

McLean County Museum of History

Ewing Family Correspondence Collection

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1834-1910
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

Brief History

Albert Gallatin Ewing (1804-1873) was born in Nashville, TN in 1804 to Scottish natives. He graduated Cumberland College at age 16. While a partner in a drug store, Ewing heard Alexander Campbell preach in Nashville. The nineteen year old and his parents converted. Ewing moved to Bethany, VA (now West VA) and studied under Campbell, traveled on some of Campbell's preaching tours, and married Campbell's eldest daughter Jane. After Jane died, he wed **Mary Jane Marsilliot** of Wheeling, VA. Ewing moved to Clarington, OH, where he ran a mill and also pastored a church for 16 years. With failing health and failing finances, he moved the family to Eureka, IL, in 1838. There he became a church elder and joined the board of Eureka College. He died at home in 1873.

Alexander Campbell (1788-1866) was a Scots-Irish immigrant who became an ordained minister in the US and helped lead a reform movement that developed non-

denominational Christian churches. Churches existing today with historical ties to this movement include Churches of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.)

Born in Christian County, KY, brothers **James B. Stevenson and Adlai Ewing Stevenson I** (1835-1914) moved to Bloomington, IL, with their parents and family about 1852-53. James was among the developers of the McLean County Coal Shaft, starting in 1867. Adlai studied law and commenced practice in Metamora in 1858. He engaged in politics and became US vice president from 1893 to 1897.

Scope

This collection centers around the correspondence of the family of Albert Gallatin Ewing. Along with correspondence regarding the personal affairs of the Ewing, Davidson, Marsilliot, and Stevenson families, there are letters covering a wide variety of subjects – social, business, and religious.

Included is correspondence dealing with business affairs, religion and politics in Nashville in 1835; letters touching on business and religious connections with the Church of Christ in Clarington, Ohio in the 1850's and the Eureka Christian Church in the 1880's; three letters of personal content from Alexander Campbell, founder of the Disciples of Christ; and descriptions of a European tour made by James B. Stevenson in the summer of 1875. The letters of James B. Stevenson, his wife, and his brother, Adlai, constitute nearly a fourth of the entire collection. Of particular interest are four letters describing Civil War sentiment in Nashville, Morgan Town, and Wheeling; a pilot's description of riverboat travel in the 1860's; and four letters written by Adlai E. Stevenson I.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Baird, H. C.

2-18-1888, to J. B. Stevenson regarding possible sale of property to Eureka Christian Church.

Folder 2: Bateman, Mary

6-9-1855, to Albert (?) concerning death of mother.

Folder 3: Bible Passages

Ca. 1835, place of origin and significance unknown.

Folder 4: Campbell, Alexander

Ca. late August – early September, 1854, acknowledgment of request from A. G. Ewing for payment of \$228 due Henry Ewing.

8-12-1858, to A. G. Ewing wishing him well in his removal from Ohio to Illinois.
Transcription included.

11-12-1862, to A. G. Ewing concerning death of Ewing son. *Transcription included.*

Folder 5: The Church of Christ (Clarington, Monroe County, Ohio)

2-19-1854, regarding Evangelist A. G. Ewing's honorable discharge from labors for said congregation.

2-16-1855, to A. G. Ewing requesting that he partially reassume former responsibilities to congregation.

4-18-1858, being a letter of recommendation requested by A. G. Ewing upon his removal from Ohio to Illinois.

Folder 6: Davidson, Annie E.

12-6-1885, to Grandmother (?) concerning mundane personal matters.

Folder 7: Davidson, Jane C.

2-26-1885, to Mother (?) pertaining to journey from El Paso, Illinois, to Memphis.

5-30-1878, to Annie E. (daughter) on occasion of sixteenth birthday.

12-4-1885, to Annie E. regarding Christmas preparations.

7-24-1887, to Annie E. Concerning church matters and farm work.

7-29-1887, to Annie E. pertaining to church convention in Eureka.

11-?- ?, to sister (?) concerning personal matters of the day.

Folder 8: Davidson, William A.

6-23-1863, to wife regarding arriving in Memphis which is in uproar, trying to reach his regiment in Corinth, tedious journey, desire to have her come down fairly soon.

12-1-1864 from Memphis to father about his anxiety over Janie's(sp?) ill condition, his own recent indisposition, more.

7-14-1887 at Eureka, to daughter at Chatham about gratitude that she was not on the Niagara bound train that fell into the river, possible meeting in Springfield, staff, etc. Envelope.

Folder 9: Ewing, Albert G.

5-29-1857, to Mary Jane regarding initial impression of Eureka and environs in search for new home.

6-3-1857, to Mary Jane concerning impression of Galesburg and vicinity.

6-7-1857, to Mary Jane pertaining to hardships endured during trip and concern for his children's education.

1-16-1871, to son (?) expressing both disappointment at said son's failure to finish education and concern for his general welfare.

3-17-1872, to Orville regarding personal matters, particularly maintenance of rental property.

Folder 10: Ewing, Edwin H.

10-11-1835, to Albert G. Ewing (brother) concerning political and church affairs in Nashville. *Transcription included.*

9-2-1873, to James B. Stevenson concerning death of Albert Ewing.

Folder 11: Ewing, Henry

12-11-1834, to Albert G. Ewing (brother) regarding enclosed check for \$2,000 "Negroes and mules sell enormously high" (in Nashville).

1-14-1835, to Albert pertaining to personal business affairs in Nashville

10-18-1835, to Albert pertaining to sale of house (\$3,750) in Nashville.

Folder 12: Ewing Miscellaneous Correspondence

12-18-1846, to Albert G. Ewing from Sarah Ewing (daughter) regarding personal affairs.

12-26-1859, to Albert G. Ewing from Andrew Ewing describing family activities in Nashville and expressing strong personal fears regarding "the permanency of our Unions." *Transcription included.*

8-6-1867, to mother of Allie Ewing, (Mary Jane Ewing ?) regarding Allie's desire to come home to Eureka for a visit as soon as the opportunity presents itself.

9-9-1873, to Mary Jane from Orville (?) Ewing (brother-in-law)/ expressing sympathy and grief upon learning of the death of Albert Ewing.

5-8-1888, to Mrs. W. A. (Jane) Davidson (sister) from Orville regarding personal matters.

?, to Annie Davidson from Mary Jane Ewing (grandmother) concerning mundane matters.

Folder 13: Ewing Family Bible records

Photocopies of pages with handwritten records of births, marriages, and deaths.

Folder 14: Kirkbride, D. M.

7-30-1888, to Mrs. W. A. (Jane) Davidson and (Annie) from D. M. Kirkbride (cousin) expressing sorrow over the death of "Aunt Mary Jane" in Eureka, and a request for more details of the cause of death.

Folder 15: Lazier, "Jack"

9-6-1885, to Aunt (?) concerning wartime sentiment in Morgantown, Virginia. *Transcription included.*

Folder 16: Major, Willie

8-7-1887, to Annie Davidson from her friend and pupil Willie Major, informing her of details of his farming.

Folder 17: Marsilliot, Andrew

10-28-1860, to Mrs. Sarah A. Marsilliot from her son Andrew to announce that Maggie is expecting a baby and describing other personal matters, as well as mentioning hearing Alexander Campbell preach in Cincinnati "Last Lord's Day".

2-15-1862, to Mrs. Sarah A. Marsilliot from Andrew (son) describing how he and 39 other steamer pilots were almost pressed into transporting troops from Louisville to the Cumberland River for the Government service. *Transcription included.*

Folder 18: Marsilliot, Maggie

5-16-1861, to Sarah Marsilliot from Maggie (daughter-in-law) telling of Union sentiments in Wheeling and the lack of work for river pilots like Andrew (Maggie's husband). *Transcription included.*

1-21-1888, to Mrs. W. A. (Jane) Davidson from Maggie Marsilliot (aunt) expressing grief and sympathy upon the death of Mary Jane Ewing.

Folder 19: Miscellaneous Marsilliot Correspondence

11-14-1881, to Mary Jane Ewing from Lydia Marsilliot (aunt), regarding the death of "Uncle Leonard" and personal family affairs.

3-27-1882, to Mary Jane Ewing from Merritt Marsilliot (cousin), regarding the death of his father Leonard and brother Miller Marsilliot, and the situations of other members of the family.

1-24-1888, to the W. A. Davidson family, from A. S. Marsilliot, expressing grief at the death of her sister, Mary Jane Ewing.

Folder 20: Miscellaneous

Advertisement for cholera medicine, Eureka, Illinois

Pocket Guide Time Table for railways and street car lines (1888?) in Colton, California.

Calling card with names: Miss Rowena Ewing and Mr. & Mrs. James B. Stevenson.

2 Christmas and New Years Greetings, 1 letter (Dec. 1887) addressed to sisters, Jane Davidson and Maggie McGrath.

Newspaper clipping from the Nashville "Banner" May 2, 1935, "Ewing descendants unveil marker" honoring Andrew Ewing, leading figure in preservation of Nashville and signer of Cumberland Compact, May 1, 1780.

2 small notebooks.

1 – of A. S. Marsilliot – an account book.

2 – anonymous notebook

Unused memo sized letterhead from Bole House in Mattoon. Rick & Stubbine, Proprietors.

Folder 21: Miscellaneous Correspondence

1-26-1859, to Jane from her aunt regarding personal matters and urging Jane to continue her education.

3-27-1861, to Sarah Marsilliot from her son, Andrew regarding personal matters.

4-25-1861, to Albert (?) from R. S. Fall, expressing fear of coming conflict of South and North. Residents of Nashville are almost unanimously for "resistance." *Transcription included.*

7-22-1887, to Anna from her friend Etta Chrittan in Dodge City, Kansas, asking her to help send an able missionary to build up their church.

9-14-1889, to the parents of Annie and Will (nee Stevenson), a newly-married couple vacationing in California, describing their impressions of San Jose and Los Angeles.

7-30-??, to Mrs. Rose Stevenson, from her Aunt Rose, regarding personal matters. Envelope.

Folder 22: Miscellaneous Envelopes

10 posted envelopes, including one from 1890's with McLean County Coal Co return address logo.

Folder 23: Murray, Jennie

9-27-1874, to Annie E. Davidson, urging her to strive “ever to advance higher” in performance of her duties and studies.

Folder 24: Norwell, Mory

7-17-1834, to Albert G. Ewing from his “brother” in Nashville, regarding the death of Albert’s wife, Jane.

Folder 25: Pendleton Correspondence

1-29-1872, to Albert G. Ewing, giving news of mutual friends and family members, written from Charleston, West Virginia.

10-16-1886, to Hon. A. E. Stevenson, introducing Dr. Robert H. Power of Newport News, Virginia from W. K. Pendleton.

1-30-1888, to Annie E. Davidson, from her Aunt Margaret Pendleton, expressing sympathy upon the loss of her grandmother (Mary Jane Ewing.)l.

Folder 26: Stevenson, Adlai E. I

6-17-1886, to Annie E. Davidson (cousin), inquiring about her father’s health.

1-21-1888, telegram to James B. Stevenson expressing sympathy upon the death of Mary Jane Ewing.

3-15-1899, to Rowena Stevenson (sister-in-law) regarding an old letter from their late mother.

11-06-1905, ? to his sister Rowena regarding personal matters.

4-4-1910 ? to Mr. Bullis, regarding a note of security which Stevenson signed for a friend of the family, which he is now called upon to pay.

Folder 27: Stevenson, James B.

6-21-1863, to Rowena Stevenson, (wife) a letter regarding his sickness and personal matters, written after returning from a river boat journey of 26 hours.

1-12-1863, to Rowena Stevenson, regarding personal matters.

4-5-1863, to Rowena Stevenson, mentioning her coming to Quincy in October as his future bride.

3-22-1864, to his mother, describing his illness of four weeks. (“a severe spell of bleeding at the lungs”).

7-5-1875, a postcard to his wife from London.

7-9-1875, to his daughter from Brussels, describing his impressions of his trip abroad.

7-18-1875, to his wife and daughter from Lausanne, Switzerland, describing his impressions of Switzerland and his tentative itinerary (Geneva-Paris-Glasgow) for the weeks until his return to America, about August.

8-1-1875, to his daughter, Annie Stevenson, from London, describing his sight-seeing experiences in that area.

1-25-1888, to Mrs. W. A. Davidson, from Colton, California, expressing grief upon hearing of the death of his mother-in-law, Mary Jane Ewing.

2-26-1888, to W. A. Davidson, from Colton, California, giving news of his daughter Annie's gradual recovery from her long illness.

3-26-1888, to W. A. Davidson, from Colton, California, regarding the sale of some of Stevenson's property in Illinois.

4-29-1888, to Annie E. Davidson (niece) from Colton, California, writing of their decision to remain in California another month.

8-8-1866, to A. G. Owing (father-in-law), writing of their pleasure at being back in Quincy.

Folder 28: Stevenson, Rowena E.

5-25-1867, to her mother (Mary Jane Ewing) assuring her that she and the new baby are doing well.

11-24-??, to her mother regarding personal matters.

9-29-1889, to Annie (Davie) Davidson (niece) describing her daughter Annie's up-coming wedding in California.

Folder 29: Worrell, Ida E.

1-27-1888, to Mrs. William A. Davidson, expressing sympathy upon hearing of the death of her mother, Mary Jane Ewing.