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## The Library Development Review 1986-87

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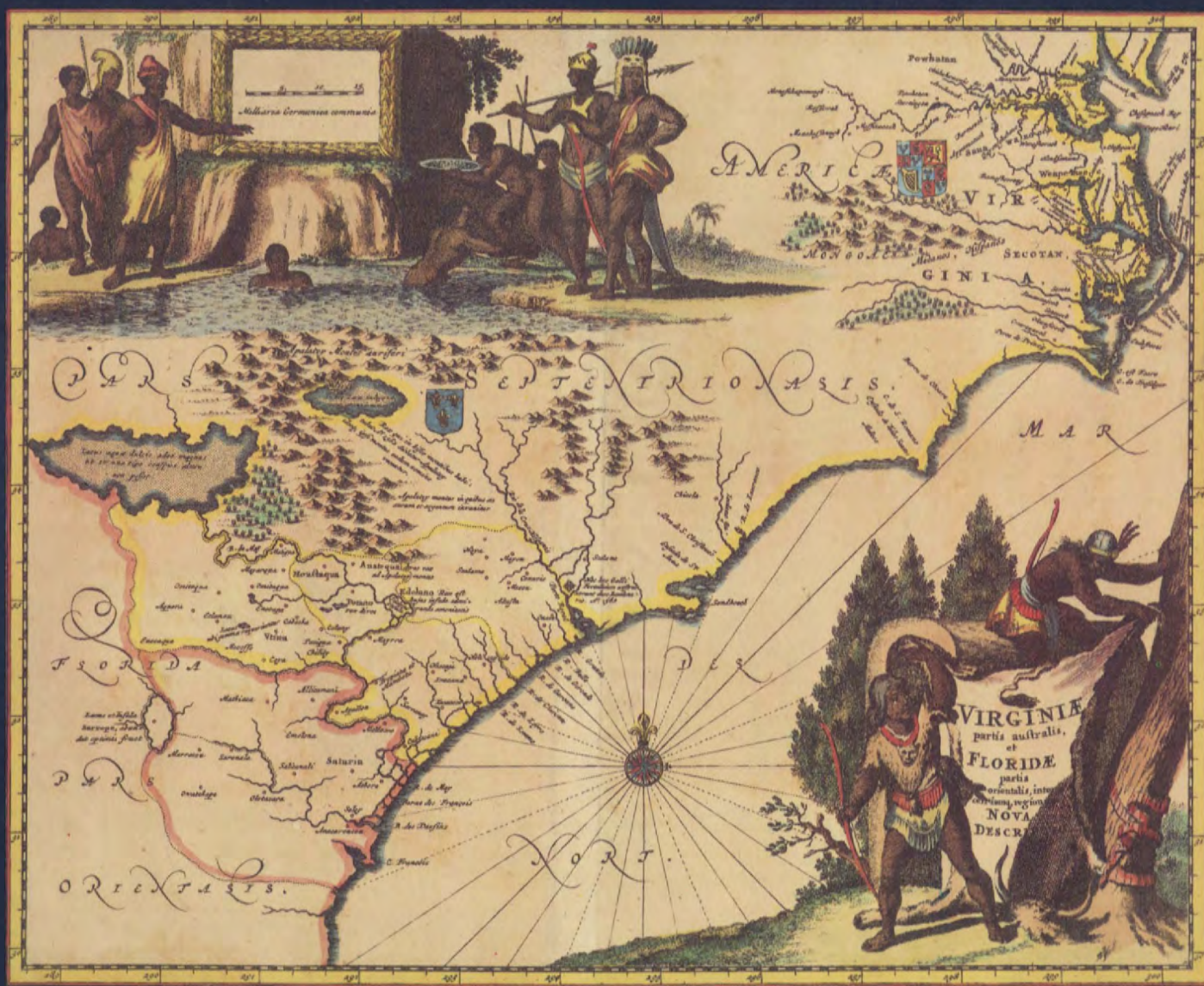
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# THE LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

1986/87



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE/KNOXVILLE



"A world of mud." View of Chattanooga. (Harper's Weekly, vol. 7, 1863.) See story on page 6.

The Library Development Review is issued annually as a means of informing friends and benefactors of the library's successes in attracting appropriate gifts. It is distributed to supportive faculty and alumni, contributors and potential contributors, and to a selected group of libraries across the country. The goal of the Library Development Program is to encourage not only gifts of books, manuscripts, and other suitable items, but also funds for the purchase of such materials.

The University of Tennessee Library is grateful for all the gifts, large and small alike, which have been received from many generous donors. To all these we express our thanks. Such gifts enrich the resources of the library and push it toward realizing the ambition of becoming a great research institution. Now that a new library building is a reality, it is even more important that we encourage private support to help us attain distinction. We hope that some of the unusual gifts described in this publication will spark an interest among readers and will persuade them to become or remain library donors.

The gifts described in the pages that follow represent only some of the important contributions received by the library in 1986/87. The ensuing notices are largely limited to significant and expensive pieces presented by a few library benefactors. Our thanks extend beyond these few to reach and commend all contributors.

*Donald R. Hunt*

Donald R. Hunt  
Library Director

*On Cover: Map of Virginia (Amsterdam ?, 1671). This handsome, hand-colored piece compliments an impressive group of maps acquired this year by the library. Back Cover: "Gen. Andrew Jackson, the Hero of New Orleans" (New York, J. Baillie, 1845). A lithograph honoring Jackson's exploits in the Battle of New Orleans. For details of a much less glorious skirmish waged by Jackson, please see "The Petticoat War" on page 3.*

A decorative border with ornate floral and scrollwork designs in each corner, connected by thin lines to form a rectangular frame around the central text.

# THE LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

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1986/87

Edited by James B. Lloyd

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A chance remark of my brother to Linda Davidson regarding our great uncle's letters on the occasion of her visit with him at his home in McLean, Virginia, generated a chain of events relative to The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, a relationship most satisfying for us.

At the time there were in my possession a number of letters written during the Civil War by my great uncle, John Watkins, several of them bearing the Knoxville postmark. The end result was that in early fall of 1984 the letters were sent to Mr. John Dobson, Librarian of Special Collections.

Later many artifacts of John Watkins were sent to Mr. Dobson who distributed most of them to the Frank H. McClung Museum as a more appropriate depository. These included the dress uniform jacket, two pairs of well-worn woolen trousers, his battered campaign hat, brass telescope, money belt, photographs and other memorabilia. (A word of appreciation here is addressed to Andrew Hurst and Elaine A. Evans of the Frank H. McClung Museum for their courtesy and expert attention to details regarding these artifacts, and to DiAn Kempf-Wood of the Development Office for arranging other gifts.) During these transactions and correspondence, I was very impressed by the expertise of Mr. Dobson and his ability to combine a very professional approach with a personal touch. I had never previously worked with a person possessing such talents.

Thus, in the summer of 1986 when I uncovered about two hundred more letters, about half of them written by John Watkins between 1862 and 1865, it was natural again to contact Special Collections at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. To my dismay I learned of Mr. Dobson's retirement, but was readily reassured by correspondence with his successor, Mr. James B. Lloyd. These letters were delivered by me in person to Special Collections in September, 1986.

My brother, knowing of my great admiration of Mr. Dobson as a scholar and friend and sensing his own indebtedness as an alumnus of the University for excellent training in his field and the formation of lasting friendships, conceived the idea of endowing a fund to Special Collections in honor of Mr. John Dobson.

The satisfaction and joy that both my brother (William E. Morris, Ph.D., UTK, 1952) and I have experienced because of these gifts cannot be measured. These feelings, however, could be magnified with the knowledge that our gifts have inspired others to contribute funds or materials to this outstanding repository.

We are honored to express our appreciation, and are pleased to encourage others to pledge their support.

Very sincerely yours,

*Mildred M. Haines*

Mildred Morris Haines

M.A. 1921, The University of Chicago



*Mrs. Curtis Haines is a valued contributor to the library. She has provided the Special Collections division with important historical items and with welcome material support.*

# THE REVIEW 1986/87

## THE PETTICOAT WAR AND THE COURT OF KING ANDREW I

by James B. Lloyd,  
Special Collections Librarian

In April of this year the Special Collections Library, through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Koella, was fortunate enough to obtain a rare pamphlet relating to the career of Andrew Jackson by Jackson's friend, John H. Eaton. This piece, a *Candid Appeal to the American Public: In Reply to Messrs. Ingham, Branch, and Berrien on the Dissolution of the Late Cabinet* published by the Washington Globe in September of 1831, ostensibly defends the virtue of Major Eaton's wife, Peggy O'Neil Timberlake Eaton. Because of her background and suspected previous relationship with Eaton, she had been found socially unacceptable by Washington society in general and by the wives of the three former cabinet ministers mentioned in the title, Samuel D. Ingham, Secretary of the Treasury, John Branch, Secretary of the Navy, and John McPherson Berrien, Attorney General, in particular.

Peggy was the beautiful and vivacious daughter of William O'Neil. Her father kept the tavern in which Major Eaton and Jackson often stayed when in Washington. In 1816 she married John Timberlake, a purser in the Navy, and together they had two children. In 1827 when Timberlake apparently committed suicide (some said because of his wife's relationship with the good Major) Eaton asked Jackson's matrimonial advice concerning the redoubtable Peggy. Jackson advised him to go ahead, and on New Year's Day, 1828, the pair was married. One wonders if Jackson ever regretted giving this advice since this marriage, together with his appointment of Eaton as Secretary of War, precipitated what came to be known as the Petticoat War, one of the silliest incidents in American political history. It polarized his cabinet, contributed to its dissolution, and jeopardized



his administration, not to mention the personal embarrassment it caused for all concerned. Martin Van Buren, one of the principals involved, comments upon it somewhat humorously as follows: "If no blood was spilled—which is somewhat remarkable in a quarrel upon so exciting a subject and kept on foot for two years—a sufficient quality of ink was certainly shed upon the subject." And, almost no one who has written about it, including the participants, has been able to avoid resorting to stage imagery. One of Jackson's biographers, Claude Bowers, describes it in these words: "The first Cabinet, which almost immediately put on a drawing-room comedy, went out with a rip-roaring farce, with seconds bearing ominous messages, and with Cabinet officers lying in wait in shadows, creeping through alleys, brandishing pistols, and in the darkest hours before dawn lumbering in stagecoaches out of the capital city to escape a shot." And Robert Remini in *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Freedom* describes it as "a farce," "sheer madness."

Mad, perhaps it was, and certainly farcical, but if Major Eaton, an old soldier, had had his way it would have ended in Jacobean tragedy a la Thomas Middleton and John Webster when he sent the other three ministers scrambling for their lives by invoking the code duello and, when they refused, attempting to waylay them in the streets of Washington. In June of 1831 a terrified Samuel Ingham sent Jackson the following letter, which, as Remini points out, should "more properly . . . have been addressed to the Chief of Police," as he and his family departed at 4:00 a.m.:

Sir, Before I leave the City it seems to be due to the Government that I should perform a painful duty imposed upon me by the events of the last 48 hours. It is not necessary for me now to detail the circumstances which have convinced me of the existence of vindictive personal hostility to me . . . and has finally displayed itself in an attempt to waylay me on my way to the Office yesterday as I have reason to believe for the purpose of assassination.

This is melodrama of the first order. How, one might well ask, did such a shocking turn of events come to pass, and what place does the particular pamphlet in question occupy in that sequence. The first order of business, perhaps, is to line up the players; then we can proceed with a synopsis of the plot. First, there was Jackson, who had just been elected to his first term by a coalition of Southern and Northern Democrats. He was determined to pursue a moderate course on two of the more volatile issues of the day, the tariff and state's rights, which was politically expedient since his southern supporters were against the tariff and for state's rights, while his northern supporters were for the tariff and for a stronger federal union. The Vice President was John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, the heir apparent, especially in view of the fact that during the campaign Jackson had promised to stand for only one term. Calhoun represented the southern interests in the Jackson coalition, and his state was shortly to test Jackson's political acumen by approving the radical state's rights doc-

trine of nullification, which held that a state could nullify federal laws within its boundaries—in this case the tariff—while still remaining within the union. The leader of the northern part of the coalition and the new cabinet was Martin Van Buren, the Secretary of State, who had presidential ambitions of his own and into whose capable hands circumstances were about to play. The other members of the cabinet who figured into the play were Major Eaton, the neighbor and close personal friend of Jackson, who quickly aligned himself with Van Buren, and the three aforementioned ministers, all of whom came to be viewed by Jackson as being the allies of Calhoun. To these must be added, besides Mrs. Eaton, Andrew Jackson Donelson, the President's ward and erstwhile private secretary, and his wife, Emily; Major William B. Lewis, Jackson's political manager and boarder at the White House; and the wives of the Vice President and cabinet members.

The audience for this farce was the polite society of Washington, and their parlors and drawing rooms its stage. The ladies of Washington, it seems, including the wives of Ingham, Branch, and Berrien, as well as Emily Donelson, who was acting as the President's hostess, refused to accept Mrs. Eaton in polite society, and when they were thrown with her at state functions refused to acknowledge her presence. Peggy was accused of having been too forward with some of her father's boarders, notably Major Eaton, and this was not the first time she had suffered for it. Governor Floyd of Virginia wrote:

Mrs. Monroe, the wife of the then President (in 1821), sent her a message desiring her not to come to their drawing rooms. This was done, as was supposed, from the report of Mrs. Timberlake's *amour* with Eaton having got to the ears of Mrs. Monroe. Whether so or not, none can tell, but this I know, that Eaton's connections with Mrs. Timberlake was as notorious at that day as any part of the day. . . .

Whether these tales were true or not, it must be admitted that Peggy did little to smooth matters over. Because of her pugnacious attitude, the ladies quickly dubbed her "Bellona" after the Roman goddess of war, and she seems to have been determined from the first to force Washington society to accept her new position. Jackson's first cabinet dinner was a dreary affair, but when Van Buren, as was his duty, arranged an occasion of his own, the fireworks began in earnest. An excited guest reported to Van Buren that Peggy and the wife of the Secretary of the Navy, Mrs. Alexander McComb, "had jostled each other, doubtless accidentally, in the



Cartoon ridiculing the dissolution of Jackson's Cabinet. (Tennessee State Library and Archives.)

crowd and that collision had provoked manifestations of mutual resentment sufficiently marked to attract attention and to excite general remark."

This rejection was a social phenomenon and had little to do with the politics of the day, but that is not how it was perceived by Jackson and his confidants, Lewis and Eaton, and their perception of it sent politics plunging headlong into the drawing room. They thought (or perhaps Lewis and Eaton pretended to think) that the ostracism was a plot designed to make Washington so uncomfortable for Eaton that he would resign, or to make social occasions so onerous that Jackson would have to ask for his resignation, thus opening the door for someone more friendly to Calhoun to be appointed. This, of course, was the merest poppycock. There were plots aplenty, but they were not emanating from Calhoun and his followers; they were emanating from Lewis and Eaton and to an extent Jackson, who wrote to his ward Donelson, "I cannot close without

naming my friend major Eaton. he is the true unvarying friend to me. nothing that concerns my welfare, that escapes his notice, and no intrigue against me, that is not at once counteracted as far as he has the power, and the various movements made known to me." Lewis and Eaton convinced Jackson that the plot was aimed ultimately at him. He explains in the same letter quoted above, "The whole will be traced to what I always suspected, a political manœuvre, by disappointed ambition, to coerce major Eaton out of the cabinet, and lessen my standing with the people, so that they would not again urge my re:election."

Meanwhile, unknown to Jackson, Lewis and Eaton had been creating their own subplot, a real intrigue carefully planned, coldly calculated, and, for Calhoun, politically fatal. Lewis had known for some time of Calhoun's opposition to Jackson's invasion of Florida in 1818 in pursuit of the Seminoles when Calhoun was Secretary of War in Madison's cabi-

net, and Jackson suspected as much, but their differences had been smoothed over in order to form the coalition. Lewis revived this issue by producing a letter from William H. Crawford, Madison's Secretary of the Treasury, in which he maintained that it had been Calhoun, not himself, who had argued for Jackson's arrest and punishment. The hero's reaction was predictable. "I shall in due time give Calhoun his quietos," he growled in true Jacobean fashion, "and shew his baseness naked to the world." To Calhoun he wrote, "*Et Tu Brute*," and demanded an explanation.

Calhoun's position was quickly becoming untenable. He was not only being accused of trying to run Eaton out of the cabinet, he had now been accused of having tried to put the President in jail. Van Buren, on the other hand, seemed to be more and more in the President's good graces every day. The Vice President attempted to defend himself to Jackson by concentrating on what he saw as a plot by Van Buren, but he was unable to deny the charge that he had opposed Jackson's actions. He finally admitted defeat and took his case to the people by publishing the correspondence on the matter in a pamphlet entitled *Correspondence Between General Andrew Jackson and John C. Calhoun . . . on the subject of the Course of the Latter, in the Cabinet of Mr. Monroe, on the Occurrence in the Seminole War* in which he

attempted to unveil the plot against him in such a manner as to leave no doubt of its author without naming Van Buren directly. He had little need to, as everyone in Washington knew the identity of his antagonist. Edward Everett wrote on February eleventh, "the rupture is supposed to be impending. At the French minister's, Van Buren went up to Calhoun and offered him his hand. Calhoun turned on his heel and went off; and it is said that a very angry pamphlet is to be published by Calhoun in a day or two."

Jackson, having sided with Van Buren, took this publication as a personal affront. He said, however, "I am prepared for defense, and will make him understand the old adage, 'O that my enemy would write a Book.'" And Jackson's counterattack, conducted by Major Eaton, appeared after the dissolution of his cabinet in the form of the pamphlet here in question in which Eaton sets forth their version of the Calhoun, Ingham, Branch, Berrien intrigue. Eaton begins with his reason for writing, which was exactly the same as Calhoun's; "Although I expect nothing at the hands of those who can violate the laws of social life, and all the precepts of holy charity; yet by an exposure of their motives and design, I may be able to render their future malignity powerless." He goes on for fifty pages of clotted rhetoric attacking the other cabinet members for

coming into the cabinet in the first place if they found him unacceptable.

It is, all in all, not a very convincing argument. Eaton neglects all political issues and is able to offer not one shred of real evidence of a plot. His assessment of the situation is as follows:

Now what was the motive for all this relentless persecution? . . . Was it merely to exclude a female from their 'good society'? Was one woman so dangerous to public morals? . . . The idea is truly ridiculous! She was lone and powerless . . . Neither she nor her husband entered into cabals and intrigues, to the prejudice and injury of others. Their own multiple wrongs, they bore with as much patience as could be expected, from mortals endowed with human passions and sensibilities. . . . The motive, therefore, was not to exclude us from society. It is a matter altogether *too small* to account for the acts and the untiring zeal of so many *great men*.

And his elucidation of their connection with Calhoun is just as flimsy. Eaton admits that he "*is not the friend of Mr. Calhoun*," and maintains that "it was this which rendered me unfit for the Cabinet, and for the respectable society of Messrs. Ingham, Branch, and Berrien. I could not, perhaps, be used to promote the views of Mr. Calhoun, and might exert an influence to induce General Jackson to stand a second election." But as proof he can only cite the friendly relations of the three with Duff Green, editor of the *United States Telegraph*, who was Calhoun's ally. This is slender evidence indeed, and one might wonder about the political efficacy of publishing it at all until one remembers the fondness of the times for rhetoric and bombast and reminds oneself that covering this unsubstantial evidence is fifty pages of vituperative accusation beneath which few critics were likely to go. And even if they did, what did it matter; Calhoun had been answered.

From our perspective the pamphlet stands as a somewhat amusing comment on the rough and tumble politics of the Jacksonian era. The Eaton affair was indeed tragicomic, and it is amazing to consider how much time and effort Jackson put into it—he interviewed countless witnesses—and almost impossible to account for the circumstances which caused Peggy Eaton to have a hand in the dissolution of his cabinet. One must conclude in light of all this, when one finds Major Eaton upon the dissolution challenging each of the three malefactors in turn, being rejected, and resorting to chasing them down in the streets, causing these staid and dignified representatives of their country to scatter like geese, that one must have wandered upon a stage. John Marston would have been proud. ■



A scene from Clarence Brown's *The Gorgeous Hussy* based on the life of Peggy Eaton and starring Joan Crawford. (Clarence Brown Collection.)





Marching through Danville. (Harper's Weekly, vol. 6, 1862.)

## HIGH STYLE: OR A WORLD OF MUD

by John Dobson,  
Special Collections Librarian Emeritus

One of the outstanding gifts to the library in 1984 was a collection of 47 Civil War letters written by a Union soldier. The soldier, Corporal John Watkins, communicated with his friend John Probert (who remained at home in Ohio), and related to him many adventures in Kentucky and Tennessee during the years 1862 through 1865. The Watkins-Probert letters were presented to the manuscript division by Mrs. Curtis Haines of Oberlin, Ohio. The collection was discussed in the *Library Development Review* for 1984/85 in a feature article, "The Battle of Fort Sanders," by Robert Morgan, which focused attention on an eyewitness account of the assault on the Knoxville stronghold.

In 1986 Mrs. Haines gave the library another large group of letters written by her great uncle, John Watkins. The second group, made up of 213 items, consists of correspondence to Sarah Probert (later

Mrs. John Watkins) written during the Civil War. The letters to Sarah, which were much more numerous than those addressed to her brother John, have a softer tone and are concerned with personal matters as well as with military experiences. The newly acquired group has great significance because the pieces provide parallel accounts of the same events described in the 1984 gift.

There are many interesting things in the Watkins letters that have a bearing on the history of the time. Topics include discussions of camp life, accounts of hazardous marches, stories of battlefield horrors, and candid descriptions of places visited. The letters reflect the life of a U.S. recruit from the time he enlisted and left his Ohio home to a time near the end of the war. The postmarks document the soldier's progress through Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and back to Ohio, then on to Virginia and North Carolina.

While perhaps not the most valuable comments from an historical point of view, the observations Watkins records about towns and cities in a "foreign land" are revealing and sometimes amusing. The

first letter sent home after leaving his native Ohio deals with Watkins' impressions of Covington, Kentucky. On October 1, 1852, he wrote to his fiancée:

Oh Sarah Ann I wish you could see the country around here and the cities of Covington and Cincinnati. Of all the country I have ever seen this is the most miserable of all and the people what there is left, oh heavens what looking things. Cincinnati what I have seen is a very handsome city. The only faults I find with the place are in the streets. They are rough and narrow, paving with round stone makes them rough and the wagons make an awful clatter getting over them. There is a tremendous sight of business down here. The streets are crowded all the time. As soon as we came across the river I could see the difference. Covington looks as though it was built about the time the flood was going down and had not been repaired any since. There is lots of the houses that looked as though they were finished up forever. The streets are paved with round stone, the side walks are paved with stone and brick some of the way and some of the way with nothing. It all looks as though nothing had ever been repaired. The walks are all broken up and loose stone laying all over the walks and streets. . . . There is quite a number of deserted houses and some of it confiscated at that. The houses are mostly frame and quite small, hardly anybody to be seen

around them but children and hogs, they are running all over the streets together. The people are the humblest set that I ever seen. I believe that I have not seen a good looking woman, man, or child since I have been here. They are yellow complected and to me the most of them are treacherous looking things. The women don't dress or talk like white folks, only once in a while a woman that wears crinoline and the most of them bare-headed which only adds to their ill looks.

After being encamped several weeks near Covington, Watkins, a cannoneer in the 19th Ohio Battery, marched eighty-one miles in six days with his unit to the environs of Lexington. From early November, 1862 until early December, 1862, the men of the 19th Ohio remained in camps around Lexington, where they drilled, held cannon practice, and discussed rumors of moves into various parts of the South. On December 12 the outfit moved to a site close to Richmond, Kentucky. John wrote to Sarah two days later:

Richmond is the prettiest little place that I have seen in this state yet. There is some 1500 or two thousand of population with the niggers. Quite a number of nice brick houses in the place but it is without railroad or telegraph communication with anyplace. There is a stage running between here and Lexington everyday, 26 miles and back by changing horses every 10 or twelve miles. Richmond is pretty much all situated on one road running right through it.

Watkins and the battery stayed in camp near Richmond through Christmas of 1862, where they helped to build defenses and expected to have a brush with the rebel raider, John Hunt Morgan.

In late December, 1862, they had relocated not far from Danville, Kentucky. The fear that General Morgan was nearby persisted. A letter to Sarah dated December 31, 1862, described Danville in a few phrases:

When we got in sight of Danville the thing that I saw of any account was a large female seminary 4 stories high, the largest building that I have seen for some time. When we got into the place the streets were pretty well filled with people, soldiers, citizens and niggers the latter predominately always. This is quite a place but no railroad within 10 miles of here. Perhaps there is 10 thousand, I don't think there is any more. We went through the town and out a couple of miles as good a place as we have had yet for we have got stables for our horses.

Through most of January and February, 1863, Watkins and the men with whom he served were situated at Frankfort, the capital of Kentucky. Letters home spoke of the unpopularity of emancipation with the Kentucky legislature, and of reports of rebel forces moving into the bluegrass state. Morgan and his raiders as a constant threat remained a subject of discussion. A letter composed on January 8, 1863, spoke of Frankfort with scant praise:

Frankfort itself is not much of a place in my opinion. It is all down in the valley on both sides of the Kentucky river and that is a muddy looking stream. The streets are narrow and thickly built up, mostly with frame houses and small ones at that. There is once in a while a large stone house among them, but the most of them are small. As we came along up hill

out of town I saw the State Prison and could see right in to the yard and see the stripped dressed convicts around the yard. Before we got at the top of the hill we passed the State Arsenal, a large brick building intended I suppose to keep the state arms in. We are encamped about 1/2 mile from town in a pretty good place where it is dry.

A letter of January 11, 1863, contained more uncomplimentary remarks about Frankfort:

"Here in Frankfort I have not seen a very handsome looking residence. In the place the houses are built very close together and the streets are pretty narrow. What I have seen there is lots of frame houses that look as if they had been standing there ever since the flood and no repairs laid out on them."

On the first day of March, 1863, Union forces, including Watkins' outfit were sent back to Lexington to bolster defenses there. Letters posted from Lexington related that no rebels were encountered and the threat of Confederate attacks had subsided. By late March the Ohio cannoneer wrote that troops were concentrating in Lexington to be sent into Tennessee, "... but I hope I shall never go down there—only desolation there." Watkins stayed near Lexington through March, April and May of 1863. In those months he mentioned many matters, among them the capture of one of Morgan's men, and the formation of a regiment made up of loyal Tennesseans who had suffered trials and tribulations on their home ground. Considering the time spent in Lexington, it is surprising that Watkins' letters do not describe the town. Correspondence dated March 29, 1863, and April 5, 1863, mention the arrival and presence of General Burnside and his men in the area.

As June, 1863, began, Watkins' unit was sent north toward the Ohio River as a counter measure to another threat by General Morgan. It was feared through July that Morgan would attempt to cross into Ohio near Marietta. John Hunt Morgan (who was ambushed and killed at the Williams mansion in Greeneville, Tennessee, on September 3, 1864) was a dreaded figure among Union forces. The many times his name appears in the Watkins collection is testimony to the fact.

At the same time the group to which Watkins belonged was being sent to the Ohio, events leading to a Union invasion of East Tennessee were taking shape. In early June 1863, Col. Williams B. Sanders was dispatched from Kentucky to destroy railroad and communication lines in and around Knoxville. Sanders with a troop of fifteen hundred men ripped up sections of rails one mile apart from Lenoir City to



View of Covington. (Harper's Weekly, vol. 6, 1862.)



A march through Knoxville. (Sketches of the Rise, Progress and Decline of Secession. Philadelphia, 1862.)

Knoxville. Having had only a minor encounter with Confederate Soldiers, Sanders and his men set out for Strawberry Plains to complete the mission.

In the wake of some of the major engagements of the War Between the States, President Lincoln is reported to have said in early 1863 that if the Union armies could take East Tennessee, he would have "the Rebellion by the throat" and that "it must dwindle and die." Lincoln's statement was no doubt influenced by the knowledge that a single track of standard, uniform gauge railroad ran without interruption from Richmond to Knoxville. The segment linking Virginia with other rails into the Mississippi Valley was essential for Confederate troop movement and for transportation of food and supplies. From a political standpoint, increasing Unionist support was probably of equal significance. Indeed, occupation and control of the area was crucial for both military and political reasons.

In keeping with the strategy attributed to Lincoln, mid-August saw General Ambrose Burnside move to secure the area around Knoxville and occupy the town. The General left Kentucky with a command of fifteen hundred men and traveled 220 miles through desolate countryside and over treacherous mountain terrain. John Watkins was a part of the move into East Tennessee.

Headed south again after the Morgan scare on the Ohio, Watkins wrote, August 18, 1863, that a great expedition was moving into Tennessee. Ten days later he reported that he was bound for Jacksboro and Knoxville. A letter to Sarah of

September 18, 1863, gave an account of his experience:

We left Crab Orchard, Kentucky the 21st of Aug. and that was about the last we saw of civilized life till we were within 25 miles of Knoxville. The roads began to get pretty hilly after we left Somerset and kept growing worse all the while. . . . On the 4th of Sept we encamped outside of Knoxville having marched that day 22 miles. On the 5th we left camp and marched through town and went into camp again. The rebels have held this place ever since the war began, and I don't see why they did not try to hold the place. They had thrown up breastworks on two or three hills and that is about all they did do for they were all gone before our Cavalry came into the place. Here they had a conscript camp that they confined there conscripts in so as to hold them. Knoxville must have been quite a place before the war began, but it looks now as though it was the oldest place in the world and been allowed to rundown ever since it was built. The rebels have driven all the union people most out of the place and stripped them of most everything. There has been 4 men hung here for there loyalty to the union and hosts of them put into prison. We are encamped on quite a hill a little peace out of town, but I can see hills all around us that are a good deal higher and some that are pretty near big enough to be mountains that must be 30 or 40 miles off.

While the rebels were here they did not draw any Government rations, but lived on the country. They would go to a union man's house and take the very last things he had in the world and walk off without a word and the best thing he could do was to keep still. Oh I tell you what Sarah I have been glad a hundred times that we lived so north as we do for I think that a much greater curse could not happen to any section of country than to have an army pass through it, wheather hostile or not, for they strip everything on there route—orchards, potatoe patches, cornfields, and eat the people out of house and home.

Burnside established his headquarters in Knoxville without resistance and deployed soldiers in all sections of town. The frequent letters John Watkins wrote to Sarah dropped off for a while. On November 2, 1863, he found time to communicate with his intended bride:

I had ought to have written to you before this and should have done so if I had not been at work about all the time for the last two weeks. We have had to put up a stable for our horses and since we have got that as near done as we can till we get some lumber, we have been putting up houses for ourselves, and have got them most all done. They have all been put up 10 x 12 feet on the outside, but ours and 4 men in each one. The one I live in is about 6 x 12 on the inside and the logs put up 6 feet high and our tents put on top for a roof. Our bunks are about 3 feet wide and made across one end one above the other, and the door and a fireplace in the other end of the concern. Our table is fastened by leather hinges to the side of the house and when we don't want to use it we can turn it up and fasten it. When we want it to eat on we have a couple of iron bars to stick on some holes in one of the logs for it to rest on, and we have got some shelves put up to put our plates and cups, and whatever else we have up out of the way. Our beds are made of poles and cedar boughs. Quite a comfortable bed to sleep on. And now if we can only stay here for the winter I should like it first rate. It will be so much more comfortable soldiering then to be around in our tents in the mud and wet all the time. We can do all our cooking by our fireplace and in the evening how pleasant sitting by a bright fire. And have room to get around with [out] stooping down all the time. And oh so much like home and still a mockery.

Following the description of the comfortable huts the soldiers built, the next letter to Sarah was penned on December 15, 1863. In the time between the two pieces of correspondence, the Battle of Fort Sanders occurred. President Jefferson Davis had suggested to the commanders of the Chattanooga campaigns that General James Longstreet, one of Robert E. Lee's most trusted military leaders, be sent with his men to Knoxville to drive Burnside and his forces from the town. If he succeeded, the Confederate leader could return to Chattanooga before the expected arrival of Grant and Sherman. Longstreet and his army of seventeen thousand left for Knoxville on November 5 in cold weather with inadequate, sketchy maps of the area he was to penetrate. At the same time, Burnside was developing a series of earthwork entrenchments and defense lines around the principal fortification of Fort Sanders. To strengthen the defense, a network of telegraph wire was stretched twelve to eighteen inches above the ground through a maze of tree stumps near the fort to slow any advance by Confederate troops.

Beginning in mid-November, Knoxville was besieged by Confederate forces for

thirteen cold and uncertain days. After several delays, an assault was mounted against Fort Sanders on November 29. Because of bad planning and poor information, the assault on the Fort was a disaster for the Confederates. The most dramatic element in the defeat was underestimation of the depth of a ditch around the Fort. The superior confederate attack force was no match for the entrapment value of the great ditch, which was eleven feet deep at some points.

John Watkins was atop the fort's battlements with his cannon as the onslaught raged. His letter of December 15, 1863, gives an eyewitness account of the battle. Since his recollection of the Battle of Fort Sanders directed to John Probert was treated fully in *The Library Development Review* for 1984/85, it will not be rehashed here. The account in the letter to Sarah was less violent in tone than the one sent to her brother, John. Sarah's letter of December 15 began:

"I suppose you little thought that we were in the midst of a battle the same day you wrote . . . the 29th of November. I believe I shall remember that day a long while, for of all the sights I have yet seen I saw the worst that day." After relating his version of the assault, which followed, he added: "Our good houses are all gone and we are trying to put up some new ones."

Longstreet and his army, soundly defeated, withdrew from Knoxville in the evening hours of December 4.

A few days after Watkins' description of the attack on Fort Sanders, the letters to Sarah Probert are interrupted. Between early January, 1864, and early June the same year, no letters to Sarah are found in the collection. The war narrative supplied in the correspondence jumps from the siege of Knoxville to the Atlanta

campaign. An inkling of Watkins' activities during the hiatus may be found in letters to Sarah's brother, John Probert, donated by Mrs. Haines in an earlier gift. These reveal that Watkins remained in Tennessee a few months before moving on to north Georgia.

The last letter from Knoxville, posted on January 3, 1864, spoke of hearing gun salutes to General Grant as he arrived on cars, of reports of smallpox in the town, and of the news of pontoon bridges being washed away. The first letters from Georgia were dated in early June, 1864. They described the horrors of war and gave news of actions around Atlanta. The messages through July and August continued to give news from the Atlanta campaign. On September 3, 1864, a letter was sent giving some observations about Decatur, Georgia:

We moved camp yesterday and are now on the southside of the R.R. and opposite the town. Sunday evening I took a walk around about the only square in the place, it has once been a very pretty place I should think. There are some handsome shade trees left yet, but the fences are all gone most and the houses are getting old and dilapidated. And around in the yards and the square around the court house our troops and some of the officers have taken up these quarters. Once in a while there is a family left of whites and occasionally a house full of blacks. The streets are laid off in good shape and are plenty wide enough some of them. The first prominent building that a person notices on going into town from the R.R. is the jail a midling size stone structure made very strong and windows double grated with dungeons in the basement.

For the next few days Watkins wrote about battles and troop maneuvers around Jonesboro, and about the sound of ammunition dumps exploding while Atlanta was being occupied. By September 14, he reported on visits to Atlanta:

The troops in our corps are going down to Atlanta every day a few at a time to see the place and fortifications. . . . There is one part of the city that is all cut to piece by shell and shot for our batteries kept it going in there day and night. The citizens most that stayed dug bomb proofs in there door yards so that they could get in out of the reach of shell. By digging a large hole in the ground and covering it over 4 or 5 feet deep with earth except a hole big enough to admit of an entrance. Some of the buildings are most cut down and whole streets are cut up so. The streets plowed up with shot and even the R. Road track was cut through and off in several places. The depots and platforms punched up in the same manner. Part of the city that lay behind a large hill from our Batteries was not shelled of any account.

In the same letter Watkins mentions that the men are awaiting transportation to Chattanooga. The transportation did not become available until November 4.

An account of the trip to Chattanooga along with impressions of the town are present in a piece dated November 8, 1864. Watkins wrote:

We started from Atlanta about 9 o'clock in the evening of the 4th and arrived in this world of mud about 1 o'clock in the afternoon of the 6th not quite two days and nights running 138 miles. And now we are waiting for transportation for Nashville, and I am in hopes that we will soon get away from here. The city is in the valley (Lookout) and there is so much business going on around the depots that it is almost impossible for anyone to get around for mud, and surrounded on all sides by mountains and ridges covered with Artillery making it one of the strongest place in the country. The most prominent of peaks is Lookout Mountain which at first sight does not look more than a mile away from town, but is in reality 4 1/2 miles from town to the top of it and a rough looking place it is.

Transportation for Nashville was not long in coming, for on November 15, 1864, a letter to Sarah was posted from that city. The Ohio corporal's discourse about Nashville began:



Atlanta aflame. (Harper's Weekly, vol. 9, 1865.)

Well Sarah we have got here at last and have got partly settled down in camp. We arrived here about 11 o'clock last Saturday night, lay on the cars till about noon on Sunday, then got moved over here about 1/2 a mile north of the capitol in a very pleasant location and right in the city . . . we may stay here some time and I am really in hopes that we may have the chance of staying here a little while to see what is going on and see what civilized life will do for us. . . . This is the most like a city of any place we have been in yet and more people here than we have come across since we left Cincinnati and mostly northern people. And how different from the long haired, long legged, white-livered chivalry. It seems as though everybody here had all they wanted of the comforts of life except the soldiers the rank and file. The officers here put on more style than a great many of them can support by honest means—and monopolize everything almost. And those that have been here every day of there service seem to put the most style on—but us boys look forward to a good time coming and then we will see if we can't have our share of the comforts that are awaiting us at home . . . . There is plenty of amusement here a theatre here every night—and for a few days there is a circus here. I went to the theatre last night and for the time being the evening went off very agreeably, but there is such a rush that a man has got to exert his full strength to get in with the crowd in order to get a seat or else stand up that altogether it is not very pleasant. And I am sure I could not see much to entice a lady there the 2nd time unless they had seats reserved. . . . Nashville must be very near as large as Cleveland and it is a real pretty place and kept pretty clean. Dry good stores plenty of them and well filled up groceries any amount of them. I can't tell you how odd it did seem to us to be transferred from Chattanooga and everlasting mud almost—and a scarcity of everything unless at exorbitant prices to this place. If a man has money here he can get most anything he could wish for and at reasonable prices to what they ask nearer the front.

More praise was heaped upon Nashville in the correspondence of November 27, 1864. Watkins continued his amazement at the Tennessee capital:



View of Franklin. (Pictorial History of the Civil War in the United States, vol. 3. Hartford, 1877.)

"This place, so different from what we have seen anywhere else, more of civilized life and freedom and I think more style than I ever saw before. It is the only place we have been in that the soldiers have been allowed the privilege of going into town when we pleased without a pass, but at the same time there is more crime committed here than a little robbing and gambling."

A conclusion can be drawn from Watkins' observations about Nashville that the city's abundant supplies, its general affluence, and its prosperity were largely due to the long period of Federal occupation. A parallel conclusion may be reached about Knoxville: its dilapidated, hunger stricken, undersupplied, and fear-racked condition was largely due to the long period of Confederate occupation. John Watkins' wish to remain awhile in the comforts of Nashville was not realized. Christmas found him encamped near Columbia. His letters of early December talked about the Battle of Franklin, and his letter of December 25, 1864, commented:

Franklin is a place that I should think could of some day boasted of 2 or 3,000 inhabitants and has been a very pretty place, but now it is a vast rebel hospital. Every house in the place most being full of them. The most of them were wounded there in the fight about the 1st of the month when our forces fell back to Nashville.

When the new year rolled around, the 23rd Army Corps, to which Watkins' outfit belonged, began moving back toward Ohio. On January 23, Sarah's mail came from Cincinnati. The troops changed locations rapidly in February and March. February found Watkins' unit at Georgetown and Washington, and March found it at Wilmington and Kinston, N.C. Watkins expressed the opinion that his battery was slated to join Sherman's forces in their march through the Confederacy. On March 27, 1865, from a camp near Goldsboro, N.C., he reported that his unit had been reviewed by Sherman, and observed that the troops had not been as destructive in North Carolina as they were in South Carolina. After March 29, the letters stop.

From the collection of John Watkins' manuscripts received in 1984, it is known that the cannoneer corporal was discharged from the Union Army in June, 1865. He returned safely to his home in Pittsfield, Ohio, and married his sweetheart, Sarah Victoria Probert. He and his wife had five children and lived on the Probert homestead for the fifty years of their married life.

The Watkins letters and related letters associated with the Probert family provide invaluable insight into the day-to-day life of the Civil War soldier. They also supply details about military operations and little known information about the southern scene in which those operations unfolded. The library is grateful to Mrs. Haines for her gift of these important manuscript collections. ■



" . . . more style than I ever saw before." View of Nashville. (Harper's Weekly, vol. 6, 1862.)

## EVEN THE DEEDS OF THE GREAT ARE SOON FORGOTTEN

by Stephen C. Wicks, Senior Library Assistant, Special Collections

### The Men Behind the Names

Mentioning the names Cocke, Farragut, and Maynard to anyone familiar with Tennessee would probably first bring to mind a county that borders North Carolina, a town west of Knoxville, and the seat of Union County. Such a response is to be expected, for nearly two hundred years have passed since William Cocke clashed with the Cherokee, one hundred twenty-two since Admiral David Glasgow Farragut walked the deck of the flagship *Hartford*, and over one hundred since The Honorable Horace Maynard sat among fellow United States Congressmen in Washington, D.C. Though these men may have become all but bygone legends, the three enjoyed long and illustrious careers, and made lasting contributions to their state and country. Cocke, Farragut, and Maynard hold permanent and distinguished places in Tennessee history—if not in the minds of most Tennesseans.



*A portrait of William Cocke.*

Made possible by the donation of gift funds, the library's recent purchase of a significant letter in the hand of each man gives the public an opportunity to look back at a moment in the lives of these legendary figures with a degree of intimacy not afforded by published

sources. The scrawl of brown ink across timeworn, dog-eared pages creates an historic aura, and projects a vivid, memorable sense of the men's personalities that would have been lost in transcription. The acquisition of such notable manuscripts by the library makes important elements of the past accessible for scholarly research, and represents the first step in their preservation.

### An About Face

William Cocke's life, perhaps as much as that of any other historical figure affected the course of the Volunteer State's early political history. As one of its first senators, along with William Blount, he was in the position that afforded the greatest potential for regional influence. Nonetheless, Cocke had been a guiding force in frontier politics years before reaching the senatorial post.

Of his early legislative contributions, the spearheading of the first drive toward Tennessee statehood is especially noteworthy. This effort, which took the form of a bill presented at the First Constitutional Convention in 1784, was sparked by territorial residents' dissatisfaction with the North Carolina government to which they answered from across the mountains, and by the Jeffersonian Ordi-



*The rebel ram, Tennessee, battling Farragut's forces in Mobile Bay. (Harper's Weekly, vol. 8, 1867.)*

nance encouraging the formation of new states in the West. Even though Cocke's bill did not achieve its aim, his drive awakened a desire for independence that undoubtedly contributed to the success of a campaign for Tennessee statehood twelve years later. Another important piece of legislation introduced by Cocke prior to his term as senator was a bill of September 4, 1794, that called for the establishment of a nondenominational, coeducational college in Knoxville. This college, later named after William Blount and today known as the University of Tennessee, was significant in being one of the first educational institutions in the country open to both sexes, and to people of various religious affiliations. The innovative nature of such legislation suggests that William Cocke was a well-educated, open-minded public official.

While heavily involved in political matters, Cocke managed to maintain an active and productive military career. In 1775, as a captain in Daniel Boone's militia company, his leadership potential was quickly recognized, and the young officer soon directed campaigns against the Cherokee in response to the tribe's brutal attacks on trespassing settlers.

Though Cocke was generally successful in these expeditions, he suffered serious setbacks in the course of his career. After being confronted by a group of Cherokee warriors during the Battle of Eaton's Fort in 1776, he ordered his troops to retreat to the hills—an order that most of them chose to disobey. As the unit prepared to do battle with the Cherokee, Cocke scurried back to the safety of the fort. Having subdued the band of warriors, his company returned to the fort and openly denounced their commanding officer's conduct. He was thereafter considered a coward. Even the Cherokee Chief Redbird said of him, "The man who lives among the mulberry trees talks very strong and runs very fast." Cocke received another seemingly indelible blot on his record in 1812 when he became the first Tennessee judge to be impeached, convicted, and removed from office.

Despite experiencing such discouraging incidents, Cocke remained resilient, and immediately endeavored to regain his military and political stature with a new level of intensity. His valiant efforts brought success, for he was not only elected to the General Assembly a year after being impeached, but was honored by Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson for what must have been looked upon, in light of his reputation—and his sixty-five years of age—as an unexpected display of

battlefield heroics in a campaign against the Seminole and Creek Indians in 1812 and 1813. Cocke's redemption was furthered when President James Madison appointed him Agent to the Chickasaw Indians in 1814.

This presidential appointment appears ironic considering the years William Cocke spent trying to eliminate every vestige of his tribal adversaries from the new frontier. He is remembered as having been an outspoken pioneer leader who adamantly advocated the forceful taking of Indian land. Yet, while he was serving the government in this new capacity there is evidence of a significant change in his perception of native Americans. The recently purchased four-page letter written by Cocke on July 17, 1817, contains a lengthy account of the veteran soldier and statesman's observations while among the Chickasaw. Addressing the Honorable George Graham, Esq., acting Secretary of War, he conveys concern for the well-being of the Chickasaw when he states, "I hear that a partnership has lately been Entered into in Nashville which I know is intended to engross the trade of this nation calculated to take advantage of the natives and I think likely to produce some discontents, on all these things I keep an eye and think it my duty to report them to you." He continues, "I am truly desirous to visit the city and to bring with me some of my Beloved people (Chickasaw) who are desir-

ous to see the President." Once bitter and vitriolic, Cocke's tone with respect to Indians has become surprisingly warm and compassionate. The unusual nature of this letter makes its research value especially great—not only does it reveal this interesting transformation in Cocke's attitude toward native Americans, but it sheds some light on the obscure, final career phase represented by his work among the Chickasaw.

The library proudly brings this piece into the collection as its first letter in the hand of William Cocke, and hopes to increase the acquisition rate of such excellent early Tennessee manuscripts.

### High Praise from the Helm of the *Hartford*

As a key point of entry for the cargo of Confederate supply ships during the Civil War, Mobile Bay, located off the southwest coast of Alabama, was of great strategic importance. Through it flowed cases of food and armaments that, having reached port, were quickly channeled along several major railroad lines to rebel outposts throughout the South. Once apprised of the situation, Union commanders immediately sought an effective means of interrupting this network to prevent any further strengthening of Confederate forces in the fields of battle beyond Mobile. As a first step in the effort, United States Navy vessels were dispatched to begin the formation of a barrier



A diagram of the assault on Port Mobile. (Pictorial History of the Civil War in the United States, vol. 3. Hartford, 1877.)

at the mouth of Mobile Bay consisting of sunken debris, and of manned Union battle cruisers placed at regular intervals. While this action was effective in preventing supply traffic by day, skillful rebel "blockade-runners" found frequent success in navigating their ships through spaces between the positioned United States vessels by night. Having penetrated the Union blockade, escape for the blockade-runner was then a matter of reaching the safety of Fort Morgan, a Confederate stronghold located on an island further inside the bay.

Though some published works discussing the situation at Mobile give the impression that the Union forces blockading the bay were adequate, if not considerable, an important letter the library acquired this year offers a different view. In the letter, Admiral David Glasgow Farragut fondly addresses Commander John C. Febiger on the occasion of the officer's transfer from Farragut's West Gulf Blockading Squadron. The reason for Febiger's departure is not explained in the communication, but a possible motive is exposed therein. Written in the Admiral's clear, even hand on February 22, 1863, the communication reveals that its recipient, in leading the blockading mission under Farragut's command, was often seriously shorthanded. In praising the officer's brave conduct, the Admiral states that for "Twelve long months have you zealously, diligently, and faithfully, Blockaded the Port of Mobile, sometimes with only one and sometimes with no vessel to assist you . . ." If one imagines the apprehension felt by the commander of a lone Union ship in heavily-patrolled Confederate waters, one can easily understand how Febiger might have longed for a safer assignment. It is difficult, on the other hand, to understand why any rebel vessel was deterred by such meager defense, why no attempts to destroy the Union barricade were successful, and why the commander—surely sensing his vulnerability—did not leave the bay in search of a shielded position until reinforcements arrived.

Considering the lack of support Farragut's assistant suffered during the mission at Mobile Bay, one could assume he was more than willing to be transferred. In any case, the written praise he received from the legendary mariner for outstanding service should have meant a great deal to Febiger, as to any young officer. Such a commendation would surely place the commander in high regard among fellow officers of his new unit, and might possibly warrant a promotion. Whether Febiger considered these benefits worthy of the



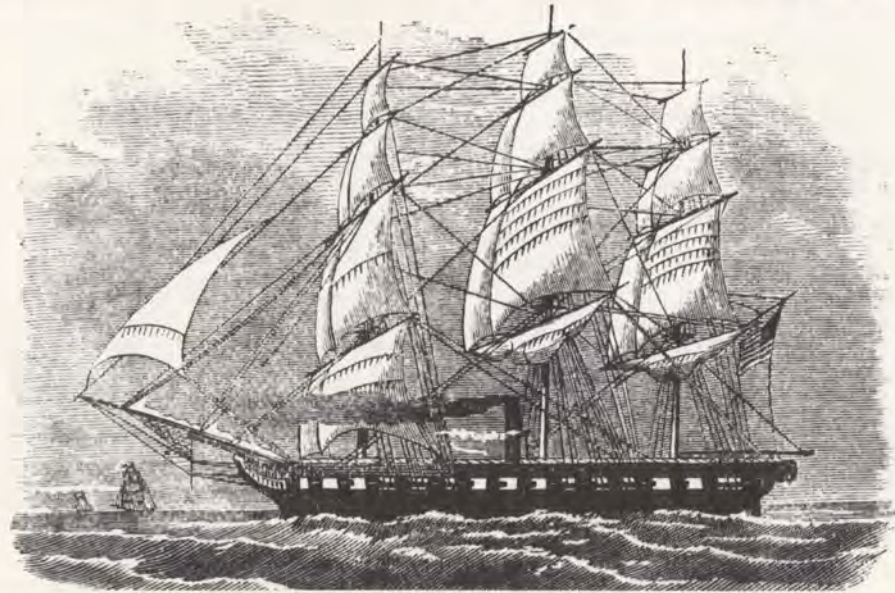
"Damn the torpedoes!" (Life and Naval Career of Vice-Admiral Farragut. New York, 1865.)

harrowing experience he endured to earn them can only be speculated.

Beyond its rich content, this letter is outstanding as the first in the library's possession that is both written and signed by the famous Admiral. Another Farragut letter held by the library is in a scribe's hand and bears only his signature, but contains interesting details of the capture of a Confederate schooner off the coast of Texas in 1864. Two journals documenting the journeys of the *U.S.S. Natchez* and the *U.S.S. Boxer* in which Farragut is mentioned, along with other members of the crew, complete the library's group of original materials concerning the notable Tennessean.

As the son of a sailor, Farragut was able to gain an early introduction to life at sea, a life for which he needed little time to acquire an irrepressible taste. Commodore D. C. Porter, a friend of Farragut's father, saw such promise in David that he recruited the nine-year-old to serve as midshipman aboard the *Essex* after having received parental consent. In 1814, the boy's mettle was tested when the *Essex* was confronted by two British ships during a maneuver in the Pacific. A heated battle ensued. As young David fought courageously alongside fellow crew members, other boys his age were sailing toy boats down shaded streams near the safety of their homes. The *Essex*, outnumbered and outgunned, eventually succumbed to the British onslaught. When the battle finally ended with the surrender of the American vessel, nearly two-thirds of her crew were either killed, wounded, or missing. David, though having been in the thick of the skirmish, suffered only a minor wound. After being sent home by the British following his capture, he attended school and received further training in military tactics. By 1816 he was back at sea, this time with a squadron in the Mediterranean.

Through these experiences and many to come, the budding seaman was able to expand his knowledge of maritime strategy considerably, and was awarded with promotions for the shrewd application of that knowledge. Eventually, David Glasgow Farragut would become distinguished as the first U.S. naval officer to earn the titles of rear-admiral, vice-admiral, and admiral when the Navy had the ranks created for him by acts of Congress



The Hartford, Farragut's flagship. (Pictorial History of the Civil War in the United States, vol. 2. Hartford, 1874.)



in 1862, 1864, and 1866, respectively.

Farragut's shining record of naval service, complemented by the precedent-setting rise in rank, was highlighted by paramount victories engineered during the Civil War. Though his birthplace, Campbell's Station, located west of Knoxville, and his home, Norfolk, Virginia, were both dominated by Confederate sentiment when war broke out in 1861, Farragut wholeheartedly supported the Union cause. Realizing the danger of remaining in enemy territory, the officer quickly moved to New York. Once he resettled, his naval expertise was immediately sought by the government, which wasted no time in appointing him commander of the West Gulf Blockading Squadron. The seventeen-vessel fleet was then directed to capture New Orleans, a city targeted because it served as a chief point through which Confederate supplies entered from Gulf waters for shipment to rebel units on firing lines to the north.

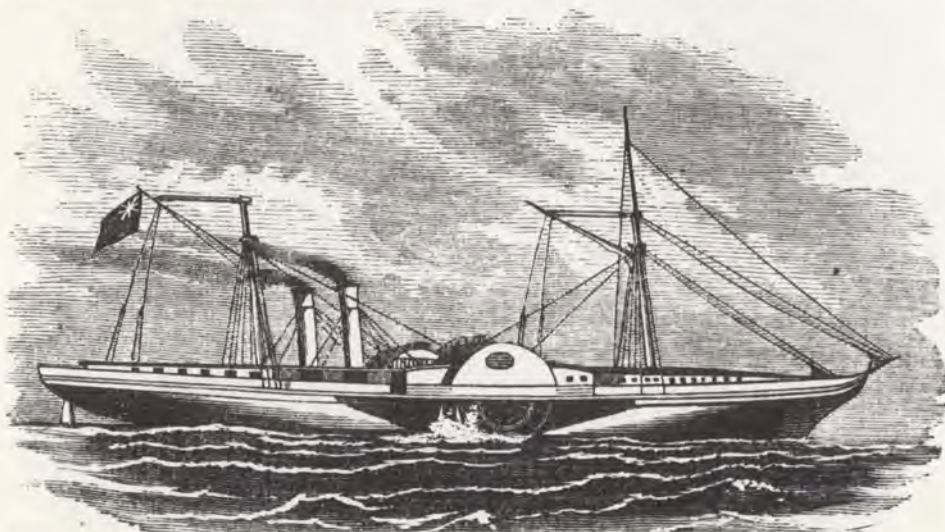
After gathering the men and munitions required to attempt such a monumental assignment, Flag-officer Farragut, aboard the flagship *Hartford*, led his force toward the Confederate city in February of 1862. To get within striking distance of their target, the squadron first had to neutralize two powerful citadels, Forts Jackson and St. Philip, which flanked the Mississippi River and provided New Orleans with its chief means of protection. Once within range of the strongholds, Farragut's fleet opened fire, unleashing a barrage that was soon answered by the guns of both forts. For six days the exchange continued. Finally, the flag-officer called for a cease-fire to survey the status of the rebel outposts. Seeing that both structures, though damaged, were

still capable of withstanding the Union bombardment at its present range, Farragut looked to gain a better vantage point for his fleet from which the heavily fortified targets could be assaulted with greater effect. As the ships approached the newly designated position, they encountered an obstruction in the form of a large chain stretching from one bank of the river to the other. On the other side of the chain now sat a number of rebel vessels waiting to come to the aid of the besieged citadels. Determined to accomplish his mission and confident in the strength of the force he commanded, Farragut chose to break the chain and move upstream in three single-file lines; the left was to fire against Fort Jackson, the center was to attack the rebel fleet, and the right was to bombard Fort St. Philip. Oddly enough, the flag-officer's strategy received unexpected aid when the two forts lost much ammunition while attempting to return the heavy fire of Union vessels just off shore—the steep gun angle, required to pinpoint the strategically repositioned ships, caused the shot to roll out of its barrel and fall to the hills below. With the self-incapacitation of the rebel strongholds, Farragut and his crew were able to focus on destroying the Confederate fleet, which had already begun to wilt under the more potent attack of the Union vessels. Soon the river was clouded by smoke from the burning Confederate ships and eerily lit by their flaming hulls. The flag-officer, aware that his squadron had, in essence, broken the only gate protecting New Orleans, ordered thirteen of the seventeen ships in the fleet to close in on the city that was now theirs for the taking. Having successfully completed his mission, Farragut returned home and was shortly

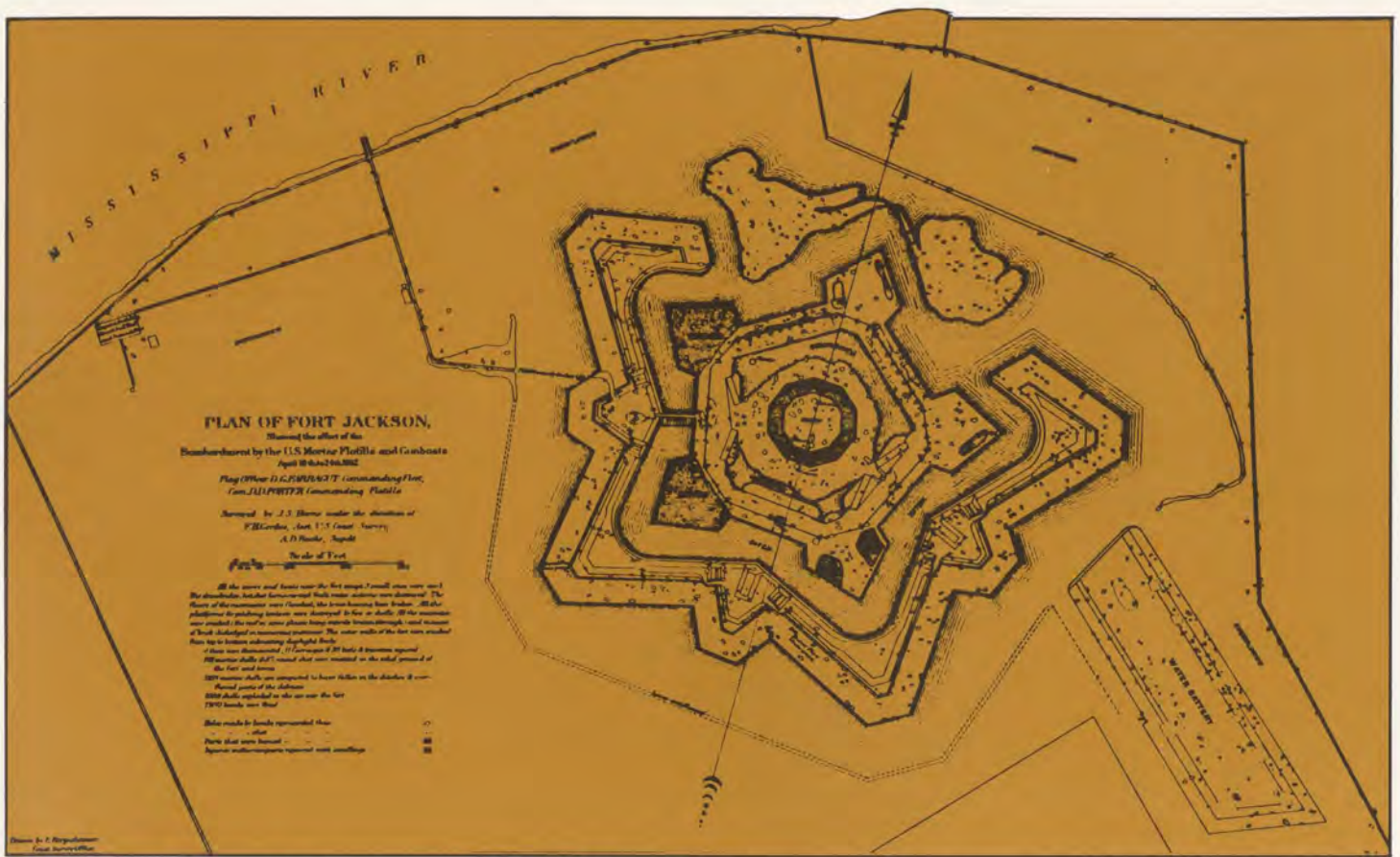
thereafter awarded the newly established rank of rear-admiral.

With New Orleans safe in Union hands, the eminent mariner's attention shifted to Mobile, Alabama. Having previously erected the aforementioned barrier in Mobile Bay to impede Confederate supply movement there, Farragut now sought to eliminate what had since become a blockade-running problem by capturing the port. Plans for the raid were time-consuming, and plagued by delays.

At last, in August of 1864, the eighteen-vessel squadron set out to confront Confederate forces stationed in the bay of Mobile and at three strongholds flanking its port: Forts Morgan, Gaines, and Powell. Upon their arrival, the Union raiders learned that the rebels intended to sail into battle a fearsome, ironclad "ram," the *Tennessee*, along with three battleships. Even with this new weapon, the rebel forces seemed no match for the much larger West Gulf Blockading Squadron. Yet, in the waking hours of August 5, 1864, they returned the opening shots fired by Farragut's men, and soon found themselves in a terrific struggle. As the Union squadron closed in on the Confederate forts, the first ship in the assault line was suddenly rocked by an underwater explosion and sank with such speed that only a few of the crew were able to escape with their lives. It was then observed that the entrance to the bay was lined with mines. If each mine were as effective as the first had been, the squadron's advantage would be quickly nullified. In seeking to restore what he sensed was a general loss of morale resulting from the sudden destruction of the squadron's lead ship, the undaunted rear-admiral brought his flagship to the head of the attack force. When skeptical fellow officers voiced reservations about venturing forth into the mine-infested waters, Farragut spoke the famous words "Damn the torpedoes [mines]! . . . go ahead! . . . full speed!" He was confident that the mines, having been in the water for an extended period, would be mostly ineffective. Fortunately for the squadron, the flag-officer's theory proved to be fact, for so great was the number of defective mines that the remaining vessels passed through unscathed—only to be greeted by heavy fire from the forts and the four rebel warships. Once in attack formation, the Union fleet closed in on Fort Morgan and peppered it with successive rounds of ammunition. Having passed the fort without suffering significant damage, the squadron met with gunfire from three rebel vessels, and with the onrushing ironclad *Tennessee*, which malevolently



A Confederate blockade-runner. (Pictorial History of the Civil War in the United States, vol. 2. Hartford, 1874.)



A plan of Fort Jackson showing the effects of Farragut's attack. (Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, Set I, vol. 18. Washington, 1904.)

knifed toward the *Hartford*. The flag-officer, unintimidated by the approaching hulk, released concentrated bursts upon vulnerable sections of its foe's hull, then steered clear of the slower, clumsier ship. Next, Farragut ordered the four partially-armored ships in his fleet to ram the *Tennessee*. This task was done with great dispatch and great effect. The metal shell of the menacing rebel contraption was extensively cracked by the Union charge and, in the process, her steering mechanism rendered useless. The four ships, having disabled the Confederate ram, proceeded to fire into her at close range, causing severe damage. When the rear-admiral halted the attack, the *Tennessee* surrendered without hesitation. In an admirable show of compassion, Farragut arranged transportation to medical facilities for injured members of the Confederate crew. Meanwhile, the other ships in the blockading squadron had managed to eliminate two rebel vessels, capturing one and destroying another. The third managed to escape.

With the demise of the Confederate fleet, only the forts remained to prevent the squadron from taking the port of Mobile. As if the odds were not already insurmountable, five more Union vessels arrived at the scene to assist Farragut's seventeen-vessel

force. Though the rear-admiral's fleet quickly subdued Fort Powell, the weakest of the three citadels, it took three days to capture Fort Gaines, and eighteen days to force Fort Morgan to raise its white flag. By capturing the forts and defeating the Confederate ships, Union forces were able to form an impenetrable seal around the bay, thus dealing a serious blow to the southern cause by preventing rebel blockade-running.

It is unfortunate that Commander Febiger did not remain in Farragut's West Gulf Blockading Squadron long enough to take part in the battle at Mobile Bay. If he had, he would have been able to experience the security belonging to a superior naval force—an experience that was denied him in the same bay two years earlier.

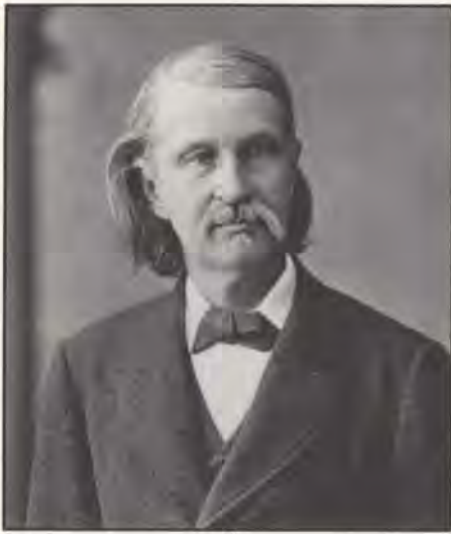
### "The Narragansett"

If ever a person faced adversity while seeking public office in Tennessee, it was Horace Maynard. Moving to the Volunteer State after having been born and raised in Massachusetts, he found himself at a disadvantage when opposing Tennesseans as a lawyer in the courtroom, or as a politician on the campaign trail. Yet, through perseverance and extraordinary talent, he managed to become a

respected, skillful attorney in his adopted home, and went on to hold a number of prestigious offices during a colorful, versatile career.

In 1838, having just graduated from Amherst College, Maynard left New England to teach in the preparatory department at East Tennessee College in Knoxville (later the University of Tennessee). The northern scholar's striking appearance made an immediate impression on his students: the long raven hair; the coal-spot eyes shadowed by dark heavy brows; and the towering, thin frame brought him the nickname "the Narragansett" after a mythical northern aboriginal tribe. In contrast to his image, the peculiar new teacher spoke classical English with a commanding, resonant voice for which he would be remembered along with his unusual appearance.

Maynard remained with the institution, attaining positions of increasing authority, until 1844, when he resigned his professorship to follow through on a longtime goal of practicing law. Though quite unpopular and heavily criticized for what was felt by Southerners to be an abrupt manner typical of Northerners, Maynard began to win many cases and much admiration with his undeniable



*Horace Maynard*

A portrait of Maynard, circa 1872 (Knaflf and Brakebill), and his autograph.

oratorical brilliance. Having had the abrasive exterior of old softened by years of exposure to southern gentility, and while continuing to gain respect for his courtroom exploits, Maynard soon enjoyed a following capable of supporting a political career. In 1852, running on a Whig ticket, he was able to defeat a formidable opponent in the bid to become Presidential Elector of the congressional district. Through this position he was able to establish a reputation for leadership, thereby silencing the criticism of opposing party members, while attracting additional support for future campaigns. Even so, in the following year, the budding statesman was defeated by a candidate who was less qualified than he, but who, by attacking Maynard's character, was able to shift public opinion in his favor. Undaunted, and graceful in defeat, Maynard continued to actively pursue political office. In weathering the earlier criticism with dignity, and in continuing to voice with characteristic eloquence his political views, the New Englander gained numerous supporters—many of whom had voted against him in past elections. Such was his following that in 1857 he was elected to Congress and again proved to be a worthy representative.

As the nation became torn over the question of secession, Maynard responded by fervently defending the Union cause. In 1861, having maintained a high profile, and having rallied the support of fellow Unioners, the Knoxvillean managed to win another congressional bid—despite living in rebel territory. Faced with the unfortunate circumstance of feeling such an allegiance in a land dominated by opposing sentiment, the congressman left

Tennessee and did not return until the Confederates were driven out of the state by General Ambrose Burnside in 1863. After his term expired two years later, Maynard's career received a substantial boost when Andrew Johnson, then Military Governor of Tennessee, appointed him Attorney General for the state even though Johnson bitterly disliked the man. This appointment not only points out the integrity of Johnson, who set aside personal prejudices in making the decision, it indicates the tremendous respect he had for Maynard's ability despite the former congressman's personal shortcomings. In an ironic turn of events, Maynard opposed Andrew Johnson in an 1872 race to represent Tennessee in Congress. Following a public debate, a statewide election was held in which Maynard emerged victorious. Two years later in a gubernatorial campaign he was again affected by adverse circumstances when he was defeated primarily on the basis of his political affiliation. As a Republican candidate in a Democratic state, he found his qualifications being overlooked.

A new chapter opened for the veteran congressman when, in 1875, he accepted President Grant's offer to become Minister to Turkey, in Constantinople. For a classical scholar like Maynard, the assignment, being in such an historic location, must have seemed intriguing.

Returning to the States in 1880 after an eventful experience overseas, he was selected by President Hayes as Postmaster General of the United States. The selection was based on Maynard's high character and his reputation as a statesman. He served in this capacity until his death two years later.

The acquisition of a new letter in the hand of Horace Maynard augments the library's previously unpublicized assemblage of the Tennessean's papers. The collection, given by Mrs. Robert Lindsay in 1967, consists of over one thousand pieces of political and personal

correspondence between 1828 and 1882, transcriptions of speeches given during the 1860s and 1870s, photographs, memorabilia, scrapbooks, a legal handbook, and a diary of Maynard's experiences in Constantinople as Minister to Turkey between 1875 and 1880. Written by the congressman from Tennessee, dated Washington, May 2, 1870, this new letter reveals that his abrasiveness had not entirely disappeared. In responding to what seems to be the request of a devoted admirer, Maynard reflects candidly upon the writer's wish for his autograph in stating, "Do you think that writing to people for their autographs is exactly the thing? I know very little about such matters, but it seems to me that an autograph to be of any value, should be an actual production in course of business or social correspondence with no consciousness on the part of the writer that he is sitting for his picture. However, perhaps you know best. I am very truly yours, Horace Maynard."

Beyond its interesting content, this manuscript represents the eleventh addition of Maynard materials since the main body was contributed in 1967. Other pieces exist in earlier gifts, such as the O. P. Temple Papers and the Samuel Mayes Arnell Papers. Both Temple and Arnell were his political allies and close friends. The library is grateful for its good fortune in having been able to purchase additional Maynard items on a regular basis. The trend will continue if gift funds are sufficient when these papers are offered for sale.

The manuscripts obtained relating to Cocke, Farragut, and Maynard have a value not unlike new brushstrokes to a painted portrait in the making—they furnish missing pieces of information, which, when combined in sufficient number, give a distinct impression of their subject. By bringing many such items into its protective quarters, the library is able to form collections that colorfully illuminate the lives of great Tennesseans, and thereby help prevent their deeds from being forgotten. ■



Agent William Cocke among the Chickasaw.

# CIVIL WAR IN THE "BLESSED LAND OF CHIVALRY": THE LETTERS OF HARRY C. CUSHING

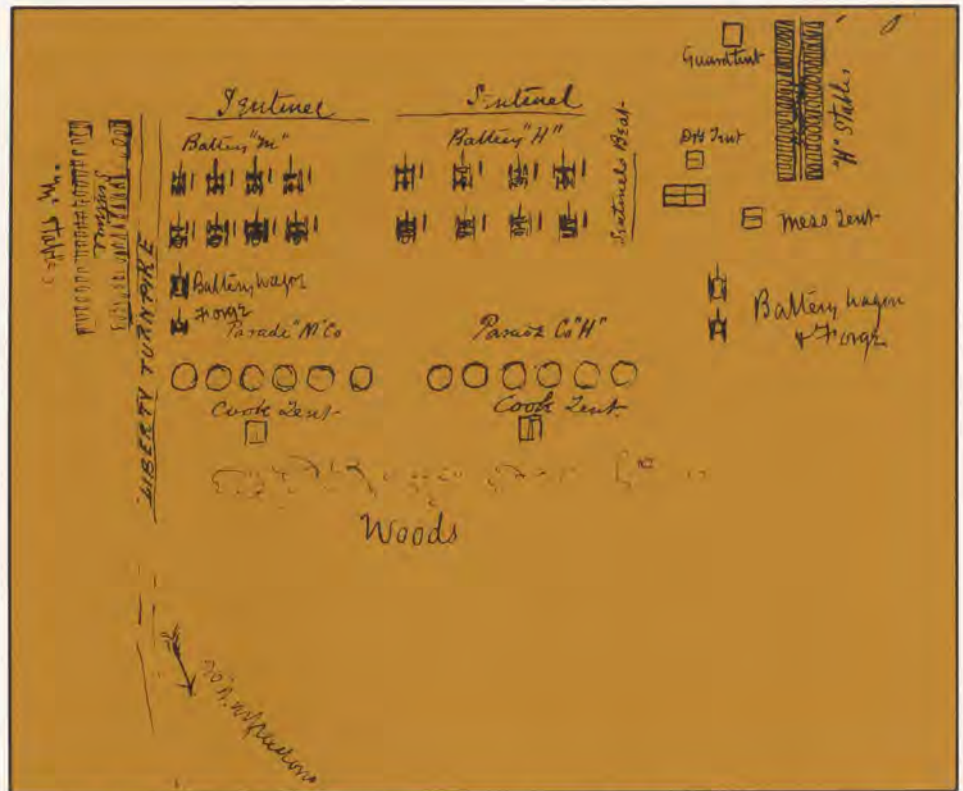
by Anne E. Bridges,  
Reference Librarian

"The sun in this blessed land of chivalry is no half way luminary—His contract he more than executes and the compulsory doffing of coats and the willing imbibition of much beer proves his undoubted supremacy over the universal Yankee nation represented in the 'supplendid army.'" So opened a July 19, 1863, letter from Harry Cushing to his brother George back home in Providence, Rhode Island. Cushing's letters to his mother, father, brother George and to his friend, Ned, form a graphic, sometimes amusing, sometimes painful picture of life in an artillery battery during the Civil War in Tennessee. These letters were purchased with gift funds by the Special Collections division of the University of Tennessee Library and, along with other Civil War material, will illuminate this turbulent period in Tennessee's history.

Cushing's stint in Tennessee came midway in his military career. Born in 1841, he was attending Brown University in Providence when war broke out in 1861. After joining the Army as a private, he had advanced to the rank of 1st lieutenant by the time he was assigned to duty in Tennessee. Cushing was continually in the field from the opening of the war until February 1865. Apparently, the young soldier planned to make the military his career because on June 14, 1863, he wrote to his mother that he was refusing a position on General Crittenden's staff because he "think[s] that those officers who have served in the line will get promoted sooner after the war. . . ." At the end of the war, he was promoted to Major to reward his brave and dedicated service.

Cushing's letters were filled with information about his battery, his opinions on matters both political and military, and his personal life. His writing style was witty and learned. He quoted Shakespeare and made allusions to philosophers and classical figures. In addition, the letters were interspersed with illustrations that included maps of his camp and of the surrounding area. The view one gets of Cushing from his letters is that of a young man filled with enthusiasm for life and affection for his family and friends.

Cushing was very proud of his battery. He constantly wrote of cleaning and



Map of camp near Murfreesboro, 2/8/63. "We have a very fine camp and everything is in order."

decorating the various parts of the artillery, the guns and horses. The performance of the battery at the military reviews and inspections was very important to him. Typically, he wrote to his mother after one review, "I rec'd the high compliment of having the best battery." In another letter, he enclosed a photograph of the battery that was taken at a "daguerreotypic studio." Cushing expressed little interest in large-scale military maneuvers; he chose instead to focus on the events affecting his battery and the men who comprised it.

Although Cushing did not concern himself with the daily operations of the Army as a whole, he had very distinct views on the various federal generals. In 1862, when General McClellan was replaced by General Burnside, Cushing wrote to his mother that he was "sorry for it" because Burnside did not have "the military ability of McClellan." That same year, General Buell was tried for malfeasance during the Kentucky campaign. Cushing wrote that there was wide support for the general who was looked upon "as capable of managing the army which he has created." He went on to say that "He has one of the finest heads I ever saw and a wonderful eye. He has a fine presence and is a most soldierly looking man." On the subject of General Rosecrans, he wrote to his father, "I think that you people in the

North are making him out to be a deuce of a man . . . giving credit to Rosecrans which belongs to others. . . ."

Cushing's superiors had a very high opinion of his abilities. After the Stones River Campaign in Murfreesboro during December of 1862 and January of 1863, Captain Mendenhall, Chief of Artillery, wrote "Lieutenants Cushing and Huntington deserve great credit for their courage under the hottest of the enemy's fire." This praise was echoed by Cushing's commander, Lt. Charles C. Parsons, who wrote that both Cushing and Huntington "discharged their duty with such coolness and fidelity that they deserve my most grateful mention." Understandably, Cushing was very quiet about his role in the battle when writing to his mother on the 11th of January. He briefly mentioned that the troops were recovering from the battle and that he had had enough fighting for a while.

Cushing was also praised for his role in the Chickamauga Campaign, which occurred near Chattanooga, September 19-20, 1863. In his official report, Colonel William Grose wrote that Cushing and Lt. Russell "although they look like mere boys, yet for bravery and effective service they are not excelled or equalled in efficiency by any artillerists in the army." Again, Cushing was very circumspect in the details he sent to his family. In his

October 4th letter to his mother, he mentioned the casualties from his battery but described the fighting as a “few demonstrations” made by the “rebels.” He complained at length about the erroneous newspaper reports, perhaps so that his family would be skeptical of these accounts and, therefore, less concerned when his battery was reported in the thick of battle.

Some of Cushing’s most interesting comments were on life in the battery. Since there were long stretches between campaigns, the troops were often idle and had to learn to amuse themselves. These letters refute the belief that war is all fighting and hard work. In December of 1862, the troops were stationed near Nashville. Cushing described their leisure activities by saying that “Our men have lately been paid off and are now indulging in wild revelry punishing apple jack and corn whiskey with an assiduity which can only be equalled by Kentucky Volunteers.” In a July of 1863 letter to his brother George, he noted that the paymaster had arrived and that “the gentle soldiers are now ardently engaged in skinning each other at poker.” Cushing claimed that his own activities consisted of going into Nashville occasionally and having dinner at Basier’s with a “little theatrical entertainment afterwards,” but one has to wonder if he censured his social activities for the folks back home, much as he did his military ones.

In another letter, Cushing described the mock battles engaged in by the black troops. The letter included a drawing of one soldier holding a flag “represented by



A black standard bearer.

a handkerchief of most extraordinary dirtiness.” He wrote in an imitation of the black dialect, describing their conversations as they assailed each other with brickbats (pieces of brick). Apparently, several black soldiers were injured but “they do not seem to mind it much and seem to take great delight in their combats. . . .” Obviously camp life had its light moments.

Toward the end of 1863, his letters took on a more serious tone. While they were camped at Chattanooga, food became scarce. Cushing wrote on October 18th that “my horses have been without supper and breakfast but we hope soon to have some corn.” However, in November the situation worsened; he wrote later that, while they had recently received more rations, previously “rations have been very scarce and forage was worse. My own splendid riding horses . . . are reduced down to perfect skeletons.”

As Cushing traveled that “land of chivalry,” he observed and commented on the places he visited. While on the march, his troops passed the Hermitage, home of President Jackson. It had “very fine grounds” and Jackson’s tomb was “covered with some sort of running vine which completely hides it.” On March 18th, he wrote his mother that he had “just returned from Nashville where I went for horse. I got twenty and returned very glad to get out of the most insufferably dull place I ever saw or staid in.” A Union officer had to be careful while riding around the area as there was a “well selected assortment of guerillas who never by any mistake omit any chance of putting U.S. officers in risk of their lives.” Cushing described Murfreesboro as a “nest of treason.” But later he qualified this by saying that, “situated in a beautiful tract of country,” it was “a pretty little town as we would say at home but is considered quite a place in this benighted region.”

The weather in Tennessee was very different from that of Cushing’s native Rhode Island. One day in January he wrote to his mother that the “sun has dissolved the frost so effectively that the ground is in such a condition of sloppy stickiness that it is impossible to walk without reducing your boots to a state of dirtiness appalling to witness.” In February, his commentary on the Tennessee winters continued with a letter that began “another rainy cold wet sloppy damp drizzly moist dark muddy disagreeable day” that proved February to be “the most intolerable month of the whole Southern year.” After the arrival of the summer in 1863, Cushing may have looked back with fondness to the “intolerable” winter. In July he



“. . . a juvenile owl now in my possession.”

wrote to his brother George that, while the first two weeks of the month had been very wet, the weather had changed to “torrid heat.” But perhaps worse than the heat were the insects that “torture the noses of the patriots.” No relief could be gotten by entering the woods because there “the remorseless tick holds sway and the in-leg-embedding chigger.” Later that summer the chiggers were still causing problems. In an August letter to his friend Ned, Cushing devoted a page and a half to describing chiggers, their breeding patterns and the misery they caused the troops. He concluded by saying “. . . if there is a hell destined for bugs . . . may a warm place be reserved for thee.” At that point, he paused his letter “to scratch.” Clearly not all the suffering of war was on the battlefield.

Typical of young men, Cushing’s attention was caught by attractive young women. Southern women, however, proved a disappointment. While in Murfreesboro, Cushing saw young women taking gifts to the soldiers in the Confederate hospitals and concluded that “the lot of a wounded rebel was not as bad a thing. . . .” But “no vile Yankee receives their kind attention nor is his parched mouth cooled by rebellious jelly and his longing palate titillated by the Southern chicken broth.” Apparently Cushing did not give up easily because he wrote to his friend Ned that a local “fair Secessionienne” had requested a guard for her house. He planned to send it and “perhaps on Sunday morning after inspection arrayed in gorgeous attire I may just canter over and see if ye guard did his duty.” Apparently, the “fair Secessionienne” had not been interested in Cushing as later that spring he wrote to Ned that he had not “spoken to a female of tender years since I have been in this metropolis [Murfreesboro].” He envied his friend Ned who was somewhere in neutral territory and complained to him that a

"poor young man of Northern principles must seek elsewhere for that congeniality which a Tennessee damsel is too loth to admit to him."

Cushing's letters reveal a strong relationship with his family. Although letters for every week are not present in this collection, Cushing stated that he wrote every week. Some letters may be missing or perhaps, as the war heated up, were never written. He complained bitterly when letters to him were late arriving, stating at one point that "I have patiently waited for a month and over for an epistle but patience will soon cease to be a virtue and I will soon break out into maledictions on somebody or the mail." He maintained a light but affectionate tone in his letters to his mother. Apparently, his letters were also late arriving in Providence and his mother was concerned that their relationship had weakened. He reassured her by saying that "You must not imagine my dear mother that upon arriving at man's estate I relinquish the title of 'your boy' any more than I would were I fourteen or fifteen." Cushing was careful to downplay his role in the war when writing to his mother. He talked instead about the reviews of the battery and his opinions of war-related politics. He also refrained from mentioning any rowdy social activities in which he might have engaged, typical of any young man writing to the folks back home.

Cushing wrote to his father infrequently. The five letters in this collection reveal a teasingly affectionate relationship between father and son. After the arrival of one letter, Cushing wrote back saying

"I was filled with delight at discovering that you still remembered the existence of your offspring." A continual theme in Cushing's letters to his father was the poor quality of his father's handwriting. Cushing was merciless in his teasing saying that his father was "gifted with the faculty of executing most diabolical specimens of chirography." However, he went on to say that in spite of the illegibility he was "delighted" to receive letters from his father. In the middle of 1863, the elder Cushing, probably a merchant, volunteered for service in the military. The son was amused and hoped that if his father were to be put in charge of clothing procurements that the quality of the material would improve. The material that they had been sent recently "may be good enough for 'd—d volunteers' like you but my men are not going to be cheated by any such vile concoction of shoddy."

Cushing also maintained a close relationship with his siblings. In most letters, he asked for news of Sam and often sent messages to Annie, most likely his brother and sister. He also mentioned that he wrote to Annie but those letters have not survived in this collection. She apparently was younger than he as his messages were usually to encourage her to do well in school. He collected autographs from various generals (some he confessed to have forged) and sent them to Annie. He frequently sent money home, specifically earmarked for Annie and her expenses. In this collection, there is one letter to his brother George, dedicated to "fraternal affection." In it he discussed the drinking

of beer, the playing of poker, and the irritation caused by biting insects. He asked George to visit him in Tennessee, offering to procure a pass for him. However, there is no evidence that the visit ever took place.

Cushing's letters to his friend Ned add another dimension to his personality. They are filled with comments about his relationships with women, the antics of the men in camp, verbal interplay and witticisms. Cushing and Ned had apparently shared a long-term friendship. In his typical light tone, Cushing wrote to Ned on July 8, 1863, fantasizing about soldier Ned's triumphant return to Providence with "Lemonade in torrents [to] assuage your thirst and sandwiches and cake and pies showered down on you." He jested about the changes in Ned; that military service will have made him "an accompanied thief—a confirmed drunkard" but that he will eventually become "a shining light among the burghers of Providence." It was not until page three of the letter that Cushing told Ned that "the men are on third rations and the horses not having had a feed of corn for ten days." True to his pattern, Cushing made light of his own predicament, focusing instead on his friend's return home.

Cushing's sense of humor was best shown when he was writing about himself. In a letter to his mother, he talked about being grown up but not yet having lost his "taste for taffy and cocoa nut cakes which are everywhere recognized as the peculiar fleshpots of adolescence." Although he dressed as a man, he wryly pointed out that while "I shave desperately every Sunday the downy covering of my upper lip and chin still retains its peculiar characteristic undecided color." In a later letter, he mentioned that he could "swing a saber" but that his "only discomfort is that my mustaches will not grow." To assure his mother that he was healthy, he wrote "I still retain my fat and indulge in my usual good appetite."

It was this unusual good humor and the ability to laugh at himself and the world around him that allowed Cushing to endure the dangers and discomforts of war and that make his letters significant documents. Much of the correspondence from the 1800's is formal and stilted. In contrast, Cushing was humorous, honest and affectionate in his correspondence. He was a young man doing a very difficult job and doing it with courage and finesse. Letters like Cushing's help create an accurate and balanced picture of life during the Civil War and increase our understanding of our own humanity. ■



Map of Chattanooga, November 1, 1863.

## NOTABLE SOUTHERN FAMILIES

by John Dobson, Special Collections Librarian Emeritus

An article in last year's *Library Development Review* entitled "Dropped by a Mangy Cat" dealt with Tennessee Williams and his interest in family history. The article reported on the famous playwright's wish to acquire the volumes of *Notable Southern Families* in which his family line is traced. A letter from Williams to a UT Librarian concerning the genealogy included the remarks, "Of course I would love to buy the whole set of volumes if you could find a set for me. I think it would bug the eyes of Key West 'socialites' who like to think of me as something 'dropped in an alley' by a mangy cat."

The notice in the 1985/86 *Review* resulted in the gift of another Tennessee Williams letter on the subject of *Notable Southern Families* and the Williams family history. Betsey Bowman of Greeneville read about the Williams correspondence at UT and promptly reacted by donating related papers in her possession to the library. The scenario regarding the Bowman papers is explained in a note to the dramatist dated May 19, 1979. Miss Bowman wrote: "In 1971 you were most generous in making a contribution to the restoration of the Old Harmony Graveyard in Greeneville, Tennessee. This contribution was made through Mrs. Eugene Bowman, my mother, who passed away in April. In going through her correspondence, I came across your letter in which you expressed a desire to have a copy of the genealogy of the Williams family as published in Zella Armstrong's 'Notable Southern Families' . . . I have been able to locate and purchase a copy of volume II which contains the Williams family. . . . I will be very pleased if you will accept volume II as a gift."



Cornelius Coffin Williams, photograph by Knaffl and Brakebill, Knoxville.

The letter from Tennessee Williams to Mrs. Eugene Bowman, referred to by Miss Bowman, was written on May 3, 1971. It was in response to a request for a donation toward rehabilitation of Old Harmony Graveyard. The renowned author commented: "I am enclosing a token contribution to these restorations at this time with the hope of contributing more substantially a bit later. I have just paid my taxes for this year a staggering sum of \$67,000 since it includes some in arrears, and this disbursement plus the cost of my [recent] travels has temporarily strained my resources. I was somewhat surprised to learn that so many relatives are at rest in Greeneville. I thought nearly all the Williams family were in Old Gray Cemetery in Knoxville."

The Mississippi-born writer, whose official name was Thomas Lanier Williams, adopted the pen name Tennessee Williams because of the prominence of the Williams family in Tennessee. His lineage is indeed an illustrious one. John Williams, a great-great-grandfather, was a senator from Tennessee in 1815, and the family tree is sprinkled with such prominent names as John Sevier, James White, Thomas A. R. Nelson, and Polly McClung.

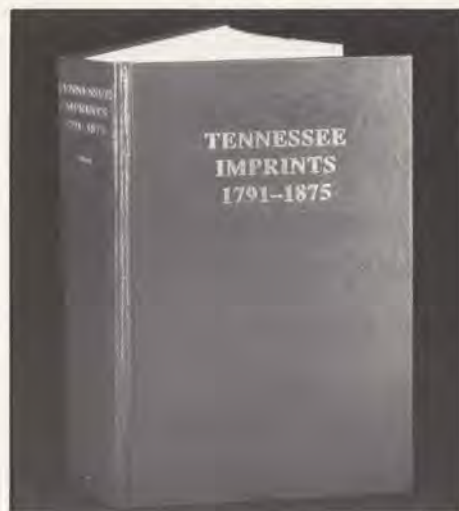
In the letter to Mrs. Bowman, Williams commented on more immediate members of his family. He wrote: "My father, Cornelius Coffin Williams, had very little interest in his antecedents but his two sisters, Ella Williams and Isabel Sevier Williams Brownlow, were well-informed about them. Both of these ladies are now in Old Gray and they were two very lovely people. My father is there, too . . . my mother is still living, though now quite late in her eighties. As you've doubtless observed, there is increasingly little interest these days in one's family, despite the fact that most of what we are comes through our lineage."

Along with the letters quoted above, Miss Bowman's gift to the library included a post office form signed by the playwright. The form concerned delivery of the genealogical volume sent by Miss Bowman which reached Williams after some delay. The book had been mailed in early June, 1977, to 1431 Duncan Street, Key West, the address given on the 1971 letter to her mother, but it was shortly returned to Miss Bowman with the notation "No record of delivery at Key West, Florida." She called the Postmaster and learned that the correct address was 1635 Duncan Street. Williams had apparently moved in the intervening six years. The book was mailed again, this time with a return receipt requested. On October 31, 1977, the volume containing

the Williams family history was delivered at its destination.

It is always a source of satisfaction to find that stories in the *Library Development Review* attract the attention of potential contributors. Miss Bowman's gift of papers relating to Tennessee Williams is a good example of this. Her contribution was prompted by an interest in the "Mangy Cat" article published last year. The University is grateful for her support.

The manuscript items that came to the library (either directly or indirectly) as a result of the famous author's respect for family background have merit beyond their intent. Aside from autograph value, the pieces hold significance for literary investigation. The unpublished letters, despite their briefness, contain information that holds importance for biographers and critics. ■



## OTHER OUTSTANDING GIFTS

Once again the library has been fortunate to receive a number of outstanding gifts of materials and funds. Donors include University faculty and staff, alumni, and friends, all of whose gifts demonstrate a continuing belief in libraries as the proper repositories for records pertaining to the past.

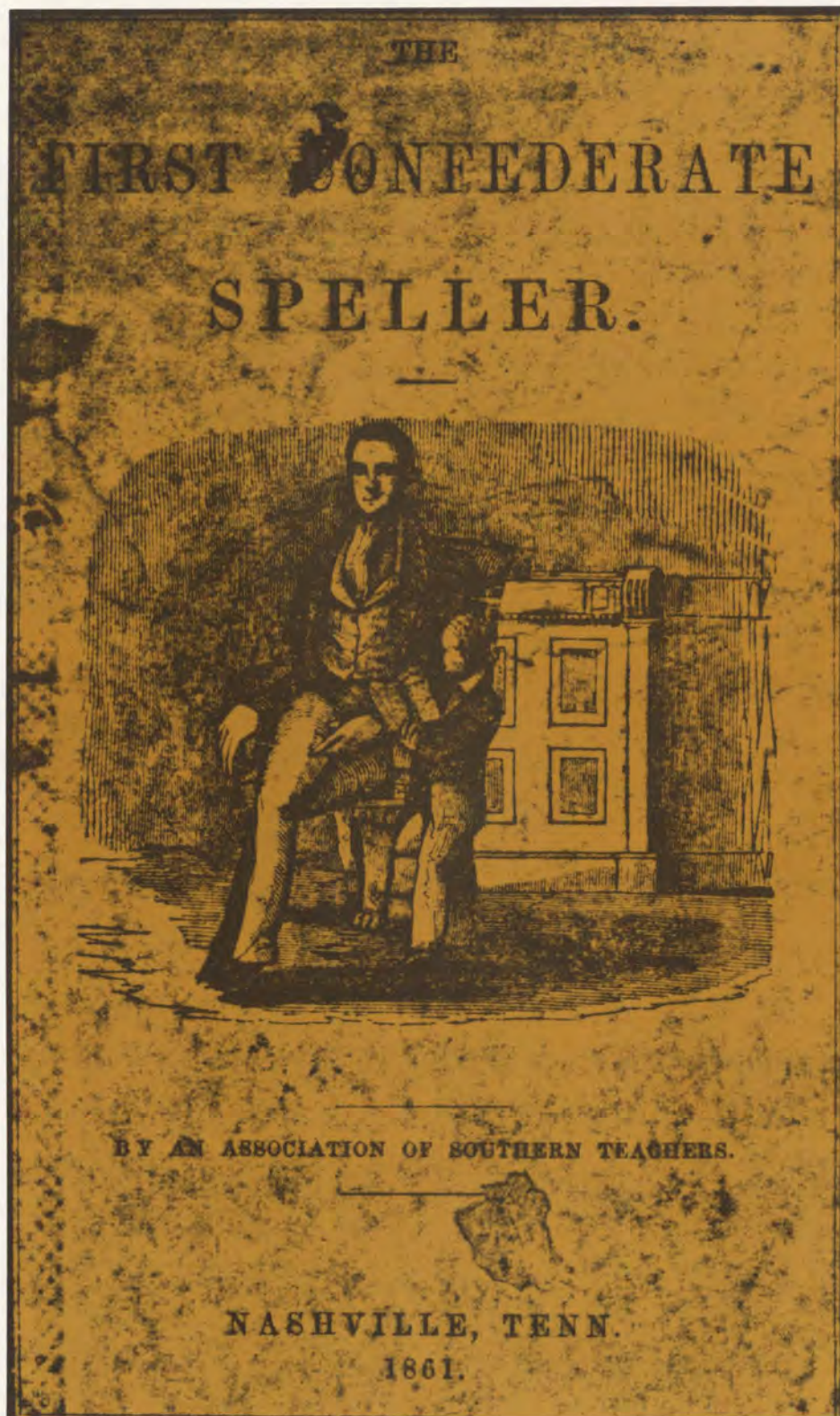
Through a gift from the Radiation Research Society, the Special Collections Library has been provided the capability of considerably expanding its archives concerning radiation research. The Society has made funds available to pay for the shipment of the personal papers of contributing scientists to the Library. A local committee headed by Stewart Riggsby has been established to work with the History Committee of the Society to identify appropriate scientists who might be invited to place their files in the Archival Center

for Radiation Research (formerly Radiation Biology Archives).

A number of gifts of manuscripts and related items have come to the Library during this year. Another installment of material from David Van Vactor, conductor of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra from 1947 until 1972, has been received, which includes many of his original scores as well as full orchestral scores of major twentieth century composers with whom he studied and performed, and tapes of many of the performances of the Knoxville Symphony. Mr. Van Vactor's friend, George DeVine, Emeritus Professor of Music, is assisting the library staff in describing this material. Among other gifts, Mrs. A. C. Bruner has donated glass slides of Knoxville gardens. University Archives has been augmented by additional papers of the late President Emeritus Andrew Holt, and by papers of former Vice President Herman Spivey, and a number of individuals have contributed to the World War II Project. World War II materials were presented by Stephen V. Ash, Solomon Black, Dennis Coughlin, Richard H. Eckert, James L. Everett, Sr., Herman Hall, Lendell Hatcher, Birch P. Henderson, Jr., Oll C. Hopkins, Robert C. Key, Richard Nodell, Harwell Proffitt, George Remaley, Edward P. Stofford, Hugh H. Talley, and Robert S. Thurman.

Significant book collections have been received from a number of donors. Ronald R. Allen has continued his generosity in supplying the library with books concerning Tennessee. Mr. Allen's interest in and knowledge of the UT Library is demonstrated by the number of titles attributed to that repository in his *Tennessee Imprints 1791-1875*. He is to be congratulated on the publication of this important new bibliography. Frazier Harris has donated a collection concerning automobiles and the automobile industry, Edward Clebsch has added to the library's biosciences holdings, Leonard Brinkman to the material concerning Micronesia and the Southwest Pacific, John and June Fisher to the holdings on literary history and criticism, Al Yeomans to the field of speech and theatre, Milton Klein to history and religion, and Robert Ennis to engineering and technology. From the Estate of Dorothy M. Fisher, Charlotte F. Roussor gave a large group of assorted books and pamphlets.

The library has been most fortunate in being able to purchase a number of worthwhile items with gift funds. Perhaps the most notable among these purchases has been the pieces which appeared on



*A recently acquired Confederate Tennessee imprint.*

the market due to the breakup of a private collection of Tennesseana. As a result, material which had not been available for decades found its way to the library this year, including, for instance, thirteen previously unrecorded Tennessee imprints, a copy of the sermon delivered by Robert Henderson on September 17, 1812, to

Andrew Jackson's troops before they departed for the Natchez expedition, Volume II of William G. Brownlow's newspaper, the *Jonesborough Monthly Review*, a broadside attack on the Chattanooga police by A. A. Pearson in 1867, and a goodly number of Confederate Tennessee imprints.





An unrecorded Civil War broadside acquired through the support of Mr. and Mrs. Max Alvarez is published here for the first time.

In addition, the library was able to augment significantly its rare map collection through the purchase of eighteen maps from the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries. These include Dutch, English, French and German works as well as those produced in this country by such well known cartographers as Augustus Mitchell and Joseph H. Colton, the two individuals whose firms dominated mapmaking in America from 1830 to 1900. Each company put out countless editions of their state maps during this time. When doing so, each version was updated to reflect new settlements, railroads, and other features. The successive editions chronicle the westward expansion that took place during this period. With the addition of these maps the library now has a considerable selection of issues from the most significant cartographers of the period.

The aforementioned are but a few examples of the many materials given to the library during the past year. These collections represent wide variations. They are received into the library with the understanding that they will be disseminated among the library divisions where they will be found most useful. The rare and unusual items will be held in the Special Collections division, while the more frequently seen books of general interest or those of a technical nature will be placed in the Central, Music or Agriculture-Veterinary Medicine libraries. Gifts such as those enumerated in this report go far to make an already good library even better. ■

## THE TENNESSEE PRESIDENTIAL PAPERS CENTER

by Patricia Clark, Associate Editor,  
Andrew Johnson Project

Long the sole presidential papers project in the University's Hoskins Library, the Andrew Johnson Project ends its splendid isolation with the relocation of the editing projects of Tennessee's two other Presidents on the Knoxville campus during the summer of 1987. The Jackson Project, although sponsored by the University, has been housed at the Hermitage, Jackson's home near Nashville, while the Polk Project, under the aegis of Vanderbilt, has been quartered in the Joint Universities Library there. The three projects will form the Tennessee Presidential Papers Center which will enhance the University's reputation as a major research center and give it the distinction of being the only university with three presidential papers projects.

Each of the projects, working from xerographic, photostatic, or microfilm copies, has amassed literally thousands of documents collected from nearly every major repository and library in the country as well as from smaller institutions and from private collectors. The bulk of the material has come from the Library of Congress and the National Archives, but all three projects have obtained document copies from the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Only a small selection of these, however, can be used for final publication.

The Johnson Project, at home in the library since 1960, has published seven volumes to date, six edited by history professors LeRoy P. Graf and Ralph W. Haskins and the seventh by Dr. Graf alone. A separate volume of letters reporting to the President on conditions in the immediate postwar South will be issued this fall by the University of Tennessee Press.

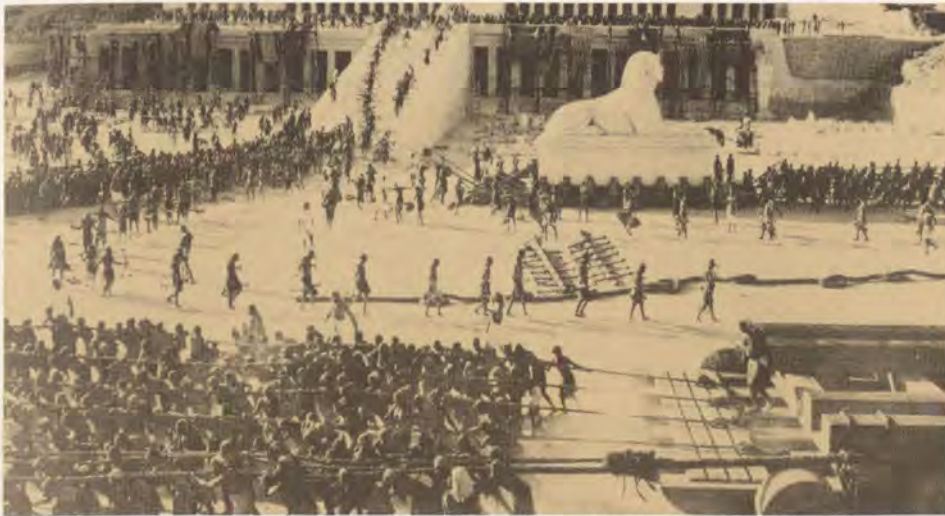
Two chief editors have served the Jackson Papers: Sam Smith, formerly with the history departments of both UT Nashville and Knoxville, editing volume one, and Dr. Harold D. Moser, the present editor, volume two. In addition to the two printed volumes, the Jackson Project has also edited and published a microfilm edition of Jackson papers from sources other than those obtained from the Library of Congress or the National Archives. A volume of Jackson's legal papers will appear this fall, also published by the University Press.

Six volumes of the Polk Correspondence are in print, edited initially by the late Dr. Herbert Weaver, former history professor at Vanderbilt, and Dr. Paul Bergeron, now a member of the UTK history department and by publication time the new editor of the Johnson Papers. The present editor, Dr. Wayne Cutler, has been with the project since 1975 and has edited the last two volumes alone. All three projects have been served by capable associate and assistant editors, other specialists, and volunteers.

Since the library order, catalog, and serials departments moved from the large area on the second floor of the Hoskins Library into the new Central Library, the staffs of the Tennessee Presidential Papers Center can soon locate in the renovated space with Special Collections as their nearest neighbor. For all three projects, it will mean more space than each has had in its former quarters.

The collections, still being augmented by all three projects, will in time become a valuable resource for the University. Although it will be many years before any of the three reach the end of their respective series, the collections will ultimately become a part of the Special Collections Library, a unique addition which should attract mid-19th century scholars and Reconstruction historians to the Knoxville campus. ■

# LIBRARY EVENTS



A scene from *The Ten Commandments*. (The Films of Cecil B. DeMille. New York, 1969.)

## THE BIG MOVE

On the sunny afternoon of May 26, the University provided a stunning forecast for its library friends and benefactors of the impressive library environment that opened in fall '87 for use by students, faculty and the public. When friends and benefactors next gather for their annual review of library progress, they will find the John C. Hodges Library a reality.

The monumental task of transporting more than one million volumes—plus equipment, furniture, staff and an unbelievable miscellany—was scrutinized and defined by Pauline Bayne, music librarian on leave. Valuable assistance in this effort was provided by her logistics group, Mike Sherrell of the Physical Plant, and library circulation heads Paul Trentham (Main) and Sugg Carter (UGL), who had both weathered major library moves.

Every aspect of the move was cataloged, rehearsed, revised, accepted or discarded, and staff members were recruited for tasks most suitable to their experience, skills, and knowledge. Devices needed—from motor trucks, book trucks, 2-wheel dollies, et al, to first-aid supplies—were enumerated and put on order; personal computers zipped-out lists and information and schedules. Full-time and part-time people turned their hands, minds, and inclinations toward a successful transition, and displayed once again the inherent spirit of cooperation that marks the staff of The University of Tennessee Library.

## RECEPTION HONORING FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS

The annual Library Friends and Benefactors reception was held on Tuesday, May 26, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. at the new John C. Hodges Library. The Library, which was not then open and was unfurnished, provided unique unencumbered vistas which changed drastically with the furniture and stacks in place. Guests enjoyed the opportunity to view the Library at this stage. Some partook of the organized tours of the two main levels which were available, while others preferred to wander about on their own.

The reception, hosted by the Chancellor's Associates and the University Library, is held each year as a means of recognizing donors and encouraging additional gifts. Guests were greeted by Donald Hunt, Library Director, by members of the Friends and Benefactors Reception Committee, and by Development Office staff. James R. Shelby, Chairman of the Chancellor's Associates, introduced Chancellor Jack Reese. The Chancellor greeted the guests and expressed gratitude to friends and benefactors for their support and for their continued interest. Donald Hunt added his thanks and commented on special features of the John C. Hodges Library.

More than two hundred seventy-five people were present to partake of refreshments, to view the library, and to visit with friends, librarians, and colleagues. Name

tags were provided at the entrance so that those assembled could mingle with ease. Acting as hosts, library faculty and Chancellor's Associates circulated among guests and extended a cordial welcome to all.

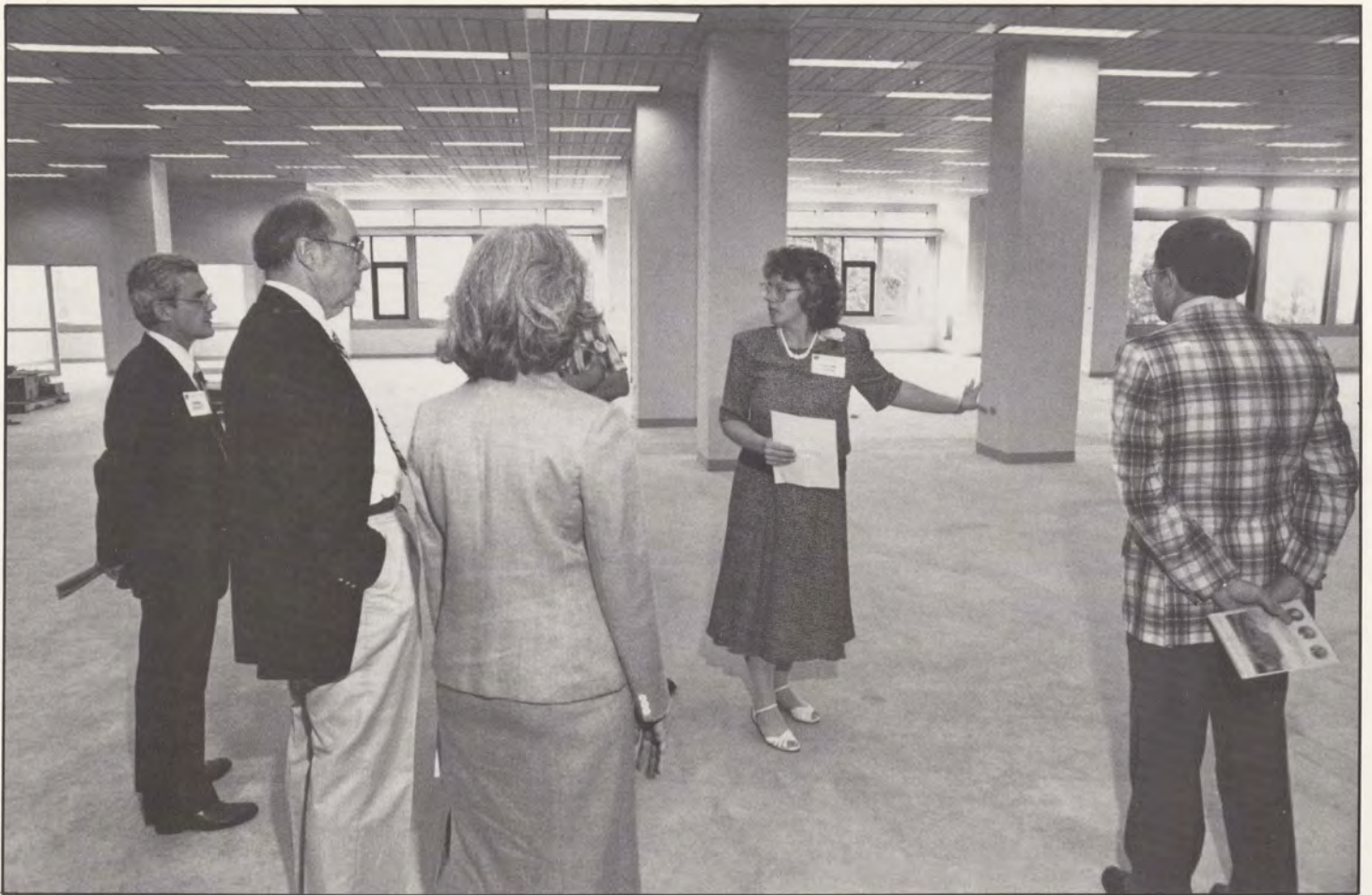
Keepsake programs, which for eleven years have been offered as mementos of the event, were handed to each arrival. The keepsakes have been reproductions of prints holding historic interest. The steel engraving of James K. Polk from an original painting by Chappel (New York: Johnson, Fry & Co., 1862) featured on this year's program follows illustrations relating to the Presidents from Tennessee on previous program covers (Andrew Jackson in 1976 and Andrew Johnson's tailor shop in 1982). Limited numbers of programs for this and past years, all taken from material in Special Collections, are available from the Special Collections Library. Music for the evening was provided by a student woodwind quintet which filled the background with a selection of soft and pleasing melodies.

Members of the library committee and officials of the Development Office who organized the gathering felt that this year's social affair was another in a successful series. ■

Reception photos on following pages.



Ann Mitchell, distinguished reference librarian, retired on August 31, 1987.



*Pauline Bayne (center), director of the George F. DeVine Music Library, supervised the move that included more than 3 million pieces of library materials, furniture, the entire card catalog, and twenty-eight library departments.*



*State representative Pete Drew and his wife Joyce Drew toured the reference area with Felicia Felder-Hoehn, reference librarian, and Sheadrick Tillman, Associate Vice Provost for Research.*



*Tom Hill, owner of The West Side Story and his wife Joan O'Steen approved of the diverse resources that will be available to the students and faculty members.*



Jeanne Barkley, retired coordinator of reunions for the Department of Alumni Affairs, brought special guest Flo Alexander, mother of former Governor Lamar Alexander, to the reception.



Jimmy R. Shelby, partner in charge of tax services, Coopers & Lybrand, served as Chairman of the Chancellor's Associates during 1986/87 with UTK Chancellor Jack E. Reese.



Betsey Creekmore, Associate Executive Vice Chancellor for Business, Planning and Finance, spoke with News Sentinel editor Harry Moskos.



Gladys Faires and Ross Faires, president of Tibbals Flooring Company of Oneida, Tennessee, visited with Joe Congleton, managing partner of Hunton and Williams, Knoxville, Tennessee.



Chancellor's Associate Pat Medley and UTK Library Director Don Hunt discuss future plans for the new facility.



The spacious gallery of the John C. Hodges Library is an appropriate introduction to the largest library in Tennessee.

# LIBRARY ENDOWMENTS

Over the years, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Library has enjoyed a steady growth in the number and size of named endowments. There are currently forty-eight endowments with a total value of over \$730,000. These funds are invested by the University with the income dedicated to purchase materials for the library. The value of these endowments may increase in two ways . . . through additional gifts from the donors and/or through the reinvestment of a small portion of the annual income, thereby increasing the value of the principal.

As we continue our quest for the best and brightest students and faculty we must provide them with the best library possible. The state of Tennessee and the University continue to provide support for the people, the equipment and acquisitions, but these resources are limited. Therefore the Library would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the individuals, corporations and foundations who have enabled us to enjoy this current level of private support.



*Interior view of the gallery of the new Hodges Library.*

## ENDOWMENTS

- Agriculture Veterinary Medicine Library Development Fund
- Anonymous Library Development Fund
- Margaret G. Blanton Library Endowment
- Lalla Block Arnstein Library Endowment
- James Douglas Bruce Endowment Fund
- William Waller Carson Library Endowment
- Ira Childs Library Endowment-Higher Education
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- Durant Daponte Memorial Library Book Endowment
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- Stanley J. Folmsbee Library Endowment Fund
- Armour T. Granger Library Endowment Fund
- Henry Haensler Library Endowment
- Hamilton National Bank Library Endowment
- Hodges Books for English Endowment

- John C. Hodges-Alumni Library Endowment
- Paul & Evelyn Howard Humanities Library Endowment
- Thomas L. James Library Endowment Fund
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- G.C. Youngeman Library Endowment Fund

# PROCEDURES FOR MAKING GIFTS



Exterior view of the new Hodges Library showing the skylight of the Galleria.

Private gifts have played an important role in the library program of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. State appropriations simply cannot provide sufficient funds for us to acquire the many materials and books which are needed to maintain the level of quality we desire.

There are a number of ways in which individuals, corporations and foundations may offer private support of our library programs.

## **GIFTS OF CASH AND APPRECIATED SECURITIES**

One of the most effective ways of assisting us is an outright gift of cash or securities. An unrestricted gift of this nature enables us to apply the funds to the area of greatest need. Also, a gift of appreciated securities offers attractive income tax benefits.

### **Deferred Gifts**

Included in the deferred gift category are gifts by will, charitable remainder trusts and charitable lead trusts. It is important to

note that while deferred gifts do not accrue to the University until some date in the future, there are often immediate income tax benefits which can be enjoyed by the donor. The Office of Development can offer detailed information to interested individuals.

### **Gifts of Books or Other Valuable Library Materials**

Of course, we are particularly interested in receiving gifts that will enhance our collections or help fill out certain subject areas as required by the academic programs of the University. An institution of our size and complexity often needs duplicate copies of titles. You are encouraged to get in touch with us if you are in doubt about the desirability of books you may want to contribute.

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville Office of Development has the responsibility for working directly with all interested donors to ensure that their gifts are intelligently planned in light of current tax regulations. Anyone interested in making a gift to the Library may use the business reply envelope included in the *Review*, or contact:

Office of Development  
Tyson Alumni House  
1609 Melrose Avenue  
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-3550  
Phone: (615) 974-5045

## **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

This unique section of the Library houses rare books, manuscripts, maps, prints and historical ephemera. Special Collections is of vital importance to the research collection and to the scholar, but often must give way to the needs of the instructional program and may suffer disproportionately in time of budgetary stress.

Several friends of the Library have made generous contributions to the Special Collections Library specifically to be used for the purchase of items of Tennesseeana which, because of budgetary constraints, could not otherwise be obtained. This fund allows the Special Collections librarian the opportunity to purchase materials which appear on the open market. Specified funds serve to bring rare pieces of Tennesseeana to our holdings. ■

# LIBRARY CONTRIBUTORS, 1986-87

During the fiscal year, benefactors have made contributions valued at \$1000 or more; patrons have made commitments between \$500 and \$999; and donors have contributed from \$100 to \$499. We regret that space limitations prevent the recognition of all donors to the library.

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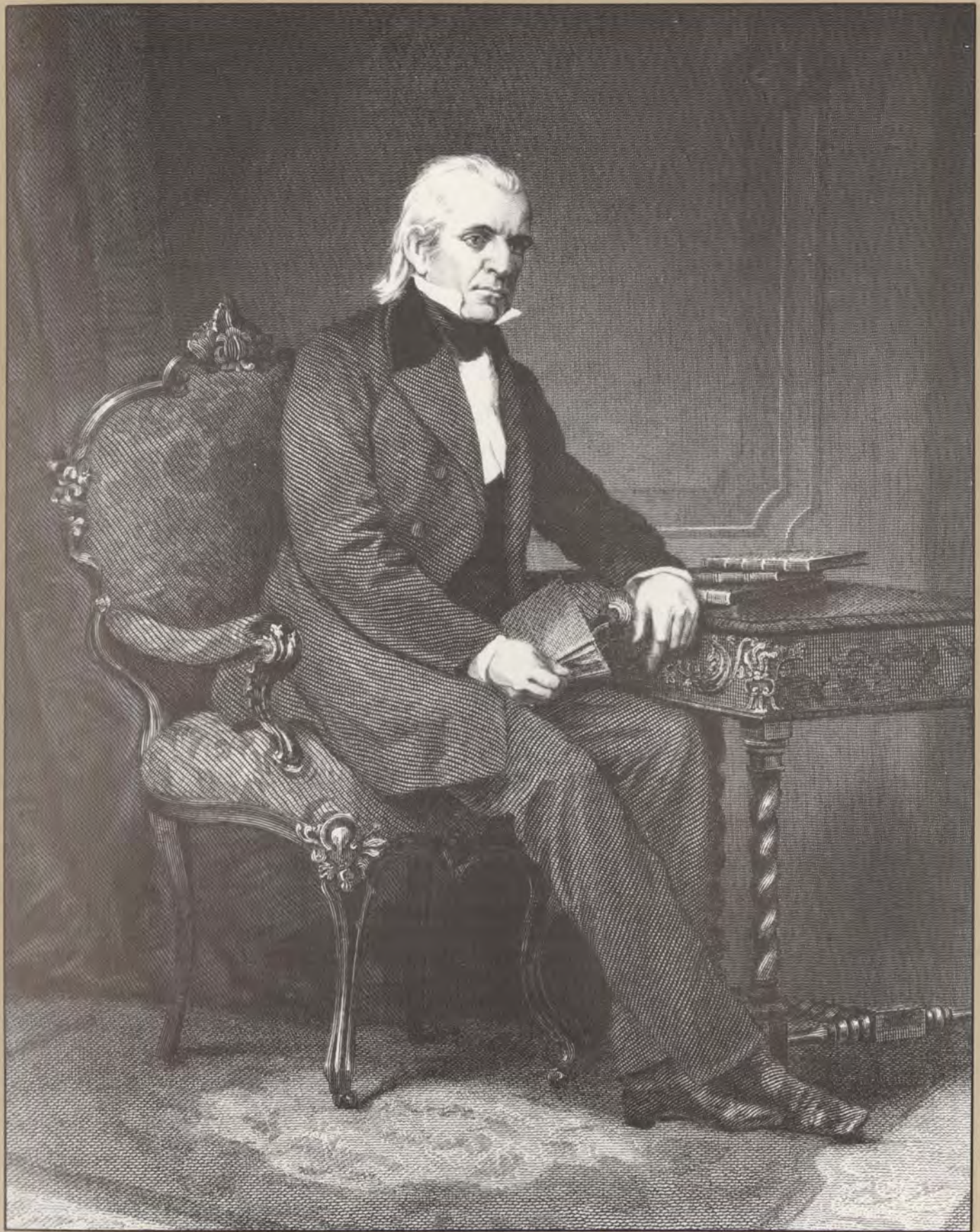
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*James K. Polk (New York, Johnson, Fry & Co., 1862). A steel engraving of an original painting by Chappel was used as the cover design for keepsake programs distributed at the Friends and Benefactors reception held May 26, 1987. Copies of the keepsake programs, which are suitable for framing, can be obtained upon request at the Special Collections Library. A limited number of these programs from past years are also available.*



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