



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives

Ewing Family Papers, 1820-circa 1935

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:

Ewing family

Inclusive Dates:

1820-circa 1935

Scope & Content:

The Ewing Family Papers are composed of approximately four hundred fifty letters, three essays, four photographic negatives, two notepads, and a calendar.

The collection contains correspondence between family members and friends connected to the Ewing family. The earliest letter was composed in 1820, and it is addressed to Andrew Ewing from his brother, Felix Ewing. This letter mentions daily life activities as well as the poor health of their mother. In another letter Andrew chastises William Ewing for “forsaking for a season the son of your youth and worse yet the innocent confiding girl that has made you a husband and a father.” Another notable message is from Andrew’s son Randal during the Mexican War where he recounts the demoralizing nature of war. A number of letters to Randal Ewing’s son, Francis Ewing, express sympathy on the death of his wife Eliza Marshall Ewing.

Eliza Marshall Ewing is a significant figure in the correspondence. Over half of the letters are addressed to her or relate to her life and death. The early letters to Eliza from friends concern personal affairs and daily activities such as horse riding and handkerchief making. Occasionally, the ladies write about entertaining guests. One friend confides, “I certainly had a pleasant time for I met so many agreeable people. There were only two men, however, that I liked particularly well. One was a Mr. Berry of Rome, Georgia brother of Mrs. Bruton at the Maxwell House...the other was Mr. Howison of Alabama.” A male friend asks Eliza what one of her female friends whispered to her on New Year’s Night. He insists, “I know it was about me and I do not think I show any conceit in making

this remark but I do want to know what it was and if you can tell me, please do it. I believe you are my friend for you have talked to me as a friend and have promised to say to no one what I have said.”

As time progresses, the subjects move from dances and gentlemen callers to congratulations on Eliza’s engagement to Francis Ewing. As one friend notes, “you did surprise me for although I know of ‘cousin Frank’s’ devotion I did not know how much it was reciprocated you know you never told me your secrets. Now you must answer me the following questions where are you to be married? Are you going off and where?” Next are regrets from people unable to attend the wedding. These are followed by congratulations on the births of Eliza’s children. Her mother and father offer parental advice. The letters addressed to Eliza’s mother, Ellen Marshall, also contain news of the births and congratulations on becoming a grandmother. There is a letter from Francis Ewing who is away and wishes to return. Letters addressed to a Mrs. Campbell from her sister are included in the collection.

The last Ewing generation represented here is that of the son of Francis and Eliza Ewing, Andrew Ewing. These letters are addressed to him from his grandmother telling him about daily life activities such as church and personal stories. She once tells Andrew, “In my young days, I was constantly complimented on my beautiful white teeth-now I am sorry to say that their beauty is a thing of the past—you may not know it but as you grow older the teeth turn dark it mortifies me to look at mine.”

Physical Description/Extent:

1.25 cubic feet, including approximately 450 letters, 3 essays, 2 notepads, and a calendar

Accession/Record Group Number:

2011-022

Language:

English

Permanent Location:

XII-H-2

Repository:

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

Administrative/Biographical History

The Ewing Family patriarch, Andrew Ewing fought in the Revolutionary War and arrived at Fort Nashborough (later Nashville) with the John Donelson party in 1780. He was a signer of the region's first constitution, the Cumberland Compact. Ewing was appointed as the first Court Clerk for the Cumberland Territory and was reappointed when Davidson County (then a part of North Carolina) was established. He married Eliza McDowell McGavock and had a son, Randal Milton Ewing. Randal married Mary Ellen McGavock, a descendant of Randal McGavock who built Carnton Plantation in Franklin, Tennessee. Randal and Mary Ellen had a son, Francis McGavock Ewing. Francis married Eliza McClung Marshall. Eliza was born in 1868 to John and Ellen McClung Marshall. Her grandfather, Charles McClung, was a surveyor who completed the original map of Knoxville, Tennessee. McClung descendants remain influential in Knoxville. The McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture at the University of Tennessee is named in honor of Frank H. McClung. The Calvin M. McClung Collection at the East Tennessee Historical Society headquarters is noted for its genealogical materials and manuscript collection.

Eliza McClung Marshall Ewing and Francis McGavock Ewing had a son, Andrew Ewing, who grew up on the Crest View farm in Giles County. He went to grade school at Tarbox and Hume Fogg in Nashville and enrolled in high school at Webb School in Bell Buckle. Andrew attended Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia for a year and then transferred to Vanderbilt University.

Andrew remained at Vanderbilt to pursue law. He married Cornelia Keeble in 1930. His career continued to grow as he became the Associate Counsel of the Home Owners Loan Corporation in 1933. During World War II, he served as Chairman of the Davidson County Rationing Board. In 1972, he joined the firm of Dearborn and Ewing in which he became a partner. Cornelia died in 1973, and Andrew married Clare Bailey in 1974. Andrew Ewing died in 1982.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Arranged alphabetically by recipient name, then chronologically

Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:

None

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:

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Index Terms

Personal/Family Names:

Ewing, Andrew, 1796-1881
Ewing, Andrew, -1982
Ewing, Elizabeth Marshall, 1868-1907
Ewing, Francis, 1861-1940
Marshall, Ellen, 1843-1927

Subjects:

Domestic relations -- Tennessee
Mexican War, 1846-1848 -- Personal narratives

Geographic Names:

Knoxville (Tenn.) -- History -- 19th century -- Sources
Knoxville (Tenn.) -- History -- 20th century -- Sources
Nashville (Tenn.) -- History -- 19th century -- Sources
Nashville (Tenn.) -- History -- 20th century -- Sources

Document Types:

Essays
Letters
Notebooks

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:

Original donation made by Kent Ballow to Tennessee State Museum.
Transfer to Tennessee State Library and Archives facilitated by museum's senior curator, James A. Hoobler.

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:

Ewing Family Papers, 1820-circa 1935, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Processing Information:

Processing completed by Rebecca Domm, March 2015.

Electronic Location and Access:

<http://www.tn.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/2011-022.pdf>

DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

CONTAINER LIST

Contents/Item Title	Date	Box	Folder
Genealogical Data Sheets and Collection Data Sheets	Undated	1	1
Correspondence, Incoming -- Campbell	1861-1897	1	2
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, Andrew	1820-1857	1	3
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, Andrew	1921-1922	1	4
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, Andrew	1923	1	5
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, Andrew	1924-1926	1	6
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, Andrew	1926-1935	1	7
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, Eliza McClung Marshall	1866	1	8
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, Eliza McClung Marshall	1887-1888	1	9
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, Eliza McClung Marshall	1889-1890	2	1
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, Eliza McClung Marshall	1891	2	2
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, Eliza McClung Marshall	1892	2	3
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, Eliza McClung Marshall	1893-1894	2	4
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, Eliza McClung Marshall	1895-1897	2	5
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, Eliza McClung Marshall	1898-1903	2	6
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, Eliza McClung Marshall	1905	2	7

Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, Eliza McClung Marshall	1906	2	8
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, Francis	1888-1907	2	9
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, John Marshall	1891-1925	3	1
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, Randal	1890	3	2
Correspondence, Incoming -- Ewing, William	1851	3	3
Correspondence, Incoming -- Marshall, Ellen	1886-1892	3	4
Correspondence, Incoming -- Marshall, Ellen	1892-1907	3	5
Essays	Undated	3	6
Notebooks	Undated	3	7
Photographs (black-and-white negatives)	1923	3	8
Unidentified letters	Undated	3	9