



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

James P. Wilson family Bible

1829-1890

Sc MG 967

Home to Harlem Project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Processed by Allison Hughes in 2022.

Summary

Creator: Wilson, James Pliny, Jr., 1808-1891

Title: James P. Wilson family Bible

Date: 1829-1890

Size: 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Purchase from Read 'Em Again books, 2019

Abstract: James Pliny Wilson, Jr., (1808-1891) was the owner of a plantation known as Levensworth (also spelled Leavensworth), located in Darlington, South Carolina. The Bible (published in New York by Daniel B. Smith, 1825) contains eight pages of birth and death records of enslaved persons living on the Levensworth plantation, plus one page listing all overseers who worked at the plantation between 1826 and 1850.

Preferred citation: [Item], James P. Wilson family Bible, Sc MG 967, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Allison Hughes in 2022.

Creator History

James Pliny Wilson, Jr., (1808-1891) was the owner of a plantation known as Levensworth (also spelled Leavensworth), located in Darlington, South Carolina. The plantation housed a number of enslaved persons; the 1840 census lists Wilson as the enslaver of fifteen people.

The Levensworth plantation was founded on land once owned by Nathan Leavenworth, a doctor who was granted the land for his military service in the Revolutionary War. The property then passed to his brother William and nephew Nathan, who sold it to John W. Lide in 1817. James P. Wilson purchased the property in 1826.

Scope and Content Note

The Bible (published in New York by Daniel B. Smith, 1825) contains eight pages of birth and death records of enslaved persons living on the Levensworth plantation, plus one page listing all overseers who worked at the plantation between 1826 and 1850. A 5x4" sheet with additional birth records is laid in. Overall, 102 births (recorded between 1829 and 1868) and 22 deaths (recorded between 1842 and 1890) are listed, spanning at least two generations.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Bibles

Birth records

Death records

Subjects

Slavery -- South Carolina

Slaves -- United States

Names

Wilson, James Pliny, Jr., 1808-1891