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ELLIOTT, COLLINS D.
(1810-1899)
PAPERS, 1816-1932

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INTRODUCTION

The papers of Collins D. Elliott (1810-1899), minister, teacher, and President of the Nashville Female Academy (1840-1866), and those of his daughter, Elizabeth Porterfield (Lizzie) Elliott (1860-1932) for the period 1816-1932, were given to the Tennessee Historical Society by the Elliott family.

The materials in this collection measure 2.1 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Collins D. Elliott Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, composed of approximately 1,000 items for the dates 1816-1932, contains material about the Nashville Female Academy; biographical and genealogical data; business papers; Civil War papers; documents; clippings; lectures, sermons, notes and other writings of Collins D. Elliott; family and general correspondence; Miss Lizzie Elliott's woman suffrage papers; honors, etc.; memorabilia; pictures; poetry; and sketches, both of people and places.

The largest portions of this collection are the papers concerning the Nashville Female Academy and the writings of Collins D. Elliott. The Academy papers contain accounts and bills, including student fees, purchases and services for the school, catalog information, papers and articles dealing with the controversy over dancing at the school, material about the founders and history of the school, a photograph of the academy, lists of library books, a partial list of students, minutes of the Board of Trustees, some business transactions, and statistics concerning the school during the most of its years of existence.

Dr. Elliott's writings include many sermons and lectures, part of which were delivered at the Nashville Female Academy. One of his sermons is dedicated to his daughter Lizzie during a time of crisis. Some speeches to his brother Confederates, information on Methodism and education, and some miscellaneous notes and papers make up the remainder of his writings.

The correspondence has been separated into incoming and outgoing letters of Collins D. Elliott and of his daughter, Elizabeth Porterfield Elliott (Miss Lizzie). Other correspondence is composed of letters written by various members of the Elliott and Porterfield families. There are twenty-eight letters written by Dr. Elliott, primarily to his wife, Elizabeth (Porterfield) Elliott, concerning his imprisonment in the Indiana State Prison and the Louisville Military Prison in 1862. In 1864, the Reverend Elliott was with the Confederate Army in Georgia. He was sent on a mission to Alabama and other Southern States to collect funds for the Tennessee Soldiers Relief Association. Frank Elliott, brother of Collins, wrote from Hamilton, Ohio, 1864, commenting upon abolitionists and the political contest between Lincoln and McClellan. Susan Porterfield wrote to her sister, Mrs. Elliott, while Dr. Elliott was teaching at LaGrange College, Alabama, 1836-1839, giving news of Nashville.

There are a few letters from members of the O'Bryan family. Martha and Fanny O'Bryan wrote from Columbus, Georgia, where they were refugees during the Civil War; and George and Joseph, together with their friend, Matthew Pilcher, were in Georgia with the Confederate Army. Regrets were expressed over the removal of Joseph E. Johnston. Other letters from various parts of the South tell of hardships suffered during the War.

The correspondence of Miss Lizzie Elliott is concerned largely with the publication of her little volume on the *History of Nashville*. About seven letters were written to J.J. Keyes, Superintendent of the Nashville City Schools, regarding the possible use of the volume in the schools.

Other items in the Elliott papers include genealogical data on the Elliott family; Civil War papers – passes, oaths, orders, and records' material on woman suffrage; and numerous sketches. There is biographical material on Andrew Jackson, John Yates Beall, Jefferson Davis, Sam Davis, Daniel Decatur Emmett, Atticus G. Haygood, D.C.

Kelly, Rosa Stanbury, General John Sullivan, and James Wood. There are sketches on the Blarney Stone, the Great Chalice of Antioch, Nashville, and the Ku Klux Klan. A drawing of the proposed replica of Fort Nashborough is also with the papers.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Collins D. Elliott

- 1810 Born – December, in Butler County, Ohio
Graduated from Augusta College, Kentucky
Instructor in Greek and Latin, LaGrange College, Alabama
- 1836 Married – Elizabeth Porterfield of Nashville, Tennessee
- 1840-1866 President, Nashville Female Academy
- 1866 Served as chaplain, Tennessee State Prison
- 1899 Died – July 28 in Nashville, Tennessee

Elizabeth Porterfield Elliott

- 1860 Born – November 20, in Nashville, Tennessee, daughter of Collins D. and Elizabeth Porterfield Elliott
Graduated from Peabody College
Taught in public and private schools; teacher at Howard School for more than 30 years
Authority on Tennessee history; officer of the Tennessee Historical Society
Active in educational and civic organizations including the Daughters of the American Revolution and the United Daughters of the Confederacy
Author of *The Early History of Nashville*
- 1932 Died in Nashville, Tennessee

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Container List

Reel:

1. Box 1, folder 1 to Box 3, folder 8
2. Box 3, folder 8 to Box 5, folder 14

Microfilm Reel # 1

Box 1

Nashville Female Academy

1. Accounts – 1831-1840
2. Catalog information
3. Controversy over dancing
4. Founders, history, photographs, etc.
5. Lists of library books
6. Lists of students – 1857, etc.
7. Minutes of the Board of Trustees and of business transactions – 1817-1878
8. School accounts
9. Statistics – 1822-1860

Microfilm Reel # 1

Box 2

1. Biographical sketch and genealogical data – Collins D. Elliott
2. Genealogical data – Elliott family
3. “Boscobel” – Elliott home
4. Business papers
5. Civil War papers – Passes, oaths, orders, and records
6. Clippings – Churches, Christianity
7. Clippings – Civil War
8. Clippings – Collins D. Elliott
9. Clippings – Early education
10. Clippings – Lizzie Elliott
11. Clippings – Nashville Female Academy
12. Clippings – Nashville history
13. Clippings – Tennessee government and politics
14. Clippings – Woman suffrage
15. Clippings – World War I

Microfilm Reel # 1

Box 3

Collins D. Elliott Writings

1. Lectures and writings
2. Methodism
3. Nashville Female Academy – lectures and sermons
4. Nashville Female Academy – lectures and sermons

5. Sermons and notes
6. Sermons and notes
7. Sermons and notes
8. Speeches to Confederates

Microfilm Reel # 2

Box 3

8. Speeches to Confederates
9. Writings on education
10. Writings – Nashville Female Academy – History, 1816-1860; controversy over dancing, etc.

Microfilm Reel # 2

Box 4

1. Elliott, Collins D. – Incoming – Baird - Strother
2. Elliott, Collins D. – Outgoing
3. Elliott, Elizabeth P. (Mrs. Collins D. Elliott) – Incoming – Bonner - Shapard
4. Elliott, Elizabeth (Miss Lizzie, re: Nashville)
5. Elliott, Elizabeth (Miss Lizzie” – Incoming – Allison - Morrow
6. Elliott, Elizabeth (Miss Lizzie” – Incoming – O’ Bryan – Trabue
7. Elliott, Elizabeth (Miss Lizzie” – Outgoing
8. Family – Bright, Lucius – 1865-1866
9. Family – Arthur, Elizabeth, Jule, and Mary Elliott
10. Family – Elliott, Collins D.
11. Family – Elliott, Frank
12. Family – George F.
13. Family – Porterfield, Susan
14. Miscellaneous – Brown – West, 1832-1932
15. Documents – Miscellaneous
16. Elliott, Lizzie – Papers, re: Woman Suffrage
17. Elliott, Lizzie – Papers – Records, honors, etc.

Microfilm Reel # 2

Box 5

1. Memorabilia
2. Memorabilia – Scrapbook
3. Personal accounts
4. Pictures
5. Poetry
6. Schools – Tuskegee Female College
7. Sketch – Andrew Jackson
8. Sketches – Beall, John Yates; Jefferson Davis; Sam Davis
9. Sketches – Emmett, Daniel Decatur; Atticus G. Haygood; D.C. Kelly
10. Sketches – Stanbury, Rosa; General John Sullivan; James Woods
11. Sketches – Blarney Stone; Great Chalice of Antioch; Nashville, Tennessee
12. Sketch – Ku Klux Klan
13. Stamps and envelopes

14. Willis – Elliott, Miss Lizzie

Separately Wrapped

1. Proposed Replica of Fort Nashborough (drawing)

NAME INDEX

This is a name index of the incoming correspondence only in the Collins D. Elliott 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 box and folder in which the material is to be found.

Collins D. Elliott Incoming Correspondence

- Baird, Sarah, 1851, Washington, Pa., re: accepts offer, 4-1
Baxter, Mary L., 1890, Nashville, Tenn., re: tree planted by Lafayette, 4-1
Bright, L.P., 1864, Marietta, Ga., re: arrival, 4-1
Crabb, George W., 1845, Tuscaloosa, Ala., re: General Wilson M. Kidd, 4-1
Cross, Jane T.H., 1864, Eatonton, re: rights of women, 4-1
Floyd, A.C., 1889, Columbia, Tenn., re: speech on Scotch Irish, 4-1
Goodrich, Thomas C., 1853, Fayetteville, Tenn., re: Dr. James Cowan, 4-1
Hamilton, Jo D., 1865, Montgomery, Ala., re: daughter's picture, 4-1
Hooper, Eugene M., 1844, Nashville, Tenn., re: terms of offer, 4-1
Kelley, D.C., 1871, Nashville, Tenn., re: presentation of parchments, 4-1
McTyeire, Holland N., 1871, Nashville, Tenn., re: advice, 4-1
Negley, Jas. S., n.d., Pittsburgh, Pa., re: refusal to consider claim because of rebel activities of Elliott family, 4-1
O'Bryan, Jo[seph] B. (2), 1864, Columbus, Ga., re: Martha and Fanny O'Bryan; Dalton, Ga., re: activities at Dalton, Johnston, etc., 4-1
O'Bryan, G.G., 1864, Atlanta, Ga., re: J.B. O'Bryan needed for reinforcements, 4-1
Pilcher, M.B. (2), 1864, Dalton, Ga., re: transfer as quartermaster to another regiment; Atlanta, Ga., re: appreciation for his good words, 4-1
Pitts, E.D., 1864, Opelika, Ala., re: appointment to preach, 4-1
Porterfield, John, 1862, Montreal, Canada, re: trip to Europe, 4-1
Price, George W.T., 1866, Tuskegee, Ala., re: relinquishing Nashville Female Academy, 4-1
Rutherford, Eliza B., 1864, Culloden, Ga., re: hardships of war and pleasant memories of attending school at the Nashville Female Academy, 4-1
Shute, John A., 1849, Nashville, Tenn., re: cholera in Nashville, 4-1
Strother, H.A., 1864, Barnesville, Ga., re: sermon of Dr. Elliott, hardships of war, and renewal of patriotism, 4-1

Elizabeth Porterfield Elliott Incoming Correspondence

- Allison, Annie, 1927, Nashville, Tenn., re: books recommended, 4-5
Anderson, E. (2), 1914, New York Public Library, re: thanking for book, 4-5
Atchison, Elizabeth, 1910, Nashville, Tenn., re: thanking for book, 4-5
Campbell, Johnie M., 1910, re: praises book, 4-5

Cotton, Hattie, 1910, Nashville, Tenn., re: praises book, 4-5
 Crockett, Sidney, Jr., 1923, Nashville, Tenn., re: praises book, 4-5
 Davidson, M., n.d., re: articles to be sent, 4-5
 Ewing, R.T., 1927, Nashville, Tenn., re: request for support, 4-5
 Hook, Ada, 1915, re: friendly greeting, 4-5
 Jackson, Eunice (2), 1886, 1887, Belle Meade, Tenn., re: thanks for gifts, 4-5
 Jennings, May, re: friendly greeting, 4-5
 Kelley, Pearl W., 1932, Nashville, Tenn., re: material on Ku Klux Klan, 4-5
 Kimball, Fiske (2), 1927, Philadelphia, Pa., re: architecture of First Presbyterian Church
 in Nashville; thanks for photographs of Stickland's work in Nashville, 4-5
 Little, Chas. E., 1922, Nashville, Tenn., re: clock gift of Miss Lizzie, 4-5
 McMurry, Chas. A., 1914, Nashville, Tenn., re: recommends book, 4-5
 Mervine, William M. (5), 1916, Philadelphia, Pa., re: genealogy of the Morgan family, 4-5
 Moore, John Trotwood, n.d., re: book, 4-5
 Morrow, Libbie, n.d., re: poetry, 4-5
 O'Bryan, George, 1899, Nashville, Tenn., re: death of Miss Lizzie's father, Dr. C.D.
 Elliott, 4-5
 Oehmig, Elizabeth, 1910, re: *History of Nashville*, 4-6
 Peddle, Juliet (4), 1926, re: genealogy of Elliott and Porterfield families, 4-6
 Rankin, Anne (5), 1916-1932, re: poems; Ku Klux Klan, 4-6
 Sampson, Anne E. (Mrs. John Russell Sampson), 1928, Richmond, Va., re: genealogy of
 the Woods family, 4-6
 Sewell, J.W., 1910, Nashville, Tenn., re: *History of Nashville*, 4-6
 Sioussat, St. George L. (3), 1926, re: Egyptian architecture of the First Presbyterian
 Church, 4-6
 Skeffington, Jane S., n.d., re: poetry, 4-6
 Thruston, G.P. (3), n.d., re: *History of Nashville*, – maps, etc., 4-6
 Trabue, Charles C., 1931, re: possible law suit against Maryland Casualty, Co., 4-6

Elliott Family Correspondence

Bright, Lucius (4), 1865-1866, Beech Grove near Fayetteville, Tenn., re: farming
 conditions, crops, servants, etc., 4-8
 Elliott, Arthur, 1864 (no place given), re: schooling, 4-9
 Elliott, Elizabeth (Porterfield) (Mrs. Collins D.), 1866, Nashville, Tenn., re: Nashville
 Female Academy after the War, 4-9
 Elliott, Jule (3), 1864, Hamilton, Ohio, re: Yankees and War; wants to return home, 4-9
 Elliott, Mary, 1864, re: family affairs, 4-9
 Elliott, Collins D. (23), 1862-1865, re: prison life and conditions in Indiana State Prison;
 collecting funds for Tennessee Soldiers Relief Association; service with Confederate
 Army, 4-10
 Elliott, Frank (8), 1864, Dalton, Ga., re: service in the Confederate Army; provisions in
 Alabama during the War, 4-11
 Elliott, George F. (7) (brother of Collins D.), 1864-1881, Hamilton, Ohio, re: abolitionists;
 election of Lincoln in 1864; cotton planting, 4-12
 Porterfield, Susan (3) (sister of Mrs. Collins D. Elliott), 1836-1839, Nashville, Tenn., re:

Nashville and family, 4-13

**Elizabeth Porterfield Elliott (Mrs. Collins D.)
Incoming Correspondence**

Bonner, Jennie, 1865, re: debt due Mr. Elliott, 4-3

Bonner, William, Jr. 1865, re: debt, 4-3

Douglas, Byrd, 1864, Nashville, Tenn., re: account, 4-3

O'Bryan, Fanny (2), 1865, Columbus, Ga., re: Frank Elliott taken prisoner; desire to return to Nashville; undated invitation, 4-3

O'Bryan, Martha, 1864, Columbus, Ga., re: news of Mr. C.D. Elliott; his trip to Alabama on behalf of the Tennessee Soldiers Relief Association; Frank in Payroll Department with Matt Pilcher; staying at Colonel Chamber's house; hears from her brothers, Joe and George; had great confidence in Joe Johnston but the President removed him, 4-3

Shapard, Cordelia, 1863, Cleveland, Ohio, re: requests news of friends in Nashville, 4-3

J.J. Keyes

**Incoming Correspondence, re: *History of Nashville*
By Elizabeth Porterfield Elliott**

This is a name index of letters written to J.J. Keyes, Superintendent of Nashville Public Schools concerning the use of Elizabeth Porterfield Elliott's *History of Nashville* in the Public Schools together with the dates of the letters. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the box and folder in which the material is to be found.

Barthell, E.E., 1910, 4-4

Fraley, C.L. (2), 1910, 4-4

Hatton, Mamie C., 1910, 4-4

Northern, Ethel, 1910, 4-4

Pilcher, Mrs. James S., Mrs. Robert Rodes, Mrs. Charles S. Brown, 1910, 4-4

Polk, Prudence, 1910, 4-4

Van Ness, I.J., 1910, 4-4