McGILL-THATCHER
FAMILY PAPERS
1818-1979

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INTRODUCTION

The subject of this finding aid is the McGill-Thatcher Family Papers. The family lived mostly in East Tennessee, in the towns of Retro, Bakewell, Soddy, and Chattanooga. The papers were donated on April 19, 1999, by Caroline Rothe, a grandchild of one of the women featured prominently in the papers. Included in the papers are genealogies of the Hunter, McGill, Patterson, and Vandergriff families; land deeds dating to 1818; correspondence; numerous photographs, tin types, calling cards, cabinet pictures, drawings, and Daguerreotypes; greeting cards; a will; a military promotion and discharge papers from World War I; a pass to town from the Civil War; receipts; insurance papers; speeches; composition books; and obituaries.

The collection originally contained .75 cubic feet of material, but after processing and discarding of extraneous materials the collection is marginally smaller. There are no restrictions on the use of the collection, and copies of items may be made for individual or scholarly use.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The McGill-Thatcher Family Papers span the years 1818-1979, and document the lives of William Napoleon Bonaparte McGill and his family, particularly his two daughters, Ida Irene McGill and Pearl McGill Thatcher.

The collection is arranged by type of document and then alphabetically, with the exception of the photos which are arranged by type and size. When subjects in the photographs are known, they are arranged alphabetically by subject. Otherwise they are listed as unknown. Correspondence within the collection is organized by decade. The correspondence begins about 1864 and continues until the 1960s. The letters are basically greetings between family members. A few of the letters were written from a convalescent camp during the Civil War; others were written during World War I.

The collection is broad in the types of documents it contains. Included are genealogies of families related to the McGill family through marriage, or families they are descended from. There are family trees for the Hunters, the McGills, and the Pattersons. Types of materials included in the collection are: a roll book from 1890; a fifth grade composition book; correspondence from the Civil War and World War I; land deeds, 1818-1950; the will of William N. B. McGill; insurance papers from the early nineteen hundreds; photographs, Daguerreotypes, tintypes, and cabinet cards; birth records for Pearl Thatcher and Ida Irene McGill; obituaries of William N. B. McGill, his wife, his daughters, and Seldon Thatcher; graduation and alumni speeches; stories; promotion and discharge papers; appointment papers for William N. B. McGill in his duties as special deputy or justice of the peace; funeral registers; and newspapers clippings. The newspaper clippings have been photocopied onto acid-free paper and the originals have been discarded.

The collection provides information and insight through its letters and photographs into the lives of some Tennessee families across different eras and through major events.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The McGill name, meaning the son of a stranger or lowlander, is a Scottish name that originated in Galloway, Scotland. During the reign of King James I of England (1566-1625) the Scottish people were oppressed for being Presbyterian and refusing to submit to the Church of England. This persecution forced many to seek shelter in Ireland, but the situation was not any better there, because the Scots and the Irish were divided along cultural and religious lines. Many Scots again migrated, this time to America. They first resided in Pennsylvania, where William Penn operated a colony free from religious persecution. After a time, they crossed the Alleghenies and entered North Carolina and Virginia. Some time after they migrated to Tennessee and Kentucky. The branch of the McGill family covered in by this collection helped settle northern Hamilton County, Tennessee.

The majority of the information in this finding aid deals with William Napoleon Bonaparte McGill and his descendants. William N. B. McGill was born on August 23, 1863, and died on April 16, 1937. In his lifetime he was a landowner, a mason, chairman of his local Republican committee, and served as justice of the peace. He married Margaret Almyra Vandergriff who was born on April 11, 1888, and died January 6, 1951. This marriage produced five children: Sarah Elizabeth McGill, born on February 14, 1889; Ida Irene McGill born on February 2, 1891; Urcie Pearl McGill born on September 30, 1893; William Gilbert McGill born on May 25, 1896; and George Willard McGill born on July 29, 1905.

The documents and photographs preserved in this collection relate mostly to Ida Irene McGill and Urcie Pearl McGill-Thatcher. Ida Irene McGill was a teacher, trained in Johnson City, Tennessee, who taught in Hamilton County. Urcie Pearl McGill-Thatcher was also a teacher in Hamilton County. On November 11, 1921 Urcie Pearl married Seldon Thatcher, a World War I veteran, and from their marriage came Laura Margaret Thatcher born on October 25, 1922, and William Seldon Thatcher born on September 11, 1924. Laura Margaret Thatcher married John C. Rothe on September 11, 1948. Born to them were Charles Thatcher Rothe (November 16, 1951) and Caroline Rothe (December 15, 1953). Adopted children of William Seldon Thatcher are Bobby Thatcher, born in 1960, and Cindy Thatcher, born in 1962. Caroline Rothe Shaw, granddaughter of Urcie Pearl McGill-Thatcher, donated the materials in this collection.
CONTAINER LIST

Box 1
1. Address book
2. Birth Records—Ida Irene McGill; Urcie Pearl McGill
3. Commission, Justice of the Peace—Wm. McGill
4. Class Book, The Methodist Episcopal Church, 1890
5. Composition Book 5th Grade Literary Society, March 1919
6. Correspondence, 1863-1864
7. Correspondence, 1870-1871
8. Correspondence, 1883-1887
9. Correspondence, 1892-1899
10. Correspondence, 1902, 1904
11. Correspondence, 1912, 1918, 1919, n.d.
12. Correspondence, 1930-1931
14. Land Deeds, 1818-1952
15. Funeral Books (2), Margaret A. McGill, 1951
17. Genealogy
18. Genealogy
19. Genealogy
20. Genealogy
21. Genealogy
24. Home Insurance Policy, 1920
25. Honorable Discharge—Seldon Thatcher, 1919
26. Newspaper Clippings
27. Obituaries
28. Wedding Announcement, Thatcher-McGill, 1921
29. Postcards
30. Promotion to Sgt. 1st Class—Seldon Thatcher, 1918
31. Receipts, 1885-1923
32. School Materials, 1921, n.d.
33. Special Deputy Sheriff Papers—Wm. McGill
34. Speeches, 1912, n.d.
35. Voter Registration Certificate, W. N. McGill, 1899
37. Will—William N. McGill, 1936
38. Cemetery Lot Papers, Ida McGill/Pearl M. Thatcher, 1951
39. Original envelopes, cards, and note from photograph book #1
Box 2
Oversize Items
44. Sheet Music: "My Homeland Tennessee"; "Dear Old Cumberland"; "Sympathy"
45. Life insurance policy: William and Maggie McGill, July 1939

Box 3
Early Photographs
1. Unidentified male (Daguerreotype), n.d.
2. Unidentified female (Daguerreotype), n.d.
3. Unidentified male (tintype), n.d.
4. Unidentified female (tintype), n.d.
5. Unidentified female (tintype), n.d.
6. Unidentified young male with hat in hand (tintype), n.d.
7. Unidentified male with hat in hand (tintype), n.d.
8. Unidentified elderly woman (tintype), n.d.
9. Two males, unidentified (tintype), n.d.
10. Elderly couple, unidentified (tintype), n.d.
11. Young woman, unidentified (tintype), n.d.
12. Young woman, unidentified (tintype), n.d.
13. Couple, man sitting, woman standing, unidentified (tintype), n.d.
14. Man in military uniform with hand on pedestal, unidentified (cartes de visite), n.d.
15. Elderly woman, unidentified, cut-off part of cabinet card, n.d.
16. Pearle and Bill McGill, made by E. A. Hicks at his home (Retro, TN) (mounted photograph), n.d.
17. Slightly larger photograph of the above photograph.
18. Middle-aged woman (mounted photograph, two copies), n.d.
19. William Napoleon Bonaparte McGill (mom's grandfather), (cabinet card), n.d.
20. Young woman, unidentified, (mounted photograph on card), n.d.
21. _____ McGill, Retro, TN, elderly woman standing, hand on chair, unidentified (mounted photograph), n.d.
22. Oval portrait of woman, unidentified (mounted photograph), n.d.
23. Same portrait of woman as above (mounted as cabinet card), n.d.

Box 4
Photographs:

William N. B. McGill
Margaret Vandergriff McGill
29. Margaret Vandergriff McGill, standing, n.d.
30. Margaret Vandergriff McGill, with unidentified infant, May 5, 1950

William and Margaret McGill
32. William and Margaret McGill, n.d.
33. William and Margaret McGill, n.d.
34. William and Margaret McGill, n.d.

Ida Irene McGill
35. Ida Irene McGill, by garden fence, September 1918
37. Ida Irene McGill, strip photo (2), n.d.
38. Ida Irene McGill, strip photo (3), n.d.
40. Ida Irene McGill, n.d.
41. Ida Irene McGill, and Laura Thatcher, n.d.
42. Ida Irene McGill, "Ida, Lillian & I, in Grant Park…," n.d.
43. Ida Irene McGill, n.d.
44. Ida Irene McGill, "Ida (my sis) and her chum Berniece," n.d.
45. Ida Irene McGill, n.d.
46. Ida Irene McGill, (post card photo three copies), n.d.
49. Ida Irene McGill, (three color portraits) n.d.
50. Ida Irene McGill, (two small portraits), n.d.
50a. Ida Irene McGill, Laura and Bill, n.d.

(Urcie) Pearl McGill
51. Pearl McGill, (cut out portrait), n.d.
52. Pearl McGill, (three strip photos), n.d.
53. Pearl McGill and John Anderson, (strip photo), n.d.
54. Pearl McGill, 1917
55. Pearl McGill, 1917
56. Pearl McGill, (Lil & Bill) n.d.
57. Pearl McGill, Bill, & Laura, n.d.
58. Pearl McGill (L), and two unidentified persons, n.d.
59. Pearl McGill, and seven other unidentified persons, January 22, 1916
60. Pearl McGill (L), and seven other unidentified persons, 1914
61. Pearl McGill, left side in car back seat, with four other unidentified persons (post card photo, two copies), 1913
62. Pearl (McGill) Thatcher, (strip photo, three copies), n.d.
Ida and Pearl McGill
63. Ida and Pearl McGill, n.d.
64. Ida and Pearl McGill, and unidentified man on car running board, n.d.
66. Ida and Pearl McGill, and children, 1913
68. Ida and Pearl McGill, "Rose, Ida, Jane, Mr. Cabbage, Elizabeth, Johnson City," n.d.
69. Ida and Pearl McGill, and three unidentified persons, n.d.

Ida and Pearl's Florida Trip
70. "Hurricane Is.—Fla.," (post card photo), 12-31-1916
71. "Trying the Sand, Florida," (post card photo), 1916
72. "Returning from the Gulf, Fla.," (post card photo), 1916
73. "On Gulf Beach," (post card photo), 12-1916
74. "Sandy—Hurricane Is., Panama City, Florida," 12-1916
75. "Sandy Hill—Hurricane Is., Fla.," (post card photo), n.d.
76. "Oil Tanks, Florida," 1-1-1917
77. Ida or Pearl McGill, (post card photo), n.d.
78. Ida and Pearl McGill, (post card photo), n.d.
79. Ida and Pearl McGill, (post card photo), n.d.
80. Ida and Pearl McGill, and unidentified woman, (post card photo), n.d.
81. Ida and Pearl McGill, and unidentified woman, (post card photo), n.d.
82. Ida and Pearl McGill, and unidentified persons in auto, (post card photo), n.d.
83. Ida and Pearl McGill, and unidentified persons with auto, (post card photo), n.d.

William Gilbert McGill
84. Bill McGill (L) and unidentified man, n.d.
85. Bill McGill, in military uniform, (post card photo), n.d.
86. Bill McGill and other soldiers in uniform, (post card photo), n.d.
87. "P.W.E.Co #71, Saumur, France," ("I am 2nd on the right, standing"), March 25, 1919
88. William McGill and woman on couch (color photo), n.d.

George and (Ruth) McGill
89. George McGill, n.d.
90. George McGill, and unidentified persons, n.d.
91. George and Ruth McGill, n.d.
92. George, Ruth, infant, Margaret McGill, March 5, 1950
93. Ruth, George, Margaret McGill and infant, March 5, 1950
94. Ruth, East Lake Park, May 1, 1921
95. Ruth, 8/17/1935
96. Ruth "At Home," February 6, 1921
97. Ruth and Bill, Blowing Springs, February 22, 1921
McGill Family
98. McGill women—Margaret, Sarah, Ida, and Pearl (post card photo, two copies), 2/2/1918
100. McGill family, n.d.
102. McGill family, n.d.
103. McGill family, n.d.
104. McGill family, n.d.
105. McGill family, May 21, 1961
106. McGill family, May 21, 1961
107. George McGill, June 1961
108. George and William McGill, May 21, 1961

William Craighead Thatcher

Laura Margaret Thatcher
110. Laura Margaret Thatcher, n.d.
111. "Little Laura Margaret with her 'wee small' bonnet on…," n.d.
112. Laura Margaret Thatcher, n.d.
113. Laura Margaret Thatcher, n.d.
115. Laura Margaret Thatcher, n.d.
116. "Zee boy and Margaret under the old sycamores," n.d.
117. Laura Margaret Thatcher, n.d.
118. Laura Margaret Thatcher, n.d.
119. Laura Margaret Thatcher and unidentified girl, n.d.
120. "My Room of 5th Grade," L. M. Thatcher, 1st row, 4th from left, (post card photo, two copies), November 1932
121. "7th Grade, Miss Rose Nipper," L. M. Thatcher, 2nd row, six from left, (post card photo), ca. 1934
122. Laura Margaret Thatcher, n.d.
123. Laura Margaret Thatcher, "Me Again," n.d.
124. Laura Margaret Thatcher Rothe and Charles, 11/1951

Charles Rothe and Other Rothe Family Members
125. Charles Rothe, n.d.
126. Charles Rothe, n.d.
127. Charles Rothe, n.d.
128. Charles Rothe, n.d.
129. Charles Rothe, n.d.
131. Charles Rothe, n.d.
132. Charley and Becky Rothe, (color photo) n.d.
133. "John Rothe, 51," (age/date?)
134. Caroline Rothe, age 9 (Margaret's daughter), 1968
135. Brian Thatcher Rothe and John Milne Rothe (color photo), n.d.

Photographs: Captioned and/or dated
136. "Lake Geneva, Wis.," Sun., July 11th, 1941
137. "Lookout Mt.," 6-29-1913
139. "Parksie" Ruth, Feb. 22, 1921
140. "National Cemetery," 1915
141. "Kidlets," 5-26-1918
142. "Mrs. Curtis, Camilla, & I, 308 Lamont St.," n.d.
143. "Good Eats—High Pt. Ga.," 7-22-1915
144. "308 Lamont St.," June 30, 1929
145. Group shot, picnic?, 1914
146. "My room, teacher, Mae Belle Frazer," 1934
147. "In the Smokies, Mr. & Mrs. Martin, Aleen, & I," 1950
149. "Elizabeth & Lucile, taken in front of Dad's home when I was here.," n.d.
150. "Mrs. Sterling, you, Mrs. Truelove(?), and Edythe somebody?" n.d.
151. "On campus at Milligan College steps, on which are engraved the names...," n.d.
152. "Oakdale Ave.," Apr. 2, 1930
158. "Maura, George, Pearl, Maurine, William, me, Bethene Corness, in front yard on hill years ago...moved to Ariz for T.B., passed away, n.d.
159. Man, woman and two children, 1917
160. Man walking down the street, January 1946
161. Man, woman and three children in front of house, 8/17/1935
162. Outdoor group shot of six adults and two children, 1928 or 1929
163. "Ruth Stephenson, 8th Grade, George Bond," class picture, (post card photo), n.d.
164. "Lottie & I, taken by Lillian, Lil's Frazier," 4-20-1949
165. "Lottie & I, taken by Lillian, Lil's Frazier," 4-20-1949
169. Flowers at graveside, January 8, 1951
170. Flowers at graveside, January 8, 1951
171. Flowers at graveside, January 8, 1951
172. Martha McGill, George's daughter, n.d.
173. Unidentified woman (Ida McGill?) (color photo), 4/1967
175. "Xmas 1962, 2604 Swing Drive," five women (Ida and Pearl McGill?) and one man (color photo), 1962
176. "Xmas 1962—Swing Dr.," (Pearl McGill?) (color photo), 1962
177. "Christmas Party S & W, Mrs. Holt, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Pope, and Idd(?)," (color photo), Dec. 11, 1965
178. "Fairmont Blvd.,” exterior shot of house and trees, n.d.
179. Exterior shot of unidentified mansion, n.d.
180. Exterior of unidentified house, January 1956
180a. Two women in hats sitting on large rock, 1917
180b. Four adults and two children, unidentified, 9-14-1919
180c. Group of unidentified individuals with dog (post card photo), 1917

Photographs: Unidentified/Not Dated
181. Unidentified young child in chair, n.d.
182. Unidentified man and three women under a tree, n.d.
183. Unidentified young girl and boy, n.d.
184. Unidentified man and two women, n.d.
185. Small photo of unidentified man in a hat eating watermelon, n.d.
186. Unidentified young boy on a pony, n.d.
187. Two men, an older woman, and a small child, unidentified, in front of house, n.d.
188. Unidentified small child standing in yard, n.d.
189. Unidentified man and small child sitting in garden, n.d.
190. Unidentified man, woman and three children under tree, n.d.
191. Unidentified women and man by auto, n.d.
192. Unidentified woman in hat, n.d.
193. Unidentified small boy in yard, n.d.
194. Unidentified young woman in hat sitting on a car running board, n.d.
195. Unidentified woman in hat sitting on grass, n.d.
196. Unidentified man, woman, and dog, n.d.
197. Three women, unidentified, standing on road, n.d.
198. Three girls and a boy, on a pile of logs, n.d.
199. Four women and two men, unidentified, n.d.
201. Unidentified infant, n.d.
202. Unidentified woman in hat in front of house (two copies), n.d.
203. Unidentified young girl in bonnet, n.d.
204. Seven adults and two children, unidentified, n.d.
205. Unidentified older woman and man sitting on wooden chair, n.d.
206. Unidentified woman in hat in front of hedge, n.d.
207. Unidentified man and woman standing on grass, n.d.
208. Six women and one man, unidentified, standing in bushes, n.d.
209. Unidentified old woman standing in front of out building, n.d.
210. Three women and one man standing in bushes, n.d.
211. Unidentified group of adults and children outdoors, n.d.
212. Four unidentified individuals sitting on the steps to a house, n.d.
213. Two women, a man, and a child, unidentified, in front of a porch, n.d.
214. Unidentified woman in hat standing on porch, n.d.
215. Unidentified older woman standing alongside house, n.d.
216. Four women, two men, unidentified, n.d.
217. Three women and one man, unidentified, n.d.
218. Group of individuals outside sitting around a table, n.d.
219. Two unidentified older women, n.d.
220. Three unidentified women in hats, n.d.
221. Unidentified woman standing on the stone steps of a building, n.d.
222. Two unidentified women (Ida and Pearl?) standing in front of a lake, n.d.
223. Unidentified man and woman with wash tub on pile of rocks, n.d.
224. Group of seven unidentified women, n.d.
225. Unidentified old woman and middle-aged man in front of tree, n.d.
226. Unidentified man holding fish, woman with child, and tent, n.d.
227. Unidentified old woman sitting in chair under tree, n.d.
228. Unidentified young girl sitting on grass, n.d.
229. Unidentified woman with bonnet standing in field, n.d.
230. Woman standing behind old woman and man on lawn chair, n.d.
231. As above, with three women behind chair, n.d.
232. Two unidentified women standing in yard, n.d.
233. Unidentified young boy on tricycle in front of stone steps, n.d.
234. Unidentified young woman with baby standing alongside automobile, n.d.
235. Unidentified group of six adults and two children on grass, n.d.
236. Picture of garden gate and fence looking at snow-covered trees and field, n.d.
237. Unidentified group of four boys and a dog sitting on steps to house, n.d.
238. Longview of house with two unidentified people standing/sitting on porch, n.d.
239. Unidentified group of people, mostly women, sitting outside around table, n.d.
240. Unidentified young girl sitting on tree stump, n.d.
241. Unidentified young girl on tricycle in front of stone steps, n.d.
242. Four unidentified women and young girl, with man sitting, on steps of building, n.d.
244. Four unidentified young children holding branches in front of farm building, n.d.
245. House with stone porch and man sitting on lawn, n.d.
246. Two unidentified elderly women in hats, n.d.
247. Two women, a child, and a man, unidentified, n.d.
248. Four unidentified women on lawn chair in front of house with stone porch, n.d.
249. Unidentified young child on blanket on grass, n.d.
250. Unidentified woman next to mill water wheel, n.d.
251. Five unidentified children behind bushes, n.d.
252. Small photo of elderly unidentified woman on rocking chair on porch, n.d.
253. Unidentified man, woman and two small children on bench, n.d.
254. Long range shot of two unidentified people standing on rock overhang, n.d.
255. Six unidentified women and one man outside of a house, n.d.
256. Group of seven unidentified people, n.d.
257. Two unidentified men with fish, n.d.
258. Five unidentified children, one holding a large ball, n.d.
259. Three unidentified men in hats behind auto, n.d.
260. Two unidentified women and a man standing in front of a large rock, n.d.
261. Unidentified woman standing on side of brick building, n.d.
262. Two unidentified women, one in a hat, arms around each other, n.d.
263. Strip photo of two unidentified women, n.d.
264. Two post card photo portraits of unidentified young boy and girl, n.d.
265. Photo post card of young boy and dog standing on car running board, n.d.
266. Unidentified man (with umbrella) and woman on railway trestle, n.d.
267. Photo post card portrait of unidentified young girl and boy, n.d.
268. Unidentified woman next to auto, n.d.
269. Unidentified man an woman sitting on ground, n.d.
270. Unidentified boy and girl holding dolls, n.d.
271. Unidentified woman sitting on bench under tree, n.d.
272. Two unidentified young girls on lawn, n.d.
273. Unidentified woman and two children on stone porch, n.d.
274. Unidentified woman and two children on playground slide, n.d.
275. Unidentified woman near water wheel, n.d.
276. Unidentified baby in wash tub, n.d.
277. Unidentified little girl under tree, n.d.
278. Three unidentified women sitting on stone steps, n.d.
279. Unidentified young child in leaves, n.d.
280. Three photo post cards of large group of people, unidentified, n.d.
281. Unidentified young girl and dog sitting on steps, n.d.
282. Two women and a man unidentified, next to car, n.d.
284. View of field, small tree and hills in background, n.d.
285. As above, n.d.
286. Color portrait of unidentified boy, n.d.
287. Color portrait of unidentified boy, n.d.
289. Color snapshot of three elderly women, n.d.
290. Color slide of unidentified woman sitting on chair, n.d.
291. Color slide of unidentified couple standing in front of trees, n.d.
292. Color slide of unidentified woman sitting on couch, n.d.
293. Color slide of four unidentified women, n.d.

Box 5
Oversize & Mounted Photographs/Drawings
Folder 1.
296. Mounted photograph, seven unidentified men and women, n.d.
297. Mounted photograph, school building with students lined up, n.d.
297a. Mounted photograph, group of unidentified men of an unidentified fraternal order, "S. Goforth, Bakewell, Tenn.," on reverse, n.d.
Folder 2.
300. Mounted photograph, unidentified child, n.d.
301. Mounted photograph, Margaret Almira Vandergriss, n.d.
303. Mounted photograph, two unidentified boys, n.d.
304. Same as above
305. Mounted photograph, three women, unidentified, n.d.
Folder 3.
306. Portrait, 5 x 7, of unidentified man, n.d.
307. Pearl Thatcher, 5 x 7 portrait, n.d.
308. Portrait of unidentified child, 5 x 7, n.d.
309. Ida McGill, 5 x 7, portrait, n.d.
310. Photograph of Margaret Thatcher (R), and another woman and man, n.d.
311. Pearl Thatcher, 8 x 10, portrait, n.d.
312. Pearl Thatcher, 8 x 10, portrait, n.d.
313. Pearl Thatcher, 8 x 10, colored photograph, n.d.
314. Laura Margaret Thatcher, 8 x 10, portrait, colored photograph, n.d.
315. Unidentified banquet setting, 8 x 10, n.d.
316. Pearl and Ida and five other persons, 8 x 10, n.d.
317. Same as above.
Folder 4. Photograph Book #1, "Laura Margaret Thatcher," ca. 1921-1925
Folder 5. Photograph Book #2
Folder 6. Photograph Book #3
Folder 7. Photograph Book #4