and Estill Counties. (62 documents)

- 7 Jun 1847 Aaron Logsdon to Martha Jane Johnson
- 18 Jan 1847 Robt. Adams to Elizabeth Ful\_\_\_\_
- 28 Dec 1846 Cornelius Old to Martha Ann Roberts
- 26 Oct 1843 Alexander Tribble to Nancy Chenault
- 31 Jan 1842 Overton Harris to Naomi Fielder
- 30 May 1840 Joseph Wren to Elizabeth Smith
- 7 Sep 1839 William W. Fielder to Elizabeth Burgess
- 3 Aug 1837 Anderson Chenault to Mrs. Nancy Harris
- 15 Sep 1836 Lewis Moore to Nancy Cutwright
- 15 Sep 1836 William Lackey to Narcissa Carlen
- 10 May 1836 James Shanks to Tillatha Johnson
- 9 Apr 1833 Wade Hampton to Rebecca Hodgkin
- 27 Mar 1833 Joseph Webb to Joicy Noland
- 4 Feb 1832 Ebenezer Swope to Lucinda Robinson
- 10 Dec 1832 David S. Stuart to Cynthia White
- 28 May 1832 James Noland to Amanda Easter
- 12 Mar 1832 Jourdon Eades to Polly Shearrer
- 21 Feb 1831 James Cobb to Lucinda Hamilton
- 25 Sep 1831 Charles Wood to Francis P. Lane
- 5 Feb 1830 Richard Stephens to Sally McChristy
- 15 Jan 1829 John A. Gee to Ellen Nichols
- 2 Apr 1829 William H. Davis to Catherine Hale
- 15 Jul 1829 Silas Berry to Prudence Messick
- 31 Oct 1826 Thos. Hendricks to Melvina Richardson

28 Mar 1825	Talton Turpin to Nancy Baker
14 May 1825	James Berry to Kitty Ann Elder
23 Jul 1825	William Hardin to Permelia Clements
12 Apr 1825	Martin Lee to Sarah Johns
4 Sep 1824	Jewell Philbert to Alice Fullilove
30 Oct 1823	Henry Skinner to Frances Fielder
3 Jul 1823	Nelson Bridwell to Christina Allumbaugh
10 Apr 1823	Daniel Sims to Polly Ellumpuch
29 Dec 1827	Burgis Elliott to Nancy Laremore
7 Oct 1822	Joseph K. McWilliams Elizabeth Hudson
1 Apr 1822	John Finney to Susan Webber
5 Aug 1822	Nathaniel Floyd to Nancy Fielder
8 Jul 1822	Duke W. Simpson to Sally Chenault
7 Sep 1819	Mather Clayton to Margaret Hudson
20 ___ 1819	Alexander Lanter to Sarah Webb
4 Dec 1819	Andrew Henson to Sarah Roach
13 Apr 1818	Charley Woodes to Narsisa Vaughn
14 Mar 1818	Benjamin Straughan to Peggy White
7 Jul 1815	Joseph Hopper to Polly Tincher
2 Jan 1813	James White to Deborah Cobb
4 Aug 1813	John Fluty to Catherine Turner
5 Jul 1813	John Brown to Ann Hamilton
17 Jun 1813	Francis Tincher to Sada Lackey
16 Mar 1813	James Sparks to Susanah Rogers
17 Nov 1812	Samuel Forkner Moore to Dorcas Hanson
23 Nov 1812	Oliver Noel to Alice Dowcey
11 Apr 1812	Thomas Brooks to Betsey Lee
4 Mar 1811	James Allen to Ruth Henderson
16 Sep 1811	William Wilson to Polly Philips
17 Oct 1811	Robert P. Clark to Melinda M. Trigg
24 Dec 1810	Lewis Bledsoe to Elizabeth Brooks
31 Jul 1837	John Highley to Jane McKinney
1 Jan 1807	Thomas Powell to Hanah Pike
30 May 1807	Thomas Gray to Hannah Noland
8 Dec 1807	Samuel Chestnut to Rachel Grimm
15 May 1807	David Stewart to Elenor Larrison
27 Apr 1807	Walter Barnes to Lidia Barnes
20 Dec 1806	Samuel McClain to Mary Henderson

f.03 David Chenault - Church letters, Sermons, and Church Book, 1820-1848. The folder has documents that are important for religious history of Kentucky and the United States. The Church letters are discussions regarding religious conflicts at the period, including Campbellism and other divisions at the Baptist Church. The sermons are interesting for the theological content. The Church book has administrative information, including the names of members of the church. Includes several handwritten hymns. (20 documents)

- f.04 Land Records (Deeds), 1798-1864. Consist of information regarding the land of David Chenault and his heirs in Muddy Creek, Madison County. (26 documents)
- f.05 Family Letters, 1808-1853. This folder is one of the most important in the collection because the letters contain information about slavery, morals, and life at the period mentioned above. (9 documents)
- f.06 Muddy Creek Land Records, 1783-1828. This folder has information about the lands of Col. William Black and Higgason Grubbs, neighbors of David Chenault. (21 documents)
- f.07 Muddy Creek Land Surveys, 1811-1851. The surveys were done mainly by John Crooke for David Chenault. One can see divisions of land in Muddy Creek. Important rivers and creeks are shown in the survey, including the Kentucky River and Muddy Creek. (9 documents)
- f.08 Slave Receipts, 1800-1841. (6 documents - as follows):
- |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18 Apr 1800 | Receipt of slave sale by M. Pinkston from Madison County to David Chenault from Madison County. Two slaves named Harry and Priss(?).                                                                                      |
| 5 May 1806  | Receipt of slave sale by Samuel Brown from the state of Ohio to David Chenault from Madison County. A woman named Petty and a girl named Judy.                                                                            |
| 6 Jun 1814  | Receipt of slave sale by Thomas Austin from Albemarle County, Virginia, to David Chenault from Madison County, Kentucky. A 7-year old girl by the name of Luanner and a 5-year old boy by the name of Mordica [Mordecai]. |
| 11 Aug 1815 | Receipt of slave sale by Moses Reynolds from Garrard County to David Chenault from Madison County. A 13-year old boy by the name of Israel.                                                                               |
| 5 Nov 1823  | Receipt of slave sale by Anderson Mitchell from Henry County to Emily (Chenault) Mitchell. A 6-year old girl by the name of Nelly.                                                                                        |
| 13 Jan 1841 | Receipt of slave sale by John Hicklin from Montgomery County to Cabell Chenault from Madison County. A 16-year old boy by the name of Alford.                                                                             |
- f.09 Legal Documents, 1810-1856. Includes tax receipts, bonds and summons. (14 documents)
- f.10 Kentucky Land Grants (Gov. James Garrard), 1798. Land grants signed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> governor of Kentucky, James Garrard. These grants were made for John Flournoy from Muddy Creek, Madison County. (3 documents)
- f.11 Mitchell Family Records, 1824. This folder contains a family tree made for the Mitchell

Family. The head of the family is Andrew Mitchell. Andrew Mitchell's daughter married Cabell Chenault, son of David Chenault. (1 document)

- f.12 Broadsides, 1851; 1862. David Chenault estate sale broadside, 1851 (1 item), and Nancy Chenault estate sale broadsides, 1862 (2 items). Sale items in 1851 included "eighteen likely slaves," tracts of land, cattle, corn, oats and hay. The sale in 1862 included "corn in the field," milch cows, household and kitchen items and "several likely negroes for hire until Christmas." **Originals filed oversize.** (3 documents)