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46 Princeton Avenue  
Princeton, New Jersey

December 5, 1967

Dear Dr. Campbell:

At long last I am fulfilling my promise made to you early in October of this year to send you a copy of the Rev. Ephraim McLean's will. In addition, I send you copies of his father's will and of his mother's will. Each of the wills is a photostatic copy of the original in the files of the County Court Clerk of Logan County, Kentucky, and each bears the verification of the County Court Clerk. The wills are:

1. Will, with codicil annexed, of Charles McLean, father of the Rev. Ephraim McLean. Will and codicil are each dated November 2, 1800. Each is witnessed by George McLean and David Walker. For some reason unknown to me the will and codicil are recorded in Deed Book "A1", beginning at page 339.
2. Will, dated April 29, 1812, of Susana McLean, widow of Charles McLean and mother of the Rev. Ephraim McLean. The will is witnessed by John McLean and Elizabeth McLean and was probated May 18, 1812. It is recorded in Will Book "A" at page 224.
3. Will and codicil of the Rev. Ephraim McLean. Will dated December 24, 1812 and the codicil January 19, 1813. The will is witnessed by T. G. W. Boylan, Green P. Rice and Chatham Ewing. The codicil is witnessed by Jacob W. Walker, W. D. Ford and Ephraim J. Lee. Will and codicil were probated February 15, 1813, showing that death of the testator (Rev. Ephraim McLean) occurred after January 19 and prior to February 15, 1813. The codicil and will are recorded in Will Book "A", pages 244-247.

I also send you herewith:

4. Article Number Seven of the Fifty-two Articles entitled "Men Whom I Remember" written by Mr.

George D. Blakey of Logan County, Kentucky and published in "The Herald", a Russellville, Kentucky newspaper, July 24, 1877-June 7, 1879. This Article Number Seven relates to the families of the Rev. Ephraim McLean and his first cousin, George McLean.

Ephraim McLean's mother's maiden name was Susannah Howard. She was twice married. First to a Mr. Allison in Ulster, North Ireland. Widowed with several children, she married Charles McLean, son of John McLean whose wife was a daughter of Ephraim Moore. Charles McLean was the elder brother of Ephraim McLean, who married, 1761, Elizabeth Davidson, daughter of John Davidson of North Carolina. Charles and Ephraim were each born in Scotland and came to America (North Carolina) about 1750. Ephraim McLean (born 1730; died 1823), hereinafter referred to as Ephraim McLean, Sr., and Elizabeth Davidson McLean had a large family: John, George, Ephraim, Jr., Jane (married Robert Ewing), Margaret (married Robert Brank), Samuel, Alney, Charles, William, James, Robert D.

George McLean (born 1767; died 1849) married Pamela Davidson, daughter of General William Davidson, 1789. They had sons and daughters, including Eliza, who married the Rev. Silas Newton Davis, William Lee Davidson McLean, who became the father of the Rev. George Davidson McLean and Andrew Jackson McLean (born 1805; died 1881), who married Reuben Ewing's daughter, Elizabeth, in Logan County, December 1827, and became the father of a daughter, Amelia, who married the Rev. Jesse Girder. A. J. McLean and his wife, Elizabeth, also had a son, George R. McLean who died February 9, 1850 at age of 19.

Ephraim McLean, Sr., died in 1823 (aged 93) in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, near Greenville, the home of his son Alney. The latter served several terms in U. S. Congress, afterward serving for many years as a judge in Muhlenberg County. Alney McLean and his wife, Tabitha Campbell McLean, were parents of ten children, including a son, Thornton, who became a Presbyterian minister, most of his service having been devoted to Mississippi congregations. For more on Alney McLean and family see the Congressional Directory; also "History of Muhlenberg County" (Kentucky) by Otto A. Rothert.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brank had a son, Ephraim McLean Brank,

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who married Mary Campbell. Ephraim and Mary had a son, Robert Garland Brank, who became an outstanding Presbyterian minister. See "Muhlenberg County History" by Otto A. Rothert for more on the Brank family.

But to return to the Rev. Ephraim McLean. According to Dr. McDonnold (History of Cumberland Presbyterian Church, page 91), Ephraim McLean was born June 16, 1768. He married Elizabeth Walton Byers. They had sons and daughters: John, William, Charles, Finis E., A. Magee, Susan Howard and other daughters whose names I do not now have.

John McLean, eldest son of the Rev. Ephraim McLean, was born near Guilford Court House (now Greensboro), Guilford County, North Carolina, February 4, 1791; died Shawneetown, Illinois, October 14, 1830. Moved with parents to Logan County, Kentucky. Moved to Illinois 1815. Lawyer. First congressman from state of Illinois. Twice U. S. Senator from state of Illinois. For fuller account of his life see Congressional Directory; also Ninian Edwards Papers (printed).

Finis Ewing McLean, one of the sons of the Rev. Ephraim McLean not named in his will, was born in Logan County, Kentucky, February 19, 1806; died Greencastle, Indiana, April 12, 1881. Lawyer, Elkton, Kentucky Congressman. Married Lucy A. Gray in Todd County, Kentucky, September 16, 1829 by the Rev. John Barnett. Divorced. Moved to Andrew County, Missouri, 1860. Married Isabella B. Cassell at Savannah, Missouri June 11, 1862. Moved to Putnam County, Indiana, 1865. Four sons, one daughter by first wife, including Edward G. McLean, later the Rev. E. G. McLean, D.D., Cumberland Presbyterian minister and moderator of General Assembly of Cumberland Presbyterian Church. One son by second wife. For more on his life and activities see Congressional Directory and Greencastle Banner, issue of April 14, 1881, and Greencastle Star, issue of April 16, 1881. The last two named newspapers may be seen on micro-film at Library of Depauw University, Greencastle, Indiana. See also will of Lucy A. McLean probated September 20, 1867 and recorded in Will Book "L", page 94, Todd County, Kentucky Clerk's Office, Elkton, Kentucky; and will of Finis E. McLean probated April 16, 1881 and recorded in Putnam County Will Book "2", pages 348-9, County Clerk's Office, Greencastle, Indiana.

Susan Howard McLean (born 1790; died 1854), the daughter of the Rev. Ephraim McLean who was named in the will of her grandmother, Susannah McLean, married Colonel James V. Walker, son of David Walker, January 15, 1822 in Logan County, Kentucky. David Walker was a witness to Charles McLean's will, enclosed herewith. He was a member of House of Representatives of Kentucky 1793-1796; Clerk of Logan County Court; major in the Battle of Thames, War of 1812; and Congressman from Kentucky from March 4, 1817 until his death in Washington, D. C., March 1, 1820. His (David Walker's) brother, George Walker, served as U. S. Senator from Kentucky to fill the vacancy caused by resignation of George M. Bibb. James V. and Susan Howard (McLean) Walker were parents of several children, including James David Walker, lawyer, judge and U. S. Senator from the state of Arkansas; also the Rev. Ephraim McLean Walker of the Methodist Church. For more on the Walkers see enclosure, ~~and~~ #4 above (the Blakey newspaper item) and the Congressional Directory (Biographical Directory).

The McLean family history could be extended almost endlessly. Enough has been presented to show what an outstanding family, what a great family it was, and is. As did the Ewing family, with which it had such close ties of friendship and marriage, it produced great preachers, great lawyers, judges, statesmen. In the light of today's knowledge, the criticisms of the Rev. John Lyle and other Anti-Revival ministers of the character, intelligence and literacy of the early McLeans and Ewings, all intended to reflect upon their qualifications and competence as ministers of the Gospel, are seen to be wicked aspersions.

In my research on history of Muddy River (Salem) Presbyterian Church, I have run across some original letters of the Rev. James McGready. I have had xerox copies made and sent them to you for the Archives of the Seminary Library. Such letters are:

- A. Letter dated December 11, 1807, from McGready, then living in Henderson County, Kentucky, to the Rev. Archibald Cameron of Shelby County, Kentucky.
- B. Letter dated November 6, 1811, from McGready, Henderson County, Kentucky to the Rev. Archibald Cameron, Shelbyville, Kentucky.
- C. Letter dated August 19, 1807, from McGready, Henderson County, Kentucky, to the Rev. Joshua L. Wilson, Bardstown, Kentucky.
- D. Letter (J. L. Wilson's copy) dated September 21, 1807, from Joshua L. Wilson, Bardstown, Kentucky to the Rev. James McGready.

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E. Letter dated December 15, 1813, from James McGready, Henderson County, Kentucky, to the Rev. Joshua L. Wilson, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Items "A" and "B", the letters to Cameron, are from the "Shane Collection" at Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Items "C", "D" and "E", the letters between McGready and Joshua Wilson are from the "Samuel L. Wilson Papers" at Margaret King Library, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky.

I trust you will find all of the enclosures to be worthwhile additions to your Archives Division.

With all good wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Littleton Groom

P.S.--Have you yet located your file on John C. Smith and his father Samuel Smith? I believe you said it was a memorandum prepared by someone at Bethel College several years ago. If the memorandum has come to hand, I should greatly appreciate your sending me a copy. At the same time, please send me a bill for reproducing and mailing charges. Samuel Smith helped organize Bethlehem Cumberland Presbyterian Church in my home county (Caldwell County, Kentucky) in 1815. He was one of the charter members and a member of the first Session. I have reason to believe that his son, John C. Smith, was also one of the charter members of the Bethlehem Church.

L. G.

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