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## McAfee, Robert Breckinridge, 1784-1849 (MSS 204)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives

Western Kentucky University, [mssfa@wku.edu](mailto:mssfa@wku.edu)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
Special Collections Library  
Department of Library Special Collections  
Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 204    MCAFEE, Robert Breckinridge, 1784-1849**

½ box. 4 folders. 7 items. 1803-1927. Originals, photocopies, and typescripts

SC2014.3.46

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Robert Breckinridge McAfee was born 18 February 1784 in Mercer County, Kentucky to Robert and Anne (McCoun) McAfee. His father was one of a group of pioneers who came to the Salt River area of Kentucky from Virginia and established McAfee Station in 1779. He attended Transylvania University 1795 to 1797, studied law with John Breckinridge and opened his own practice in Franklin County in 1801. He married Mary Cardwell in 1807. He was elected to the state legislature in 1800 and served there until he volunteered for service during the War of 1812. After his distinguished military service, he published a *History of the Late War in the Western Country* and returned to the legislature. He was elected lieutenant governor for the 1824-1828 term, casting the vote that prevented the elimination of the "New Court" during the critical "Old Court-New Court" controversy. He served again in the legislature until 1832 when he was appointed charge d'affaires to the Republic of Colombia by President Andrew Jackson. Upon his return to Kentucky in 1837, he was once again elected to the legislature but retired from public life in 1845. He died 12 March 1849 and is buried in Harrodsburg, Kentucky in the cemetery of the New Providence Presbyterian Church that his ancestors helped establish.

In addition to his war history, McAfee wrote *The History of the Rise and Progress of the First Settlement on Salt River and Establishment of New Providence Church* and *The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee and His Family and Connections*.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection consists of two handwritten journals kept by McAfee from 3 October 1803 to 5 September 1804 and 20 May 1807 to 31 August 1807, typescripts of the journals, and translations of the Latin phrases he employs throughout his journals. In his brief entries he comments on his personal habits, his work, his family and friends, and makes observations about religion, politics and the weather. Also includes McAfee's *The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee and His Family and Connections*, a memoir begun in 1845, and published in the January, May, and September 1927 issues of the *Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society*.

## **SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Journals</b>	<b>1803-1927</b>	<b>7 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory		
Folder 2	Journal, typescript of journal and translation of Latin phrases appearing in journal	Oct. 23, 1803- Sept. 5, 1804	2 items
Folder 3	Journal, typescript of journal and translation of Latin phrases appearing in journal	May 20, 1807- Aug. 31, 1807	2 items
Folder 4	<i>The Life and Times of Robert B McAfee and His Family and Connections</i> [a memoir ending in 1806], 1845, published in Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society vol. 25, nos. 73, 74 & 75	Jan., May & Sept. 1927	3 items

## **BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS MCAFEE, Robert Breckinridge, 1784-1849 1803-1927  
204

Two of McAfee's handwritten journals from 1803-1807 and typescripts of the journals. Also, his "The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee and His Family and Connections, 1845", published in the *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* in 1927.

½ box. 4 folders. 7 items. Originals.  
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## **SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Breckinridge, John, 1760-1806 – Relating to F2,4  
Journals – McAfee, Robert Breckinridge, 1784-1849 F2,3  
Land – Claims – Relating to  
*The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee and His Family and Connections* F4  
Lawyers – Mercer County, 1801-1807  
McAfee family – Relating to  
Mercer County – History – Relating to

New Providence Presbyterian Church – Relating to  
Pioneer life – Mercer County – Relating to  
Religion – Mercer County – Relating to  
Shakers – Pleasant Hill, KY – Relating to, 1807 F3, p.2,5  
Social life and customs – Mercer County

Lile/Jeffrey 04/10/2008