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McDOWELL, CURTIS
(1810-1882)
PAPERS
1858 - 1887

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INTRODUCTION

The papers of the Curtis McDowell family of Sparta, White County, Tennessee date from the years 1858 through 1887. This collection includes the diary of Amanda McDowell, daughter of Curtis and a student at the Cumberland Institute ca. 1861-1865, White County, Tennessee. These papers were donated by Mrs. J.E. Blankenship, Morrison, Tennessee, through the agency of Mrs. W.J. McDowell, Knoxville, Tennessee.

The materials in this finding aid measure .42 cubic feet and there are approximately 50 items included in the collection. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Curtis McDowell Papers may be made for the purposes of scholarly research. Also note that the diary of Amanda McDowell has been edited and published by Lela McDowell Blankenship under the title *Fiddles in the Cumberlands*, 1943.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of the papers of the Curtis McDowell family of Sparta, White County, Tennessee, dated from 1858 through 1887. They include the diary of Amanda McDowell, daughter of Curtis and a student of Cumberland Institute, White County, Tennessee. She wrote very interestingly of the War Between the States, in which her brothers, Jackson and Lucien Lafayette, fought on opposing sides. Other material includes Civil War letters of the two brothers, as well as other family correspondence and some genealogical data.

The diary of Amanda McDowell has been edited and published by Lela McDowell Blankenship under the title *Fiddles in the Cumberlands*, 1943.

This collection provides useful and interesting material for research on the War Between the States and the history of the White County, Tennessee region.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Correspondence – Baker-McDowell
2. Correspondence – McDowell, L.L. to Amanda and Mary McDowell
3. Correspondence – McDowell, L.L. to Curtis McDowell
4. Correspondence – McDowell, L.L. to Jackson McDowell
5. Correspondence – Miscellaneous
6. Diary – McDowell, Amanda
7. Genealogy

NAME INDEX

This is a name index of only the correspondence in the Curtis McDowell Papers, together with the dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the folder in which the material is to be found.

- Baker, R.P., to Amanda (McDowell) Bartlett, 1887, re: thanks for news; opposition to his paper, *The Sparta Expositor*, 1
- McDowell, Curtis, to Dr. Kidder, 1867, re: requests that a doctor in Nashville be consulted concerning his illness, which he describes, 1
- McDowell, Jackson, to nieces, 1887, re: requesting a visit; the Old Baptist Association to be held soon, 1
- McDowell, Jackson, to Amanda McDowell (3), 1854-1860, re: advice on boys; new things he has seen; providing for the future; teaching school; working, 1
- McDowell, Jackson, to Amanda and Mary McDowell, 1859, re: school work; life away from home; the Dibrell debt, 1
- McDowell, Jackson, to Curtis McDowell, 1861, re: sickness; debts incurred in his newspaper; death of Uncle Will McDowell and Aunt Mary Davis; states that he will stand with the government against South, 1
- McDowell, Jackson to Curtis, Mary and Amanda McDowell, 1867?, re: job as a pension agent, 1
- McDowell, Jackson, to L[ucien] L[afayette] McDowell (2), 1854-1864, re: his job; coming home in a few weeks; wanting word of the family during the war; purchases land in Williamsburg, Whitley County, Kentucky; stating that he is still for Lincoln and the Union, 1
- McDowell, Jackson, and Mary Rascoe McDowell, to Amy Burns, 1887, re: family news, 1
- McDowell, L[ucien] L[afayette], to Amanda McDowell (7), 1853-1861, re: family news; Cumberland Institute; starting a school at Smithville; teaching at Mt. Cumberland Academy, Boatland, Fentress County, Tennessee; marriage; legal transaction, 2
- McDowell, L[ucien] L[afayette], to Amanda and Mary McDowell (13), 1861-1868, re: camp conditions and the procedures for the days' activities; number of troops in camp; positions and force of the Union troops; commissary department; Battle of Perryville, Kentucky, 1862; requesting a copy of the Acts of Tennessee; low prices of items in Kentucky; business dealings; Louisville and Nashville Railroad; teaching school; local politics in Whitley County, Kentucky, 2
- McDowell, L[ucien] L[afayette], to Mary McDowell, 1868, re: admonishing her for not visiting Uncle Joshua; family news, 2

McDowell, L[ucien] L[afayette], to Curtis McDowell (7), 1861-1868, re: prevalence of war fever; anticipating hard times and getting by; desiring to join the cavalry; unit going to Kentucky and victory of Zollicoffer; possibility of battle near Louisville before end of the year 1861; cost of food and clothing during the war; sickness; cases before the court, 3

McDowell, L[ucien] L[afayette], to Jackson McDowell (5), 1858-1862?, re: teaching school; rank in the service; conditions in camp, 4

McDowell, William, to Jackson McDowell, 1868, re: family news, Bina's death; teaching situation, 5

McMartin, A.M., to Jackson McDowell, 1853, re: news of friends, 5

Smiley, R.G., to Jackson McDowell, 1855, re: move to Houston, Texas County, Missouri; hope for a visit; family news, 5

_____ to Jackson McDowell, 1857, re: congratulating his correspondent for placing himself as a candidate for the legislature for White County, Tennessee; advice; politics and government; Brigham Young, 5