



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

MCGAVOCK, RANDAL WILLIAM
(1826-1863)
PAPERS
1848-1898

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INTRODUCTION

The diaries and genealogical data of Randal William McGavock, Mayor of Nashville (1858-1859,) and Colonel in the Confederate Army (1861-1863), were placed in the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Miss Margaret Warden and Dr. Herschel Gower. Also included were the pictures collected by Dr. Gower, some of which were used in the book, *Pen and Sword*. Diary volume 6A is on loan to TSLA by Andrea Shearn of San Francisco, California until May 1, 2017, at which time the diary becomes the property of TSLA.

A few genealogical items dealing with the Bass, Conner, Crutcher, Eakin, Grundy, Hill, Maney, Thompson, and Yandell families were also donated.

In addition to the above items, thirteen documents of the McGavock family were added to the collection by Mrs. Gerald Henderson of Nashville, Tennessee. About fifty items of McGavock correspondence have been added to the collection by Mr. Jacob McGavock of Wytheville, Virginia, through the agency of Dr. Hershel Gower.

The materials in this finding aid measure 1.2 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials, with the exception of Diary 6A. This volume may be viewed but may not be reproduced in any manner prior to May 1, 2017.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Randal William McGavock Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection is composed of the nine small diaries of Randal William McGavock for the years 1848-1862 and about 200 items of genealogical material. The diaries deal with the period while Randal was attending Harvard Law School; his twenty-month tour of Europe, Asia, and Africa; his marriage to Seraphine Deery; the period while he was Mayor of Nashville; and his Confederate service until October 1862. The volume dated October 1, 1860 - February 5, 1862 was added to the collection in 2014. It is thought to have been in a trunk captured by Federal forces at Fort Donelson.* The diaries contain much interesting and valuable information about the turbulent period of the 1850s and early 1860s, written by a well-educated and very observant man. All but the 1860-1862 volumes have been edited by Herschel Gower and Jack Allen and published in *Pen and Sword*, a Tennessee Historical Commission publication.

The two-hundred genealogical items deal with the McGavock family in Ireland, Virginia, and Tennessee. Some items deal with the family of Randal's wife, Seraphine Deery. This material was collected by Dr. Herschel Gower in the preparation of his biographical sketch of Randal McGavock for the book, *Pen and Sword*.

In addition to the above-named items, thirteen documents of the McGavock family have been added to the collection. They are composed of deeds and indentures for the years 1854-1898 and the will of Francis H. McGavock, dated 1864.

Photocopies of about fifty items of McGavock papers were added to the collection by Mr. Jacob McGavock of Wytheville, Virginia. These include letters of David, James, Joseph, Randal, and Robert, as well as several sisters and sisters-in-law of the McGavock family. The letters were written from Franklin and Nashville, where the McGavocks had settled, to their father, Hugh, and other relatives in Wytheville, Virginia. They contain information about schools, buildings, wars (1812 and Mexican), politics, and happenings around Nashville and Franklin during the early 1800s. There are a few documents dealing with land cases, a will of Mary Kent, and some clippings, which make up the remainder of the papers.

*Please note that this diary volume (6A) may be viewed but may not be reproduced in any form prior to May 1, 2017. On this date, ownership of the volume will transfer to TSLA and reproduction may be offered.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Randal William McGavock

- 1826 August 10, born in Nashville, Tennessee, the son of Jacob and Louisa Grundy McGavock
- 1836 Attended a private academy, The Classical and Mathematical Seminary, run by Professor Moses Stevens. It closed its doors in 1846 when Stevens died and his son left Nashville
- 1843-1846 Attended University of Nashville
- 1847-1848 Attended Harvard Law School
- 1849 May 10, granted permission to practice law in Nashville
- 1851 March 20 , began twenty-month tour of Europe, Asia and Africa. Also visited Irish relatives
- 1854 Published *A Tennessean Abroad*
- 1855 August 23, married Seraphine Derry
- 1858-1859 Mayor of Nashville
- 1861 May, joined Tennessee Home Guard and was elected Captain
September, the Tennessee Home Guard became Company H, Tenth Tennessee Regiment of the Confederate Army, and McGavock was elected Lieutenant Colonel
- 1863 May 12, killed in Battle at Raymond, Mississippi

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Clippings – Review of *Pen and Sword* by Louise Davis, May 8, 15, 22, 29, 1960
2. Genealogical Data – McGavocks in Ireland
3. Genealogical Data – McGavocks in Virginia – letters of Janet McGavock (Mrs. Montgomery) Boyd, 1958
4. Genealogical Data – McGavocks in Virginia – letters of Jacob and Randal D. McGavock
5. Genealogical Data – McGavocks in Virginia – letters of Miss Mary Bell McGavock
6. Genealogical Data – McGavocks in Virginia – Scrapbook, 1782-1932
7. Genealogical Data – Notes on McGavock Family – collected by Herschel Gower
8. Genealogical Data – Seraphine Deery McGavock Trig Pettibone, et al.
9. Notes on Randal McGavock from microfilm in Manuscripts area
10. Pictures used in *Tennessean Magazine* Section

Box 2

Randal McGavock Diaries 1848-1862, Accessions 260 and 2014-003

1. Diary – January 2, 1848–December 31, 1848 – Harvard
2. Diary – 1851-1852 – Travels
3. Diary – October 1852-August 1856
4. Diary – August 10, 1856-February 28, 1858
5. Diary – March 1, 1858-May 2, 1859
6. Diary – May 3, 1859-September 30, 1860
- 6a. Diary - Oct. 1, 1860-Feb. 5, 1862 **May not be reproduced prior to May 1, 2017
7. Diary – February 4–June 30, 1862
8. Diary – July 1, 1862-October 8, 1862
9. Documents – Deeds, indentures, etc. – 1854-1881
10. Documents – Two Rivers Farm – 1891-1898
11. Documents – Will of Francis H. McGavock, 1864

Box 3

1. Correspondence – Bass, M.C. (Malvina), 1834
2. Correspondence – Ewing, A.B., 1847
3. Correspondence – Gaines, Thompson, 1828
4. Correspondence – Grundy, N.P., 1826
5. Correspondence – re: Lane, 1808-1831
6. Correspondence – McDowell, James, 1808
7. Correspondence – McGavock, David, 1796-1832
8. Correspondence – McGavock, Hugh, 1850
9. Correspondence – McGavock, Jacob, 1813-1850
10. Correspondence – McGavock, Joseph, 1814-1820

11. Correspondence – McGavock, Louisa Grundy (Mrs. Jacob), 1828
12. Correspondence – McGavock, Randal, 1807-1849
13. Correspondence – McGavock, Robert, 1838
14. Correspondence – McGavock, Sally, 1829
15. Correspondence – McNutt, Samuel and Margaret, 1832-1846
16. Correspondence – Reed, Margaret M., 1826-1827
17. Accounts – 1780-1800
18. Clippings – 1800s
19. Court cases
20. Recipes
21. Will of Mary Kent, 1812