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Garvin Collection (MSS 522)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
 Department of Library Special Collections
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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 522 GARVIN Collection

1 box. 13 folders. 472 items. 1849-1936. Originals, photographs.

1981.111.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

David Barclay Campbell, the son of David Campbell (1793-1825) and Sarah "Sally" (Barclay) Donaldson (1790-1863), was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky on 29 March 1823. In 1849, he and a group of other young men from Warren County left to seek their fortunes in the gold fields of California. After successes in prospecting and land speculation, Campbell returned to Bowling Green in 1851 and married Sarah Katherine Porter, the daughter of Lemuel C. Porter and Zerilda Porter. Campbell purchased farmland and built a house in the Big Bend area of the Barren River in Warren County. In addition to farming, he operated several sawmills and other commercial enterprises, often in partnership with others including members of the Barclay and Donaldson families. David B. Campbell died on 21 June 1913.

In 1864, David B. Campbell sold a tract of land adjoining his farm to Robert T. Garvin, who had relocated from Hart County. Garvin's son Charles subsequently married Campbell's daughter Margaret, and another son, Virgil, married Campbell's daughter Ora. Virgil and Ora Garvin's grandson, Charles Cromwell Garvin (1912-1980), was the founder of the popular Beech Bend amusement park in Warren County.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection contains correspondence, photographs and miscellaneous papers of members of the Campbell and Garvin families. About half the collection consists of business papers of David B. Campbell, as well as several letters written to him while he prospected for gold in California from 1849-1850. An inventory and family data, including obituaries of various family members, is in Folder 1.

Letters of Zerilda A. Porter, the mother of David B. Campbell's wife (Folder 2) are written to a young daughter Frances ("Fanny") instructing her on proper behavior while she stays with the Trotter family in Allen County, Kentucky. Zerilda also writes to David B. Campbell in California prior to his marriage to Zerilda's daughter, Sarah Katherine Porter; she urges him to return soon to his anxious family and conveys news of Bowling Green, including a cholera outbreak and the departure of other local men to seek their fortune in the gold rush. Other letters from friends and family in Bowling Green to David B. Campbell during his sojourn in

California (Folder 3) echo Zerilda's news and provide additional gossip about births, deaths, marriages and politics. A light-hearted letter to Campbell and his companions from a contemporary describes the effect of the cholera outbreak on an attempt to muster the county militia, recalls a midnight escapade in Bowling Green, reports on the progress of organizing an Odd Fellows lodge, and mourns the writer's pledge not to marry. Two other correspondents, Campbell's half-brother Charles B. Donaldson and a friend, Richard Curd, provide ample gossip on the stormy courtship and marriage of Ann Eliza Stubbins and William Thompson "Tom" Briggs. Donaldson also refers to reports of suffering by emigrants during their journey west, and Curd warns Campbell about prospectors falling victim to counterfeit currency in exchange for their gold dust.

Business papers of David B. Campbell (Folders 4-5) include correspondence, accounts, notes, and invoices from Bowling Green merchants. Business papers of David B. Campbell's partnership under the firm name of Campbell & Barclay (Folders 6-8) include accounts, notes and other papers relating to the firm's business as sawmill operators and lumber manufacturers.

Papers of David B. Campbell's daughter Mary P. Campbell (Folder 11) include a 1902 letter to her from Sarah Moodie, the mother of paleontologist Roy Lee Moodie, written after the Moodie family moved to Kansas; also included, though mutilated, is a 1932 handwritten will of Mary's. Family photographs (Folder 12) include the Garvin family home on Beech Bend Road in Bowling Green. Miscellaneous family letters and papers (Folder 13) include a letter to David B. Campbell's half-brother Charles B. Donaldson from a female correspondent discussing their respective prospects for marriage; a commencement invitation for Helen Campbell Garvin, a granddaughter of David B. Campbell and graduate of Bowling Green's Potter College; 1919 and 1920 Easter programs from Bowling Green's First Presbyterian Church; letters regarding Campbell genealogy; letters to a Donaldson family member from a female correspondent in Rhode Island; an oil and gas lease given by Katherine Garvin, granddaughter of David B. Campbell; and a funeral invoice for Campbell's son David B. Campbell, Jr.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Campbell and Garvin Papers	1849-1936	472 items
Folder 1	Inventory and family data		17 items
Folder 2	Zerilda A. Porter – Letters	1849-1850	2 items
Folder 3	David B. Campbell – Letters to	1850, n.d.	5 items
Folder 4	David B. Campbell – Business papers	1861-1865	12 items
Folder 5	David B. Campbell – Business papers	1866-1877	133 items
Folder 6	Campbell & Barclay – Business papers	1857-1871	126 items
Folder 7	Campbell & Barclay – Business papers	1872-1873	75 items

Folder 8	Campbell & Barclay – Business papers	1874-1877	67 items
Folder 9	Virgil Garvin and Katherine Garvin – Deed from W. H. Smith estate	1932	1 item
Folder 10	Grace (Garvin) Garner – Poems, writings	1930	1 item
Folder 11	Mary P. Campbell – Miscellaneous papers	1902-1932	7 items
Folder 12	Photographs	1902, 1918, n.d.	7 items
Folder 13	Miscellaneous letters and papers	1900-1936, n.d.	19 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS GARVIN Collection 1849-1936
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Correspondence, photographs and papers of members of the Campbell and Garvin families of Warren County, Kentucky. Included are business records of David B. Campbell and letters written to him in 1850 while he prospected for gold in California. 1 box. 13 folders. 472 items. Originals, photographs.
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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Banks – Bowling Green, 1873-1877 B1,F5-8
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Buck, Elizabeth, b. 1906 – Photograph B1,F12
California – Gold rush period – Relating to, 1850 B1,F2,3
Campbell, David Barclay, 1823-1913 – Letters to B1,F2,3
Campbell, David Barclay, 1823-1913 – Relating to B1,F1,4-8
Campbell, David Barclay, Jr., 1867-1935 – Relating to B1,F1,13
Campbell family – Relating to B1,F1,13
Campbell, Mary Porter, 1853-1944 – Letters to B1,F11
Campbell, Mary Porter, 1853-1944 – Relating to B1,F11
Cholera – Bowling Green, 1850 B1,F2,3
Cleveland, Rex David B1,F13
Curd, Richard, 1790-1857 B1,F3
Davis, Joy – Photograph B1,F12
Deeds – Warren County, 1932 B1,F9

Donaldson, Charles B., 1815-1877 – Correspondence B1,F3,13
 Donaldson, Emily – Photograph B1,F12
 Donaldson family – Relating to B1,F1
 Donaldson, Hattie – Photograph B1,F12
 Donaldson, Mary – Photograph B1,F12
 Dulaney, Florence Gibson (Steward), 1883-1955 B1,F11
 Elections and election campaigns – Comments about, 1850 B1,F3
 First Presbyterian Church – Bowling Green – Relating to B1,F13
 Garner, Grace (Garvin), 1887-1961 B1,F10
 Garvin, Ann (Patteson), 1890-1977 – Relating to B1,F1
 Garvin, Charles Cromwell, 1912-1980 – Relating to B1,F1,11
 Garvin, Charles T., 1857-1922 – Relating to B1,F1
 Garvin, Frankie (Lawson), 1873-1947 – Relating to B1,F1
 Garvin, Helen Campbell, 1880-1957 – Relating to B1,F1,13
 Garvin, Katherine, 1893-1963 – Relating to B1,F1,9,13
 Garvin, Lawson Volney, 1894-1943 – Relating to B1,F1
 Garvin, Martha (Berry), 1912-1989 – Relating to B1,F1
 Garvin, Ora (Campbell), 1855-1931 – Relating to B1,F1
 Garvin, Robert Taylor, 1882-1962 – Relating to B1,F1
 Garvin, Virgil, 1855-1939 – Relating to B1,F1,9
 Hall, Jane Shirks B1,F13
 Historic houses – Bowling Green – Photographs B1,F12
 Merchants – Bowling Green, 1861-1877 B1,F4-8
 Moodie, Sarah Estella (Gregg), b. 1845 B1,F11
 International Order of Odd Fellows – Bowling Green – Relating to, 1850 B1,F3
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 Morgan, Virginia L., b. 1905 – Photograph B1,F12
 Patteson, Olivia (Donaldson), d. 1908 – Relating to B1,F1
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 Porter, Frances C. “Fanny,” b. 1837? – Letter to B1,F2
 Porter, Lee Ann, 1832-1921 – Letter to B1,F13
 Porter, Lee Ann, 1832-1921 – Photograph B1,F12
 Porter, Lee Ann, 1832-1921 – Relating to B1,F1
 Porter, Zerilda A., b. 1813? B1,F2
 Potter College – Bowling Green – Relating to B1,F13
 Railroads – Chesapeake and Ohio – Relating to B1,F13
 Social life and customs – Bowling Green, 1850 B1,F3
 Stubbins, Ann Eliza, b. 1827? – Relating to B1,F3
 Trotter family – Relating to B1,F2
 Underwood, Clara (Tumbler), d. 1925 – Relating to B1,F13
 Warren County – Militia – Relating to, 1850 B1,F3
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