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# DOUGLASS-MANEY FAMILY PAPERS
# 1805-1939

## (THS Collection)

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# INTRODUCTION

The Douglass-Maney Family Papers, 1805-1939, deal with the Douglass, Maney, and related families of Franklin, Gallatin and Nashville, Tennessee. The materials in this finding aid measure .84 linear feet. The Douglass-Maney Family Papers are the property of the Tennessee Historical Society. Single photocopies may be made for purposes of scholarly research but reproduction on a large scale is restricted.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Douglass-Maney Family Papers, containing approximately 250 items, spans the period 1805-1939. T he collection is composed of accounts, agreements, clippings, correspondence, estate papers, genealogical data, invitations, program, etc., military papers, two pamphlets, and a few photographs dealing with the related families of Maney, Murfree, and Douglass of Nashville, Franklin, and Gallatin, Tennessee.

There are about one hundred and fifty letters nearly all written by members of the three families and most of them addressed to Martha Ann Maney who married Dewitt Clinton Douglass of Gallatin, Sumner County, Tennessee. Martha Ann was one of thirteen children of William Maney and Martha Ann Long Coakley (Murfree) Maney who lived in Franklin, Tennessee. Raised as a sister with these children was their first cousin, Elizabeth Maney Murfree (Betty), whose parents, William Hardy Murfree and Elizabeth Meredith (Maney) Murfree, died when she was an infant. Most of her letters to Martha Ann are signed "your loving sister" and she refers to her aunt and uncle as "Ma" and "Pa". She married Henry Shelby Frazer of Lebanon, Tennessee. These letters between the sisters and the first cousin, Betty, are all well written and give a good picture of life at that time in a well-to-do family. When writing from distant places, such as Mr. Maney's plantation in Mississippi, one sees their affection for the servants. They never forgot to send their love to "all, black and white" – "to all the servants", etc.

The item of earliest date in the papers is the letter of Benjamin Coakley in 1805, addressed to Colonel Hardy Murfree in regard to the loss of his ship and cargo in a severe storm en route to the West Indies.

Of interest is the letter written by Susan (Maney) Boddie, March 2, 1851, in which she tells of the victims of cholera and adds that Dodge, the artist, "was very much alarmed" and went to Nashville the first day it broke out in Franklin and died that night. In an undated letter she writes about the Union forces that are camped in their grove at "Jessamine Hill" (today called "Myles Manor"), and describes the treatment received from the Union officers. She writes that General Granger (Gordon Granger, 1822-1876) asked her mother how many sons she had in the army. She told him and also mentioned other kin she had and he replied that he knew George Maney in Mexico and had traveled in Europe with James Maney. Then he looked at her and said, "Madam, I hate you".

Two letters, 1844, of David W. Dickinson (1808-1845), representative to the United States Congress from Tennessee, give news from Washington and directions for laying out and planting a garden. His wife's letter, 1844, also sends news from the nation's capital.

Letters, 1848, of John Bell (ca. 1826-ca. 1890), husband of Fanny Dickinson Maney (1828- ), have interesting descriptions of Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, commenting on the large number of free Negroes in the former and the black pall of smoke over everything in the latter.

Two letters from the mistress of "Rattle and Snap" give a small glimpse of life at that handsome home near Columbia, Tennessee. Sally Leah (Hilliard) Polk (Mrs. George Washington Polk) is the author of these letters written in 1845 and 1846, to her Maney cousins in Franklin, Tennessee.

James R. Bright's letter from Fayetteville, Lincoln County, Tennessee, November 20, 1865, conveys the news that "everything is high and no prospect of cheapening", but on the other hand he writes that the cotton business "looks much livelier than it did before the war" and "nearly every business house in the Town is occupied with either Dry Goods, Drugs or Groceries". He also writes that the practice of law is very good and that they have a very good school. He names the teachers.

The earliest account in the papers is that of 1821, showing the charges for coopering, pickling, salting, freighting, and sale of shad for the account of William Hardy Murfree. Included are a few miscellaneous school and merchandise accounts (clothes, furniture, farm implements, etc.).

Clippings include a long account of the unfortunate episode which led to the homicide of Richard (Frank) Maney in New Orleans about the year 1865; an encomium on John C. Calhoun by Dr. Alexander H. Stevens of the New York Historical Society at its meeting April 1, 1850; muster roll of Company K, CSA, Second Regiment of Tennessee Volunteers; and an account of the Fayetteville (Tennessee) *Observer*, newspaper established in 1850.

Included with a few estate papers is the inventory of the personal property of William Maney (1799-1862) and a notice in the Probate Court of Madison County, Mississippi, January Term, 1867, in regard to the sale of the lands of William Maney for the payment of debts and for division.

Invitations include one to the wedding of Jennie B. McEwen and Newton Cannon, February 27, 1873.

With the military papers in the collection is the authorization, dated May 15, 1862, at Richmond, Virginia, for Major Dewitt Clinton Douglass "to raise a battalion of Partizan Rangers to consist of five companies for the War. Until the battalion is enabled to furnish its own horses it will serve on foot…."

A copy of *Confederate War Journal*, Volume One, Number One, contains Confederate poems which evoke both pathos and patriotism including "Lorena" which was the great sentimental song of the war period. Included is a pamphlet concerning the restoration of the birthplace of Robert E. Lee, "Stratford" on the Potomac River, Westmoreland County, Virginia.

There are photographs of the Murfree home in Murfreesboro, North Carolina; the William Law Murfree home in Nashville, built in 1854 and only recently razed; the Maney home Franklin, Tennessee, called "Jessamine Hill"; the gravestone marking Colonel Hardy Murfree's grave in Williamson County, Tennessee; and R. H. Walker in Masonic regalia. Included is a drawing of "Crag-wylde", summer home of the Murfree family near Beersheba Springs, Tennessee.

# CONTAINER LIST

**Box 1**
**Correspondence**

1. Author unknown
2. "B"
3. Bell, Fanny Dickinson (Maney), 1828-?
4. Bell, John
5. Boddie, Susan (Maney), 1826-?
6. Bowman, Elizabeth Mary (Maney), 1822-?
7. Bright, James R.
8. "C"
9. "D"
10. Douglas, Alfred William
11. "E" – "F"
12. Frazer, Elizabeth Maney (Murfree), 1826-1918
13. "G"
14. "H" – "L"
15. "Mc"
16. "M"
17. Maney, Hardy James
18. Maney, Martha Ann Long Coakley (Murfree)
19. Martin, James Allen
20. O'Bryan, Fanny Blount, 1827-1879
21. "P"
22. "R" – "T"
23. "W"

**Box 2**

1. Accounts
2. Agreements, promissory notes, etc.
3. Clippings
4. Estate papers
5. Genealogical data
6. Invitations, programs, etc.
7. Military papers
8. Miscellaneous
9. Pamphlets
10. Photographs

# NAME INDEX

This is an alphabetical name index to the correspondence, all of which is in Box 1, Douglass-Maney Papers, together with dates of the letters. The figures in parentheses immediately following the name denote the number of letters if more than one. The last number refers to the folder in which the material is to be found.


Author unknown, ca. 1847-ca. 1865, re: general news, 1

Bell, Fanny Dickinson (Maney) (3), 1845-1864, to her sister, re: Jackson, Mississippi; making clothes; the draft, 3

Bell, John (6), 1844-1849, to his cousin, Martha Ann, re: Cincinnati; Pittsburgh; marriage of Molly Grundy, 4

Boddie, Susan (Maney) (5), 1847 - ca. 1862, to members of the family, re: people and cholera in Franklin, Tennessee; the artist Dodge; Union troops and General Granger, 5

Bowman, Elizabeth Mary (Maney) (6), 1843-1859, to her sisters, re: general family news, 6

Bridgers, Sophie, 1852, to cousin Clint, re: her bad eyes and wish for news, 2

Bright, C. T., 1864, to James K. Bright, re: "flag of truce" letters, 2

Bright, James R. (10), 1863-1867, to wife Priscilla; brother; a Mr. Carlos, re: news of the war; conditions after the war, 7

Bryson, John H. 1862, to "friend Bright", re: his regret not to be able to stay with t he regiment; will preach on Sunday, 2

Cartwright, H. J., 1867, to Messrs. Pitkin Wiard & Company, re: payment on a thresher, 8

Chappell, D. D., 1865, to Mrs. Douglass, re: Major Douglass, 8

Coakley, Benjamin, 1805, to Colonel Hardy Murfree, re: loss of his vessel and cargo in storm on voyage to West Indies, 8

Cruse, Moses, 1862, to James R. Bright, re: army news, 8

Davis, Fannie S., 1867, to Colonel Douglass, re: petroleum land, 9

Davis, M., n. s., to Martha, re: Evalina's illness, 9

Dickinson, David W. (2), 1844, to cousin Martha, re: how to lay out and plant a garden, 9

Dickinson, Sally Brickell, (Murfree), 1844, to cousin Martha Ann, re: news in Washington, the "Clay cake", etc., 9

Douglass, Alfred William (4), 1848-1849, to brother Clint, re: Nashville; his school teaching; fishing in the Harpeth, 10

Douglass, D. A., 1847, to Cullen E. Douglass, re: dissertation on war and its cause, 9

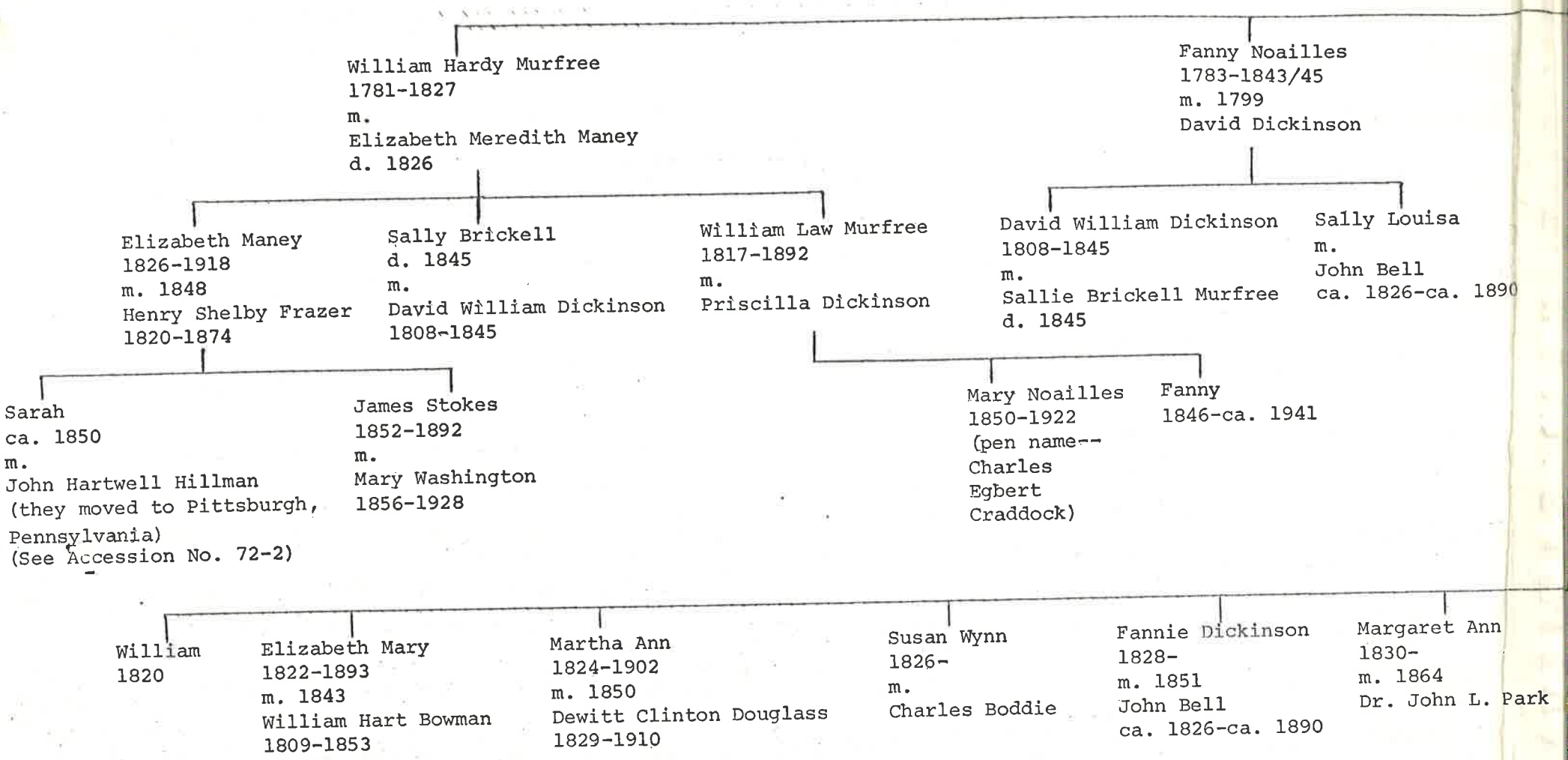
Douglass, Dewitt Clinton, 1866, to Seaton, re: purchase of a mule, 9

Douglass, M. H. (5), 1850, to her son; daughter-in-law; and brother; re: death of James B. Douglass and David Barry; advice to her son, 9

Douglass, Martha Ann (Maney), 1849, to her husband, re: general news, 9

Erskine, A. M., 1871, to his sister, re: family news, 11
Frazer, Elizabeth Maney (Murfree) (8), 1847-1849, to cousin Martha Ann, re: general news; her marriage; housekeeping; etc., 12
Frazer, Henry Shelby, 1849, to cousin, Martha Ann, re: his wife's illness, 11
Fulton, Alfred S., 1864, to James R. Bright, re: asks for the Reverend C. D. Elliott's whereabouts, 11
Galloway, Jane _____, n. d., to cousin Betty Murfree, re: invitation to visit her in Yazoo City, Mississippi, 12
Galloway, L. J., 1848, to cousins, re: invitation to visit them in Yazoo City, Mississippi, 12
Garrett, William Robertson, 1863, to ------, re: promotions in the army, 12
Gurley, Frank B., 1867, to D. C. Douglass, re: news from Louisville, Kentucky, 12
Heiskell, J. B. (2), 1865, to Mrs. Douglass, re: thanks for food sent to him in military prison and news that he is being exchanged, 14
Holladay, C. J., n. d., to D. C. Douglas, re: accounts due him as school teacher, 14
Jackson, R. T., 1848, to D. C. Douglass, re: his not returning to Tennessee, 14
Lowry, Robert, 1856, to Mr. Douglass, re: refinishing furniture, 14
McGavock, John, 1848, to Martha Ann Maney, re: his regret at missing cousins, 15
McLannin, Betty (Foute) (2), 1847, n. d., to Martha Ann Maney, re: general news, 15
Maney, Hardy James (3), 1860-1863, to sisters, re: army news, 17
Maney, James D., 1850, to Mr. Douglass, re: his inability to find plays wanted, 16
Maney, Martha Ann Long Coakley (Murfree) (11), 1845-1851, to her daughter, re general family news in Nashville and in Mississippi, 18
Maney, William, 1849, to Dewitt Clinton Douglass, re: his daughter's marriage to Mr. Douglass, 16
Martin, James Allen (11), 1848-1851, to his cousin, D. C. Douglass, re: opportunities in Arkansas; inquiries as to whereabouts of Willard Blue, 19
Murfree, Martha (2), 1845-1846, to her cousin, re: proposed cave trip; Sue Weakley, etc., 16
Murfree, Matthias Brickell, 1820, to his brother, re: land, crops, revivals, etc., 16
Murfree, Priscilla (Dickinson) (2), 1844, to her cousins, re: family news, 16
Murfree, William Law, 1843, to his uncle, William Maney, re: illness of his mother-in-law, 16
O'Bryan, Fanny Blount (20), 1847-1848, to Martha Ann Maney, re: general news, 20
Palmer, Laura (Douglass), ca. 1868, to Major Douglass, re: her marriage, 21
Park, Margaret Ann (Maney), 1851, to Mr. Douglass, re: family news, 21
Pillow, G. A. (2), 1865, to Mr. Douglass and to Colonel Maxwell, re: beginning cotton cultivation in Arkansas, 21
Pitkin, Wiard & Company (2), 1867, to Mr. Douglass, re: accounts, 21
Polk, Sally Leah (Hilliard) (2), 1845, 1846, to Maney cousins, re: news for her home, "Rattle and Snap", 21
Ripley, Elizabeth, 1838, to Martha Ann Maney, re: news of Boston, Massachusetts, 22
Swiggart, J. J., 1867, to D. C. Douglass, re: purchase of staves, 22

Taney, George W., 1848, to D. C. Douglass, re: his law class, 22
Toole, James, 1848, to James R. Bright, re: his business, 22
Walker, R. H. (2), 1865, to D. C. Douglass, re: receipt of “token” , 23
White, William McLin, 1849, to James A. McClure, re: cholera in Cincinnati, 23




*See also Accession Number 68-106

*Hardy Murfree
1752-1809
m. 1780
Sallie Brickell
1757-1802

Fanny Noailles
1783-1843/45
m. 1799
David Dickinson

illiam Dickinson
45

Brickell Murfree

Sally Louisa
m.
John Bell
ca. 1826-ca. 1890

lles

Fanny
1846-ca. 1941

Mary Moore
1786-1848
m. 1803
Isaac Hilliard*
1775-1824

Matthias Brickell
1788-1853
m. 1816
Mary Ann Roberts

James Brickell
1835-1912

Sally Hardy
1793-1857
m.
Dr. James Maney

Lavinia Brickell
1795-1881
m. 1814
Frank Burton

Martha Ann Long Coakley
1801-1868
William Maney
1799-1862

Fannie Dickinson
1828-
m. 1851
John Bell
ca. 1826-ca. 1890

Margaret Ann
1830-
m. 1864
Dr. John L. Park

Charles Carroll

Hardy James

Laurence Baker
1837-

Eliza Grantland

Thomas Henry

David Dickinson

Sallie Murfree