



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

**WILLIAM G. BROWNLOW FAMILY
PAPERS,
1836-1900**

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION

Processed by:

Lori D. Lockhart
Archival Technical Services

Accession Number: THS 860
Date Completed: July 17, 2006
Location: THS I-B-5
Microfilm Accession Number: 1802

MICROFILMED

INTRODUCTION

The William G. Brownlow Family Papers, 1836-1900, is centered around the William G. Brownlow family and primarily focuses on Annie Brownlow Patrick and the Patrick family. Annie Brownlow Patrick was the daughter of William G. Brownlow, former governor of the state of Tennessee (1865-1869), and the wife of William F. Patrick, Jr. The William G. Brownlow Family Papers are a gift of Mrs. Marie Halun Bloch of Cambridge, Massachusetts. See also the Governor William G. Brownlow Papers, 1865-1869, GP21.

The materials in this collection measure .25 linear feet of shelf space. There are approximately 40 items included in this collection. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the William G. Brownlow Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The William G. Brownlow Family Papers, containing approximately 40 items, spans the period 1836-1900. The collection is composed of assorted correspondence, photographs, promissory notes, legal documents, a Commonplace Book, a Book of Mottoes, and a Scrapbook. A large portion of this collection relates to Annie Brownlow Patrick and the Patrick family. Annie Brownlow Patrick was the daughter of William G. Brownlow, former governor of the state of Tennessee (1865-1869), and the wife of William F. Patrick, Jr. The arrangement of the collection is alphabetical. See also the Governor William G. Brownlow Papers, 1865-1869, GP21.

The W. G. Brownlow correspondence is centered around various letters written by or addressed to William G. Brownlow. Of special note is a letter dated July 4, 1868, from "Stella Mortem," Great-Grand Cyclops of the Ku Klux Klan, in which the writer threatens Governor Brownlow's life and also states that the Ku Klux Klan was responsible for the shooting of Simon Peters.

The Patrick family correspondence is a mix of letters, notes, and telegrams either written by members of the Patrick family or addressed to members of the Patrick family. One letter of note is dated March 7, 1887, and is from the Pinkerton National Detective Agency.

The editorial is from *The Ladies Repository* and is dated July 1862. The editorial contains interesting information on Brownlow's time in prison and tells the story of Harrison Self being sentenced to be hanged only to have that sentence changed after Jefferson Davis received a missive from Self's daughter, Elizabeth.

The legal documents are centered around the custody case of Camille W. Patrick.

The photographs primarily relate to Annie Brownlow. There is also one photograph of William G. Brownlow, one photograph of Mrs. W. G. Brownlow, and one photograph of the William G. Brownlow grave marker.

The promissory notes are signed by W. G. Brownlow.

The scrapbook was kept by Annie Brownlow and is dated 1875. The scrapbook contains various newspaper clippings about William G. Brownlow and current events of the time period.

The volumes are composed of a Commonplace Book and a Book of Mottoes. The Commonplace Book belonged to Annie Brownlow and is dated November 15, 1872. The Book of Mottoes belonged to W. Brownlow Patrick and is dated May 22, 1899. Both volumes contain numerous quotes.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William Gannaway Brownlow

- 1805 August 29 – Born in Wythe County, Virginia, the son of Joseph A. Brownlow and Catherine (Gannaway) Brownlow
- 1816 Parents died, leaving him to be raised by an aunt
- 1826 Entered the Methodist ministry and served for ten years as a circuit riding preacher
- 1828 Moved to Knoxville, Tennessee
- 1832 Delegate to the General Conference
- 1836 September 11 - Married Eliza (Annie) O'Brien
- 1839 Began publishing the *Tennessee Whig* at Elizabethton
- 1840 Moved to Jonesboro, Tennessee
- 1849-1861 Editor of the *Knoxville Whig*
- 1861 November 5 - Refused allegiance to the Confederate government and fled to the mountains of the North Carolina border
- 1861 December 6 - Arrested and placed in jail under suspicion of burning railway bridges
- 1864 Returned to Tennessee and resumed operation of the *Whig*
- 1865-1869 Governor of the state of Tennessee
- 1869 March 4 - Elected to the United States Senate
- 1869-1872 Served as United States Senator from Tennessee
- 1877 April 28 - Died in Knoxville, TN

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Correspondence -- William G. Brownlow, 1836-1868, n.d.
2. Correspondence -- Patrick Family, 1886-1900, n.d.
3. Editorial -- *The Ladies Repository*, 1862
4. Legal Documents -- James M. Patrick, 1886-1887
5. Photographs -- William G. Brownlow, Annie Brownlow, Mrs. W. G. Brownlow, grave marker, n.d.
6. Promissory Notes -- W. G. Brownlow, 1852-1853
7. Scrapbook, 1875
8. Volumes -- Commonplace Book and Book of Mottoes, 1872-1899