

McTeer-Tilden Family Papers

MSC 0465

Identification Number: MSC 0465

Provenance and Acquisition: The McTeer-Tilden Family Papers were donated by Lucy Brusic.

Processing Information: Zachary Keith processed the McTeer-Tilden Family Papers.

Physical Description/Extent: 5 full-size document boxes, 2 artifact boxes

Creator: McTeer, Will A. (William Anderson), 1843-1925; McTeer, Andrew Bogle, 1820-1885; McTeer family; Tilden family

Dates: 1776-1976, bulk 1861-1925

Language: English

Scope & Contents: The McTeer-Tilden Family Papers consists of correspondence, receipts, military records, scrapbooks, account books, estate documents, publications, speeches, writings, photographs, and artifacts including compasses, wallets, and Will A. McTeer's eyeglasses.

Some of the interesting items include the following: a friend mailed Will McTeer the original precinct-level election results for Blount County's 1853 and 1855 elections. Various versions of Will A. McTeer's last will and testament and estate documents reveal his assets and bequeathments. Will A. McTeer kept a shock of his mother, Nancy Gamble McTeer's, hair in one of the leather wallets. A broadside published a number of Gov. Andrew Johnson's proclamations.

Military records comprise a large portion of the collection. The muster rolls include a hand-copied War of 1812 muster roll of Capt. Jehu Stephens's company, from the original owned by Sgt. William McTeer and various muster rolls for the 3rd Tennessee Cavalry during the Civil War. Two military telegrams dated November 25, 1864, from Brig. Gen. Robert S. Granger in Huntsville instructed the 3rd Tenn. Cavalry to forage and then abandon the south side of the [Tennessee] river, protecting the depot to move supplies and destroying the remainder.

Will A. McTeer's certificate of permission to carry arms for home defense is signed by Adjutant General James P. Brownlow. Also among the documents is Will's law license. The programs consist of numerous commencement booklets for both Maryville College, University of Tennessee, and Maryville Polytechnical School from the 1920s.

Correspondence contains incoming and outgoing letters from various McTeer family members. Interesting to individuals studying early Blount County are the following: Elizabeth and Robert McTeer (Mary's parents) wrote two letters from Pennsylvania and one from Ohio to William McTeer (1780-1862) and his first wife, Mary, in Blount County from 1797-1812 that survive in the collection. The 1812 letter mentions "war with England and the Indians."

A Civil War letter from Will A. McTeer from camp near Nashville, May 23, 1863, updates his family on his health and relays how much he misses them. He can see the Tennessee state capitol from camp. "We want to come home to make our friends rejoice that they once more from under the cruelty, the brutality and barbarism of a Satan beguiled rebellion and once more can seek protection under the banner of freedom and that banner held afloat and protected by freemen." Will A. McTeer wrote two letters to his father on Tennessee House of Representatives letterhead. A Freedmen's Bureau official wrote to Andrew McTeer informing him of the illegality of removing formerly enslaved contract workers from his mother's farm.

Robert McTeer's Revolutionary War scrip from New Jersey and Pennsylvania, dated 1776 and 1777 respectively was transferred to the currency collection and stored in Box 1.

McTeer-Tilden Family Papers

MSC 0465

The photographs include ambrotypes of a young Lucy Tilden, her mother, Elvira Tilden, her sister Eva Tilden, and Alexander Gamble. The lone daguerreotype shows Elvira and Lucy Tilden. Tintypes of Will A. McTeer's paternal grandparents, William McTeer and Mary Bogle McTeer are stored in a locket. A gutta percha case houses a tintype and ambrotype of Will A. McTeer in his US Army uniform. The ambrotype shows him on horseback with gold paint highlighting buttons and pins. Cabinet cards and cartes-de-visite depict various members of the McTeer and Tilden families, all of whom are identified. Photographic slides portray Maryville College from the 1920s until the 1950s. A panoramic photograph shows Maryville College students and faculty in 1924.

Among the publications is Robert Collins futurism poem "1970," various genealogical publications, a rebound hymn book, Matthew Henry's 1790 *The Psalms of David in Metre*, and Robert McTeer's copy of *Domestic Medicine: or a Treatise on the Prevention and Cure of Diseases by Regimen and Simple Medicines* by Dr. William Buchan, published in 1797.

Three leather wallets owned by Will A. McTeer and one by A. S. Tilden are stored separately in an artifact box along with Will A. McTeer's two brass compasses, eyeglasses, and unidentified epaulets from the Tilden family.

Administrative/Biographical History: Andrew Bogle McTeer was born on September 5, 1820, in Blount County to William McTeer and Mary Bogle McTeer. He married Nancy Gamble on December 1, 1842, and the pair had 6 children, William Anderson McTeer, Elizabeth McTeer Gamble, Harriett Caroline McTeer, McCulloch, Mary Martin McTeer Trotter, Alexander Breckinridge McTeer, and Josias Gamble McTeer. He farmed and worked as a blacksmith. On September 18, 1862, he enlisted in the US Army in Maryville, as a private in Co. A., 3rd Regiment Tennessee Cavalry. He was promoted to 1st lieutenant and quartermaster on November 17, 1863, following Elias Goddard's muster out. On September 24, 1864, Andrew was captured along with most of the 3rd Tennessee Cavalry during the surrender of Fort Henderson in Athens, Alabama, by Confederate forces under Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest. He resigned his post because of bilious fever and chronic rheumatism on September 26, 1863, and was paroled to Camp Chase, where he was held until his release on November 13, 1864, at Memphis. After the war, he served as Ellejoy's postmaster from 1876 until his death on June 14, 1885. He is buried in Eusebia Cemetery in Blount County. The Grand Army of the Republic Post 89 in Ellejoy was named in his honor.

William Anderson McTeer was born on September 16, 1843, in Blount County, Tennessee, to Andrew Bogle McTeer and Nancy Gamble McTeer. As a teenager, he worked in Alexander McBath's mercantile store in Ellejoy and helped his father with his blacksmith shop and farm. He enlisted in the US Army on August 10, 1862, in Maryville, joining Co. A. 3rd Regiment Tennessee Cavalry. Beginning on March 1, 1864, he clerked for the unit's adjutant. On April 4, 1864, Will was promoted to 2nd lieutenant while in Nashville. On July 18, 1864, McTeer was promoted to 1st lieutenant and adjutant for the 4th Tennessee Cavalry until he was transferred back in the 3rd Tennessee Cavalry in November 1864. He mustered out of the US Army on August 3, 1865, in Pulaski, Tennessee as a major. Following the war, he started a merchant business with his uncle, Alexander Gamble, Gamble, McTeer & Company, but an infestation of rats and flooding doomed the venture. In 1868, he ran for and was elected Blount County Circuit Court clerk. While serving as clerk, he read law and was admitted to the bar in 1878. The same year he was appointed United States Commissioner. In 1880, he was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives, defeating C. R. Love, 1588-866. He only served one term. He served as treasurer and director of Maryville College at various times from the 1872s until 1920s. McTeer helped organize the Bank of Maryville in 1885 serving as its president from 1902 until 1915. He served as Maryville's first city recorder from 1907 until 1917. He married Mary Wilson in 1876 but she died on January 4, 1898, of tuberculosis. He married Lucy Tilden Wilson on August 12, 1903, in Maryville. The pair had one child, Wilson McTeer. In 1917, he was appointed to serve on the local selective service board. Will A. McTeer died on November 7, 1925, and is buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Maryville.

McTeer-Tilden Family Papers

MSC 0465

Index Terms:

Personal Names:

McTeer, Andrew Bogle, 1820-1885
McTeer, Lucy Tilden, 1860-1922
McTeer, Robert, 1740-1824
McTeer, Will A. (William Anderson), 1843-1925
McTeer, William, 1780-1862
McTeer, Wilson, 1905-1987
Tilden, A. S. (Allen Sherwood), 1822-1889
Tilden, Isaac, 1791-1866
Tilden, Elvira Willis, 1831-1908

Corporate Names:

Freedmen's Bureau
Maryville College
United States. Army. Tennessee Cavalry Regiment, 3rd.
University of Tennessee

Subjects:

Elections – Tennessee – History – 19th century
Lawyers -- Tennessee -- Maryville

Geographic Names:

Blount County (Tenn.) -- History -- 19th century
Blount County (Tenn.) -- History -- 20th century
Blount County (Tenn.) – Politics and Government – 19th century
Maryville (Tenn.) -- History -- 20th century
Tennessee -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 – Sources
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Sources

Document Types:

Ambrotypes
Cabinet cards
Cartes-de-visite
Christmas cards
Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence
Daguerreotypes
Negatives (photographs)
Notebooks
Photographs
Programs (documents)
Receipts (financial records)
Slides (photographs)
Tintypes

McTeer-Tilden Family Papers

MSC 0465

Organization/Arrangement of Materials: Collection is organized by family and then alphabetically by document type.

Container List

BOX 1

McTeer Family

- Folder 1 – Account Books – Will A. McTeer
- Folder 2 – Applications – Application to increase pension – Will A. McTeer
- Folder 3 – Booklets – Iver Johnson Bicycles, 1917
- Folder 4 – By-laws – Maryville Board of Trade, 1904
- Folder 5 – Certificates – Sons of the American Revolution
- Folder 6 – Certificates – Selective Service Board
- Folder 7 – Check stub book – Will A. McTeer
- Folder 8 – Church bulletins – “The Church Bell,” 1928
- Folder 9 – Correspondence – Incoming – Andrew B. McTeer
- Folder 10 – Correspondence – Incoming – Silas Graves
- Folder 11 – Correspondence – Incoming – Will A. McTeer
- Folder 12 – Correspondence – Incoming – William McTeer
- Folder 13 – Correspondence – Incoming – Wilson McTeer
- Folder 14 – Correspondence – Outgoing – Will A. McTeer
- Folder 15 – Diary scrap – Will A. McTeer
- Folder 16 -- Deeds
- Folder 17 – Election results
- Folder 18 – Estate Documents – Mary A. Wilson
- Folder 19 -- Estate Documents – Will A. McTeer

BOX 2

- Folder 20 – Genealogy
- Folder 21 – Hair
- Folder 21 – Legal documents
- Folder 22 – Licenses
- Folder 23 – Lists – Capt. B. M. Branner’s Company, 4th Tennessee Cavalry, C.S.A.
- Folder 24 – Lists – Donations to Rev. T. J. Lemar
- Folder 25 – Lists – Members of the 3rd Tennessee Cavalry who died in Cahaba Prison
- Folder 26 – Lists – Officers of 3rd Tennessee Cavalry who died in rebel hands
- Folder 27 – Maps – General Highway and Transportation map, Blount County, Tennessee
- Folder 28 – Military Records – Appointments – Will A. McTeer
- Folder 29 – Military Records – Blank quartermaster forms
- Folder 30 – Military Records -- Certificates
- Folder 31 – Military Records – Differences in returns, quartermaster, 3rd Tennessee Cavalry
- Folder 32 – Military Records – Discharges – Francis A. Dunlap
- Folder 33 – Military Records – Discharges – Will A. McTeer
- Folder 34 – Military Records – List of quartermaster stores on hand, 3rd TN Cav, May 1864
- Folder 35 – Military Records – Muster Rolls – Civil War – 3rd Tennessee Cavalry
- Folder 36 – Military Records – Muster Rolls – Civil War – Will A. McTeer
- Folder 37 – Military Records – Muster Rolls – War of 1812 – Capt. Jehu Stephens company
- Folder 38 – Military Records -- Orders
- Folder 39 – Military Records -- Paroles
- Folder 40 – Military Records – Pay slips

McTeer-Tilden Family Papers

MSC 0465

- Folder 41 – Military Records – Petition to prevent consolidation of 3rd and 6th Tennessee Cavalry
- Folder 42 – Military Records – Telegrams
- Folder 43 – Military Records – Report of Muster, 3rd Tennessee Cavalry, May 8, 1865
- Folder 44 -- Minutes – Selective Service Board of Blount County
- Folder 45 -- Negatives
- Folder 46 – Newspaper clippings
- Folder 47 – Newspapers – *The Maryville Republican*, April 2, 1870
- Folder 48 – Notices – Blount County Chancery Court
- Folder 49 – Photographs
- Folder 50 – Proclamations – Gov. Andrew Johnson
- Folder 51 – Programs
- Folder 52 – Promissory Notes
- Folder 53 -- Publications – “1970: A Vision of a Coming Age” by John Collins
- Folder 54 -- Publications – “A Brief Historical Sketch of the Village of Bearden”
- Folder 55 -- Publications – “I Am Ready” by Max Gamble Toole

BOX 4

- Folder 56 – Wills – Will A. McTeer
- Folder 57 – Writings – Blount County military history
- Folder 58 – Writings – Defense of Recordship
- Folder 59 – Writings – Early Blount County history
- Folder 60 – Writings – Patriotic address
- Folder 61 – Writings -- Religious
- Folder 62 -- Writings – “Turkey’s Life” by Charles Smith
- Folder 63 – Writings – “Why? Yes God” by Charles Smith

Tilden Family

- Folder 64 – Account books – Allen S. Tilden
- Folder 65 – Account books – Isaac Tilden
- Folder 66 – Autograph album – Lucy Tilden
- Folder 67 – Correspondence – Outgoing – Allen S. Tilden
- Folder 68 – Diaries – Allen S. Tilden, 1889
- Folder 69 – Deeds
- Folder 70 – Estate papers – Allen S. Tilden
- Folder 71 – Insurance – Eva Tilden
- Folder 72 – Power of Attorney – Hanchett
- Folder 73 – Promissory notes
- Folder 74 – Receipts
- Folder 75 -- Surveys
- Folder 76 – Taxes
- Folder 77 – Wills – Allen S. Tilden
- Folder 78 – Wills – Elvira Tilden
- Folder 79 – Writings

Box 5

- A Collection of Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs*
- Domestic Medicine: or a Treatise on the Prevention and Cure of Diseases by Regimen and Simple Medicines* by Dr. William Buchan, 1797.
- Magill Family Record* by Robert M. Magill, 1907

McTeer-Tilden Family Papers

MSC 0465

The Psalms of David in Metre by Matthew Henry, 1810

Artifact Box 1

Three leather wallets owned by Will A. McTeer
One leather change purse owned by Allen S. Tilden
Two brass compasses owned by Will A. McTeer
Two black epaulets owned by the Tilden Family
Eyeglasses owned by Will A. McTeer
Panorama photograph of Maryville College, 1924

Artifact Box 2

Ambrotype of Alexander Gamble
Ambrotype of Elvira Tilden
Ambrotype of Lucy Tilden
Ambrotype of Lucy and Eva Tilden
Ambrotype of Will A. McTeer
Ambrotype and tintype of Will A. McTeer
Daguerreotype of Elvira and Lucy Tilden
Locket with tintypes of William and Mary McTeer

Related Materials:

McTeer Family Research.
Will A. McTeer. (account books)
Will A. McTeer. Dockets. United States Circuit, Eastern District of Tennessee. 1878-1895
Will A. McTeer letterbooks
Will A. McTeer Papers.

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