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**MacLAUGHLIN FAMILY
PAPERS
1779-1883**

Processed by:

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Archival Technical Services

Accession Number: 1979.036
Date Completed: May 8, 1979
Location: I-A-3
Microfilm Accession Number: 1269

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INTRODUCTION

The MacLaughlin Family Papers (1779-1883) are of the MacLaughlin family who lived in Rowan County, North Carolina and Davidson, Rutherford, Williamson, and Wilson Counties, Tennessee. The MacLaughlin Family Papers were given to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Mrs. Virginia Gooch Watson of Franklin, Tennessee.

The materials in this finding aid measure .42 linear feet. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the MacLaughlin Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The MacLaughlin Family Papers, containing approximately 82 items, span the period 1779-1883. The collection is composed of correspondence, genealogical data, sketches, and a will for members of the MacLaughlin and related families of Crawford, Edmondson, Gillespie, and Law in Baltimore, Maryland; Rowan County, North Carolina; and Davidson, Rutherford, Williamson, and Wilson Counties, Tennessee.

Correspondence for the period 1821-1883 consists of seventy-eight letters, of which forty-two are by Mary Crawford (Law) MacLaughlin (1796-1876), wife of James MacLaughlin (1789-1873), of Nashville, Tennessee. The earliest letters are by Mary MacLaughlin from Baltimore in 1821-1822 to her husband, James MacLaughlin, in Nashville. Two Mexican War letters by James Law MacLaughlin (1823-1848) are also included. These letters are addressed to his parents in Nashville, Tennessee from camp near Point Isabel, Texas, July 1, 1846 and from Camargo, Mexico, September 1, 1846. Prominent persons mentioned in the correspondence include Benjamin F. Cheatham, Felix Grundy, Andrew Jackson, Louis Kossuth, Gideon J. Pillow, John A. Quitman, and Zachary Taylor. Topics mentioned in correspondence include Baltimore, cholera, Kansas, Mexican War, Order of Pale Faces, smallpox, and yellow fever.

Sketches include that by Virginia Gooch Watson, "The Order of Pale Faces," Williamson County Historical Society Publication No. 1, Fall, 1970; and a biographical sketch of John Hart McLaughlin, 1798-1872, of Rowan County, North Carolina.

A will for James McGlaughlin (McLaughlin) of Rowan County, North Carolina, dated September 4, 1779, is also included in this collection.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Correspondence—Anderson, S. – Andrews, William J.
2. Correspondence—Crawford, Elizabeth, 1845-1855
3. Correspondence—Crawford, Rachel D. (Law), 1826-1845
4. Correspondence—Edmondson, Elizabeth “Bettie” (MacLaughlin), n. d. and 1866
5. Correspondence—Gillespie, Mary Ann Richardson (MacLaughlin), n. d. and 1868-1874
6. Correspondence—Gillespie, William Hart
7. Correspondence—Keeble, W. – MacLaughlin, Ann “Nannie”
8. Correspondence—MacLaughlin, James Law, 1846
9. Correspondence—MacLaughlin, Mary Crawford (Law), 1821-1827
10. Correspondence—MacLaughlin, Mary Crawford (Law), 1858-1871
11. Correspondence—MacLaughlin, Mary Crawford (Law), 1872-1876
12. Genealogical Data—MacLaughlin family
13. Sketch—Watson, Virginia G., “The Order of Pale Faces”
14. Sketch—MacLaughlin, John Hart, 1798-1872
15. Will—McGloughlin (McLaughlin), James, 1779
16. Addition—MacLaughlin Family Papers

NAME INDEX

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

- Anderson, S. to James MacLaughlin, 1827 re: settlement of court judgment against James MacLaughlin and John P. Erwin, 1-1
- Andrews, William J., to Henry C. MacLaughlin, n. d., re: article from *Christian Cynosure* critical of Ku Klux Klan or "Order of Pale Faces," 1-1
- Crawford, Anna and Elizabeth, to Misses MacLaughlin, 1845, re: describes the growth of Baltimore in wealth and population; sends a token of affection for cousin, 1-2
- Crawford, Elizabeth (4), to Mary MacLaughlin and others, 1850-1855, re: visit to Philadelphia; daguerreotype taken from Anna and Elizabeth Crawford, extended visit to Philadelphia because of the deaths of Aunt Sally Law's niece, Fanny Howard and her brother-in-law Mr. Brice; delicate condition of Aunt Alexina's health, Uncle John's children; Mr. Smith of Nashville; Aunt Louisa and family's visit at Christmas; Kossuth, Hungarian leader to be in Baltimore; death of Mr. Davies' daughter Emma and of Mrs. Swann's children; reply to letter sent by Mr. Hughes who leaves for Nashville; Aunt Alexina's visit and improved health; illness of father; Aunt Sally; John's excellent situation; Aunt Alexina quite sick; Mrs. Ramsey's stroke; Rev. Backus visits Nashville for meeting of the General Assembly of the church, 1-2
- Crawford, Rachel D. (Law) (2), 1826, 1845, re: family news from Baltimore; addition to Mary's family; prospect that Mary MacLaughlin will move to Russellville; Sally and Mr. Martin expected in Baltimore today; family news from Baltimore; illness in family; scarlet fever and gastric fever; Elizabeth had eye operation; James ran unsuccessfully for sheriff; Alexina plans to spend winter in Philadelphia; sends miniature daguerreotype of James Law and locks of hair from parents; 1-3
- Edmondson, Elizabeth "Bettie" (MacLaughlin) (5), n. d. and 1866, re: family news; grape hunting; making tarts; Dr. Ralston comes back with new leg; visits in Murfreesboro; family news, etc.; invitation to come see baby daughter; family news, etc.; cleaning house and fixing sofa; suggests Nan get Mary a white figure dress; family news; cholera is abating; Mrs. K has cholera symptoms; death of Myra McCall; encourages children to learn to spell; need to change name of place to "Flea Hill" ("Stony Lonesome" near Jefferson, Tennessee), 1-4
- Gillespie, Mary Law (MacLaughlin) (15), n. d. and 1868-1874, re: George and Louisa to be married in September; Randal thrashed 500 bushels of wheat on 40 acres; George rented 50 acres from Howlands up the pike for planting wheat and corn next year; hope to see Nan before Christmas; mother made George a mountain

cake and prefers it to the "Jeff Davis"; illness of Sallie Buchanan at Shelbyville; death of Letitie's little baby; Mary Enloe keeping house for Sallie and is tired of it, for chickens and hogs have free access to the house as well as the yard; Mr. Enloe has thirty pupils in his school; Mrs. Keeney's baby; George Gillespie's wife died with flux; visit with Lena; big fire at Franklin on one side of Main Street; Laura Dowd unable to get, ready before last of September; illness of Louisa; put up 7 large tin stands of blackberries; Randal to take me to visit Bettie; visit by Mag and Lou; Nannie to return home; Mary Lee has daughter; George says Laura is so fickle; accommodation train on road passes here going South at 5 o'clock; visit in Nashville; illness with cold; Mrs. Harding sends bouquet of hyacinths; 30-40 cedars set out in front yard; Pa's illness; plan for visit in Nashville; Nan and Jim McCall did not come for visit; William in Major Heiman's company; Bettie Jones marries Col. Doss of Mississippi; Randall Gillespie is second Lieutenant in Home Guard; to have bonnet done up; worries because Henry MacLaughlin is ensign and standard bearer in his company; visit with mother to see Sallie Buchanan who is still ill; Mrs. Keeney claims to have married second time for riches; marriage at Mr. Dan Pommeroy's; sale of Dr. Core's home place and adjoining 27 acres at courthouse; attached letter from mother; birthday for Nannie and Willie; Nina G. buys Venetian blinds which are taken for what he owed Randal; family news; father falls and breaks leg and doctor gives opiates to keep him quiet; asks Nan to take train and come soon; mother's illness; Willie's progress in school; Mr. Enloe says that Willie and Alvin Anderson are the best boys in school; George said to have good mind but is too nervous; unable to get to town since Randal sold old bay horse; mother busy reading "Fire Side Friend"; purchase of material for carpet; Randal killing a mutton; George killed calf on George Ruggy's place; also killed hog; requests receipt for strawberry vinegar; Lou in bed with boils; ring for Willie's birthday; Louisa makes two kettles of soap; unable to meet in Nashville because of Willie's illness; Randal to go down to see about cotton of Frank's; Dr. Rice receives call from church in Murfreesboro; Gen. Harding's daughter Mary to marry Mr. Jackson from Memphis; requests geranium slips from Barbara; Randal has to replant corn because so much rotted in the ground; Bessie Searight expected at Franklin and to go out to George Nickols, 1-5

Gilliespie, William Hart, to Aunt Nannie, (1882-1883), re; gay Christmas in Franklin, Tennessee; Aunt Louis Core staying with family; farm for a year and study surveying during winter; Guild Smith and cousin Nannie rent place and move to Chicago; cousin Ella Ratcliffe to marry Mr. Kinnard of Columbia, 1-6

Keeble, W., to Bettie McLaughlin, 1861, re; decides to retain Bettie as teacher for children next year; requests her to come by before he leaves for Camp Trousdale, 1-7

- Law, Louisa, to Mary McLaughlin, 1848, re: sympathy on recent bereavement in death of son; brother in Mexico writes of illness with no one to help him; Alexina in Annapolis with Aunt Blanche; brother John and family well in Philadelphia; family news from Baltimore, 1-7
- McLaughlin, A. R., to sister, 1854, re: letter to sister enclosing tomato seeds from Tennessee School for the Blind, 1-7
- MacLaughlin, Ann "Nannie" Hart, 1868, re: family news; Bettie's marriage; Willie's accident on the horse, 1-7
- MacLaughlin, James Law (2), 1846, re: news from army encampment near Point Isabel, Texas; description of Padre Island; crowded conditions for 500 men in passage in the brig Charlotte from New Orleans; Kentucky troops left for Matamoros; Mexican army 17,000 strong at Monterrey; Gen. Taylor expected to concentrate his forces and march against them; regiment is in the Nashville Blues, First Regular Tennessee Volunteer Inf. Regiment under Capt. B. F. Cheatham; report from army camp at Camargo, Mexico; much illness in camp; 3 or 4 deaths each day; 500 men ordered to Monterrey about 200 mile distance; news received at Reynosa that Mexican army revolted and sent Gen. Paredes in chains to Mexico City; supposed that Santa Anna is his successor; J. Bullock only member of Nashville Blues to have died; no hard fighting expected; disease is their most valuable ally; Mexican woman's recipe for cornbread; Gen. Pillow ordered to stay at Camargo with sick and convalescent; Gen. Quitman of Mississippi takes command of regiment; William and Anderson Tucker are well and hearty, 1-8
- MacLaughlin, Mary C. (Law) (42), 1821-1876, re: stopped at Greenville, Tennessee on stage trip to Baltimore because attachment levied on the stage by creditors of mail contractor; little James behaving well; Mr. Crawford attentive to our needs; disappointment that husband unable to come to Baltimore during summer; Mr. Crawford not going to Nashville until February or March; Mr. Crawford and Rachel probably are engaged and to be married shortly; mother wants James and brother Jacob present at ceremony; hopes husband may come to Baltimore in the fall; inquiry about prospects for teaching French in Nashville; disappointment that husband cannot come to Baltimore; plans to return to Nashville in September or October; fear of yellow fever in Baltimore; Miss Hitchcock, quite pretty little girl; inquiry about Jacob Law finding employment in Tennessee; seeks advice on returning home; Pittsburg route thought to be least fatiguing; scolds husband for failure to write more often; admits that son is not perfect; A. Dumeste returns home from Ft. McHenry; dislikes Nashville and finds it inhospitable; Mrs. Erwin's poor health not improved by trip to Springs; husband's trip to Alabama; dull season in Baltimore as fashionables in country or at springs; E. Skinner and husband at Saratoga; seeks advice on means for returning to Nashville; Mr. Crawford had plans to return on flatboat with Mr. Finley of Louisiana but plans did not materialize; Mr. Joyce gives account of fever near Baltimore; surprised by news of marriage of Nancy Ayres to Mr. Spence; Miss Campbell wishes to come to Nashville to visit her brother; asks for Tennessee money for trip home;

fever makes its appearance in Baltimore; Mr. Armstrong plans to return to Nashville by stage and expect to go with him; Nashville unhealthy this season; yellow fever prevails in Baltimore; death of Mr. Pearce and wife in Baltimore; fuss about Mary Kirkman and Captain Call; Gen Jackson must be mortified to find party badly beaten; heard that Darby turned out of church and Grundy taking freely to his bitters; receipt of letters and two notes of Tennessee paper (money); Mr. Armstrong in New York and may go to Nashville by stage by way of Wheeling; son James growing fat and hearty; Jacob Davies married to Mary Betts; Mr. Crawford and Rachel to be married next month and travel by water to New Orleans; Mr. Armstrong returns from New York and undecided about route home; Mr. Stewart leaves to bring home daughters – to meet in Knoxville; Mr. Crawford ships goods to New Orleans and unable to be detained in Nashville; son James completely in affections of grandparents; Mr. Armstrong returns to Nashville without Mary McLaughlin; Mr. Crawford on way to New Orleans; marriage to Rachel deferred until spring so as not to interfere with settlement of business at St. Francisville; commenced the weaning of James; the old nurse who accompanied me to Baltimore is anxious to go home to Nashville; husband's illness; hope to find opportunity to return to Nashville – Baltimore and Nashville sickly this fall with intermittent and remittent fevers; receipt of letter acknowledged; did not know Fisk could release husband; son talking plainly; Aunt mistaken in thinking Mary intended to spend winter in Baltimore; Elizabeth Skinner wishes to see James McLaughlin, Mrs. Erwin recovers health; Mr. Beveridge married to Miss Forney; business in Nashville did not turn out so well; death of Mrs. Craig; Mrs. Craig returns to Baltimore and is staying with son-in-law; Mr. Buchanan from Nashville in Baltimore and to return by Philadelphia and Wheeling; anxious to return home by the first opportunity; mild winter so far in Baltimore; Mr. Stewart is very ill and speech is impaired; request money to return home on; Uncle's indisposition; arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Cotton in Baltimore; death of Mr. Stewart; Sally sole heir of estate; Mr. Buchanan leaves tomorrow for Pittsburg; hope for passage of bankruptcy law in Congress; smallpox in Baltimore; by mistake Dr. Smyth sends smallpox scab instead of vaccine to some part of North Carolina and smallpox has spread to an alarming degree; James's work at the Furnace; note sent to Dr. Nixon; Mrs. Balch goes to the country; children are well; Mr. Starr called; James; mother came to town with sister Ann and husband and children on way to Western District; extended work at the Furnace; James's mother returns to country; Tom King has not settled for house rent; Rachel and Mr. Crawford expect to be in Baltimore for some time; Mr. Dodd paints chair; Peggy's illness; Col. Smith comes to settle accounts; Mary Ann fat and hearty, 1-9

MacLaughlin, Mary C. (Law) (9), 1858-1871, re: illness in family; letters from Baltimore friends, John Crawford and Mary; Lilly Ramsey marries Mr. Simmons; Sally Buchanan's baby; Farrar's ugly house; Judge Trigg aware of Mrs. McGavock's riches; cold cloudy weather for May; birth of daughter to Bettie MacLaughlin Edmondson; marriage plans of Dora Wade; Mr. Roper preaches at Smyrna church; astounded by Barbara's behavior; shocked at murder of J. McGavock by DeGraffenreid; visit in Smyrna; hot weather; advice on deceptive people; Kate interfering with Alice's matrimonial plans; visit from newlyweds, 1-10

MacLaughlin, Mary C. (Law) (12), 1872-1876, re: news from home; bad weather from crops; flowers in full bloom; family news; Lillie Buchanan has another daughter; news from Aleck who arrived yesterday; George kind and thoughtful; George and Willie in school; Frank Gillespie moves to his own place; father's health improving; Willie out of school because of illness; Nellie, Alford's wife, has a son this week; Wesley Radcliff's furniture sale; father improving from broken ribs; Mary suffering from neuralgia and "corysifrelas"; Presbytery to meet in Franklin this week; revival in Methodist Church; nature is putting on her green dress; family news; death of Mary Crawford's aunt, Mrs. Dinnerton; George improving in school; Mr. Thompson preaches on Sunday; hard to find another preacher like Dr. Rice; requests hops for making yeast and ledger book for paper; Cumberland Presbyterians raising subscription to build church in Franklin; father's health continues to improve; Randal thinks fruit is killed; sheared sheep this morning with good return; congregation well pleased with Mr. Thompson; honeysuckle covers trees with flowers; illness in family; death of Mrs. Ratcliffe; heavy rains for several days; family news; George helps father in fence building and working on barn; Mr. Enloe praises Willie for improvement in studies; negroes are up and alive about the Kansas business – hundreds preparing to leave it is said; planting peas and potatoes this week; George raising turkeys, Willie tends the chickens; family news; grandson recovers from illness; Willie returns to school; family news; visit with Dr. Core; Randal hired negro woman, Lizzie Buford, as field hand, helps in cleaning kitchen, etc.; family news; weather adverse for farm work, 1-11