



State of Tennessee  
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**LILLARD FAMILY  
PAPERS  
1806-1913**

*Processed by:*

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## INTRODUCTION

The Lillard Family Papers, composed of papers of the Lillard family, primarily the two Civil War colonels, John Mason Lillard and his younger brother, Newton J. Lillard, and numerous items regarding the history of Meigs County were collected by the Honorable Jasper Worth Lillard (1866-1947), Postmaster at Decatur, 1893-1897; member of the Tennessee House of Representatives, 1905-1907; County Attorney, Meigs County, 1907-1928; and several times Special Circuit Judge and Chancellor. The collection was given to the Manuscript Division in August 1961.

The materials in this finding aid measure 2.4 linear feet. Literary rights to the unpublished writings in the Lillard Family Papers have been dedicated to the public. Single photocopies of unpublished writings may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Lillard Family Papers, containing approximately 1,000 items, spans the period 1806-1913. The collection is composed primarily of accounts, correspondence, deeds, land grants, and biographical and genealogical data pertaining to the Lillard family. James III, John and William Lillard were among the first settlers of "ten mile valley" situated in the Hiwassee District of the southeast section of Tennessee. James Lillard III was one of the founders of the town of Decatur, Meigs County, Tennessee.

The correspondence in the collection is for the most part family correspondence for the dates 1848-1910. Dr. John Mason Lillard and his younger brother, Newton J. Lillard, both served in the Mexican War and both were colonels in the Civil War. Colonel J. M. Lillard commanded 26th Tennessee Regiment and was killed in the Battle of Chickamauga. Newton J. Lillard entered the Confederate service as a Captain of the Third Tennessee Regiment and was made Colonel in May 1862. Forty letters were written by the two officers and members of their family during the period of the War. Ten letters for the years 1854-1859 deal with the copper mining business. A letter from Samuel Congdon, New York, to J. M. Lillard dated April 7, 1858, requests Lillard to investigate certain mining properties.

The collection also contains a considerable number of items relating to Meigs County. This material consists of land grants, deeds, court transcripts, other legal and official documents for the period 1825-1913; church and school records; poll lists and militia records, 1844-1911; and muster rolls of Confederate regiments composed primarily of volunteers from Meigs and surrounding counties.

The earliest item in the collection is a North Carolina indenture dated 1806. This is one of several items pertaining to Ashe County, North Carolina, the home of the families of Mary C. J. Thomas (Mrs. John M. Lillard) and Caroline Worth (Mrs. N. J. Lillard).

In addition to the above items there is a notebook of John M. Lillard containing an essay written for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Lillard practiced medicine several years and then studied law. At the beginning of the Civil War he had been a lawyer for two or three years.

An addition to these papers consists of a time book for the Ore Knob Mines, Ashe County, North Carolina; a volume containing some records of the Lillard and King Mining Company of Decatur, Tennessee, for May 26, 1854, through January 1, 1855; and a letter written by G. C. Sandusky from Shelbyville, Tennessee, on July 30, 1870. The time book is dated from February 1855, through November 1856, and lists the names of workers in Ore Knob Mines along with the time each worked during a given month. It was originally the property of John Mason Lillard. The other volume has, in addition to the mining records, lists of names for jury duty and notations about court cases for Meigs County, Tennessee, 1869-1879.

Two scrapbook volumes and a selection of newspapers were loaned for microfilming by Stewart Lillard, Jr. of Decatur, Tennessee, and are available only on microfilm. Scrapbook Number 1 contains clippings about the Mexican War written by a veteran, R. M. Edwards, of Cleveland, Bradley County, Tennessee, and published in the *Knoxville Tribune* in 1895. Also there are clippings about the Civil War including an address by V. C. Allen; the War Recollections of Company I, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee Regiment,

in five parts by a private published in a Decatur, Tennessee, newspaper, in 1898; some Meigs County history published in the Decatur paper in 1901; obituaries of N. J. Lillard, V. C. Allen; and some other items. Scrapbook Number 2 contains primarily obituaries of members of the Lillard and kindred families; some Civil War items; religious articles; and some articles on miscellaneous subjects. In addition to these scrapbooks, some loose clippings in Scrapbook Number 2 and the newspapers are available on film.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

### **John M. Lillard**

- 1827 Born at Decatur, Tennessee in Meigs County the son of James III and Mary Sandusky Lillard
- 1846-1849 Served in 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry during Mexican War
- 1849-1851 Studied medicine at University of Pennsylvania Medical School and received the degree in 1851
- 1851-1854 Practiced medicine in Decatur, Tennessee
- 1854-1861 Studied law and followed that profession until he entered Confederate service
- 1856 Married Mary Jennie Thomas of Ashe County, North Carolina
- 1861 Enlisted in 26<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Regiment and was elected Colonel
- 1862 February, captured at Fort Donelson and sent to Fort Warren in Boston Harbor
- 1862 September, exchanged at Vicksburg
- 1862 Wife died while Col. Lillard was a prisoner of war
- 1863 September 18, killed in the Battle of Chickamauga

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

### **Newton Jackson Lillard**

- 1832 Born in Meigs County, Tennessee the son of James III and Mary Sandusky Lillard
- 1848-1849 Served in Mexican War in Captain McKenzie's Company
- 1858-1861 Served as County Court Clerk of Meigs County for one term
- 1861 May 2, enlisted in first company that left Meigs County for the Confederate service which was part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee Regiment (Vaughn's). Took part in the first battle of Manassas. He was a captain
- 1862 May, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee Regiment was reenlisted and reorganized and he was elected Lieutenant Colonel
- 1862 August, became commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee Regiment when Vaughn was promoted to Brigadier General
- 1862-1865 Led his Regiment in the Kentucky campaign, Baker's Creek, Big Black, Vicksburg, Morristown, Greeneville, Bull's Gap, and in the Valley of Virginia
- 1865 Accompanied President Davis as part of his escort to Washington, Georgia, and on May 8 surrendered his regiment
- 1865 Married Miss Caroline Worth of North Carolina
- 1865-1890 Engaged in mercantile business in Meigs County
- 1870-1882 Served as Circuit Court Clerk
- 1890-1905 Resided in Ashe County, North Carolina. Mercantile business
- 1882-1888 Clerk and Master of Circuit Court
- 1905 October 22, died in Decatur, Tennessee

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

### **Jasper Worth Lillard**

- 1866 November 20, born in Ashe County, North Carolina, son of Newton J. and Caroline Worth Lillard
- Educated at Decatur Academy and at Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tennessee
- 1890 June, received LL. B. Cumberland University
- 1882-1888 Deputy Clerk and Master of Chancery Court at Decatur, Tennessee
- 1891 October 28, married Lettie Jane Stewart
- 1893-1897 Postmaster at Decatur, Tennessee
- 1905-1907 Member of House of Representatives, Tennessee General Assembly
- 1907-1928 County Attorney of Meigs County, Tennessee
- Several times Special Circuit Judge and Chancellor. Member of M. E. Church South. Member of Tennessee Historical Society and American Bar Association
- 1947 October 26 died in Decatur, Tennessee

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box 1**

1. Accounts – Lillard, James – 1837-1873
2. Accounts – Lillard, John M. ; N. J. Lillard et al. – 1832-1888
3. Accounts – Store Records – Houser and Lillard, et al. – 1850-1892
4. Accounts – Store Records – Letter and Invoice Book of N. J. & J. E. Lillard Co.; Houser & Lillard; Lillard and King, and N. J. Lillard Co. – 1853-1873
5. Accounts – Tax Receipts – 1851-1909
6. Accounts – Worth, David; firms of Worth & Thomas; Worth & Lillard and Worth & Eller, 1841-1888
7. Ashe County, North Carolina – Deeds – Bonds – 1825-1888
8. Ashe County, North Carolina – Official Records – 1850-1875
9. Biographical Data – Lillard, John M.
10. Civil War – Confederate Claims – 1863-1866
11. Civil War – Confederate Muster Rolls – 1863-1865
12. Civil War – Confederate Orders – 1862-1865
13. Civil War – Confederate Records – Reports – 1861-1865
14. Civil War – Federal Discharge Record of William Tillery
15. Correspondence – General – 1848-1910
16. Correspondence – Lillard, Dr. John M. – Incoming – 1850-1863
17. Correspondence – Lillard, John M. – Outgoing – 1856-1863
18. Correspondence – Lillard, Newton J. – Incoming – 1856-1889

### **Box 2**

1. Correspondence – Lillard, Newton J. – Outgoing – 1850-1863
2. Correspondence etc. – re: Mining Companies – 1854-1856
- 2a. Correspondence – Sandusky, G. C. – 1870
3. Correspondence – Stewart Family – 1861
4. Correspondence – Worth, David and Worth family – 1856-1889
5. Estates – David Worth, Executor – 1857-1885
6. Estate of Elizabeth Worth – 1890-1897
7. Genealogical Data – Meigs County – Church Lists, etc. – 1856-1911
8. Legal Papers – Wills – Power of Attorney – 1853-1874
9. Meigs County – Contracts – Agreements re: Mineral Rights, etc. – 1830-1905
10. Meigs County – Court Petitions – Transcripts – 1841-1882
11. Meigs County – Court Petitions – Transcripts – 1891-1896
12. Meigs County – Court Transcripts re: Rose, Thomas J. – 1861-1870
13. Meigs County – Deeds – 1815-1843
14. Meigs County – Deeds – 1844-1855
15. Meigs County – Deeds – 1856-1868
16. Meigs County – Deeds – 1870-1878

### **Box 3**

1. Meigs County – Deeds – 1879-1883
2. Meigs County – Deeds – 1884-1893
3. Meigs County – Deeds – 1895-1913
4. Meigs County – Deeds – Boggess, Abijah – 1825-1887
5. Meigs County – Deeds – Lillard family – 1828-1856
6. Meigs County – Land Plats and Surveys
7. Meigs County – Militia Records – Lists of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> Districts – 1860
8. Meigs County – Official Records – Civil Districts etc. – 1836-1884
9. Meigs County – Poll Lists of Voters (Partial) – 1902-1910
10. Meigs County – Poll Records – Vote by Civil District – 1844-1865
11. Meigs County – Poll Records – Vote by Civil District – 1866
12. Meigs County – Poll Records – Vote by Civil District – 1867
13. Meigs County – Poll Records – Vote by Civil District – 1868
14. Meigs County – Poll Records – Vote by Civil District – 1869
15. Meigs County – Schools – 1849-1898
16. Memorabilia
17. Mexican War – Muster Roll of Captain G. W. McKenzie’s Co. B., 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Tennessee – 1847-1848
18. Newspaper Clippings – Printed Material
19. Polk County – History
20. Report, “Tennessee Commissioner’s Report” – Speech – “Female Education”
21. Slaves – Bills of Sale – 1833-1859
22. Records – Lillard & King Mining Co.: Jury lists – Meigs County
23. Time book – Ore Knob Mines, Ashe County, North Carolina
24. Addition, 1972 – Accession Number: 72-070

### **Portfolio**

1. Indentures – North Carolina – 1806-1827
2. Land Grants – North Carolina – 1826-1855
3. Indentures – Tennessee – 1827-1859
4. Land Grants – Hiwassee District, Tennessee – 1825-1857
5. Confederate Muster and Pay Rolls – 1861-1863
6. Map of Siege of Vicksburg

## **LILLARD SCRAPBOOKS & NEWSPAPERS – MICROFILM ONLY (MF. 117)**

### **Scrapbook Number 1**

### **Scrapbook Number 2**

### **Newspapers**

*The Watch Tower* (Knoxville), August 1840 (No. 15)

*Knoxville Register*, December 2, 1846

*Athens Post*, August 28, 1863

*The Chattanooga Gazette*, August 17, 1886

*Meigs County Sun*, March 25, April 1 and 8, 1898; October 14, 1915