

Ohio University
Robert E. and Jean R. Mahn Center for
Archives & Special Collections

William McDonald Collection
MSS# 182

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Creator: William McDonald

Title: William McDonald Collection

Date: Jan. 31, 1859 – Mar. 16, 1919.

Abstract: Contained in this collection are letters written by William McDonald to his family. There are also a few letters written to him and some misc. letters generally written to members of his family. Also included in this collection are two portraits, one of William McDonald and one of his wife Sarah. In addition there is a straight razor, an ointment tin, and a set of dentures.

Quantity: 25 folders in 1 box.

BIOGRAPHY OF William McDonald

William McDonald was born in Brook Co. Virginia in 1836. As an Adult he had black eyes, black hair, and was 5'8" tall. He married his Ohio neighbor Sarah Elizabeth Allen. She was born in Ohio in 1839. In the year of 1860 William and Sarah were living in Pike County. They had one daughter whose name was Mary J. McDonald. William's parents lived in the house next to theirs. His father's name was Samuel and his mother's name was Christina. William had two brothers, one named Thomas and the other named Samuel. He had two sisters one named Matilda and the other named Christina. Sarah's parents also lived next door. William's occupation was that of a farmer.

On November 5th, 1861 William enrolled as a Cpl. of Captain C.K. Crumnitt's Co. D, 53 reg. OIV. He was discharged from Scottsboro, Alabama on the 31st of December 1863 by reason of re-enlisting as a Veteran Volunteer. He again enrolled on the 1st of January 1864. He was a Sgt. Of Captain [--?--] Co. B, 53 reg. OVVI. He was discharged August 11th, 1865 at Little Rock, Arkansas by reason of expiration of service. Shortly after he returned home from the war he and his family moved to Illinois.

SOURCES:

- 1860 Federal Census for Pike County Ohio, record PKMR 346
- One Hundred Years 1815-1915 of Pike County, Ohio Marriages; Pike County Chapter Ohio Genealogical Society, page 7.
- Soldier Discharge Records Vol. 1 Pike County, Ohio; The Pike County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, 1983, pages 23-24.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

Researchers interested in the civil war will find a surplus of information relating to what life was like for a young man out of Ohio to travel around the country on foot to serve his country. William, through his letters to his wife, tells of the most important news of the time. He tells of the places his regiment travels to, how they are welcomed, and what in general it is that he is doing. The way that he writes is worth noting, he uses no punctuation, as well as displaying a possible dialect of the time. There is much to learn about the culture during that time. He writes to his wife about the social gatherings she attends at home, how to protect against the small pox, and commonly shows how important his family and friends are. His attitudes about current issues are also nicely expressed through his letters.

RELATED MATERIALS

Athens County Medical Society (MSS# 132); Athens 18th Regimental Band Photograph; Brown Family Collection (MSS# 18); Charles Grosvenor Collection (MSS# 150); William Parker Johnson Letters (MSS# 173); Joseph Alpin Martin Collection (MSS# 106); 3rd Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry; Presidential Campaign Artifacts (MSS# 11); Nelson Van Vorhes Collection (MSS# 10); Milo Wilkerson Diary (MSS# 193).

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- Restrictions:** The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Ohio University Libraries.
- Preferred Citation:** Researchers are requested to cite the collection name, collection number, and the Ohio University Libraries, in all footnotes and bibliographical references.

- Accession Number:** 01-04
- Provenance:** The Ohio University Archives purchased the collection from Charles Apbelbaum.
- Property Rights:** Ohio University retains all property rights.
- Copyrights:** Ohio University retains all copyrights.
- Photo duplication:** Ohio University will entertain requests to photocopy reasonable amounts of material from the collection for the convenience of individual researchers.
- Processing:** Caitlin Borbely processed the collection in May 2001.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials; please note both the location and folder number shown below.

CONTAINER LIST

Folder Number	Date	Description	Number of Articles contained
1	1995	Information for the 53 rd Ohio Infantry	1
2	1862	Letters from William to Sarah McDonald	8 letters
3	1863	Letters from William to Sarah McDonald	10 letters
4	1864	Letters from William to Sarah McDonald	4 letters
5	1865	Letters from William to Sarah McDonald	5 letters
6	1862	Elijah Tiles to Samuel McDaniel, Wm. McDonald to "Dear Friends", W. Hodges to Wm. McDonald.	3 letters
7	1863	Abraham & Mary Jane Brewer to Wm. McDonald	1 letter
8	1865	Wm. McDonald et. al. to Arthur & Billy, Thomas McDonald to Wm. McDonald.	3 letters
9	1866	Samuel McDonald to Wm. McDonald	2 letters
10	1867	Abraham to Yance Brewer	1 letter
11	1869	Samuel McDonald to Wm. McDonald	1 letter
12	1870	Christine McDonald to Wm. McDonald	1 letter
13	1871	Samuel McDonald to Wm. McDonald, H.C. Allen to Martha Allen.	2 letters
14	1883	Adrian Findley to Oscar McDonald, M.E. Allen to	2 letters

		"Dear Friends".	
15	1884	Wm. & Sarah McDonald to "Dear Children" S.E. & Dan Cannon.	1 letter
16	1905	Martha Allen to Sarah McDonald.	1 letter
17	1919	Orlando Allen to Mr. & Mrs. Burt Glenn.	1 letter
18	-	18 to Sarah McDonald, 2 to William McDonald, 1 to James Allen, and 1 in care of S. McDonald.	22 envelopes
19	-	Washing Fluid and Linen Enamel	2 recipes
20	-	"Claims for Reimbursement Treasury Department." Circular providing information on "an act to provide for the payment of accrued pensions in certain cases."	1 article
21	1886	"Soldiers' State Reunion 1886, Emporia, Kans. Drum Corps."	1 ribbon
22	-	William McDonald and Sarah McDonald	2 portraits
23	-	Straight razor with 1/2 of original box, a tin that once held ointment, and a set of dentures.	3 items
24	-	No Dates/Fragments From William to Sarah McDonald.	4 letters
25	-	No Dates/Fragments Misc.	2 letters