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WHITE, MARGARET (WARNER) (1889-1981)
PAPERS, CA. 1777-1962

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MICROFILMED

INTRODUCTION

This collection is composed of papers of several related families prominent in the business, educational, and social life of Nashville, Tennessee, and their forbears in New York and New Jersey.

The materials in this collection measure 1.68 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Margaret (Warner) White Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Margaret (Warner) White Papers, spanning the years from about 1777 to 1962 and containing eight volumes and about 200 items, are composed of accounts, an appointment, Bible records, clippings, correspondence, documents, genealogical data, an invitation, a land grant, a memorial, a postcard album, school report cards, four scrapbooks, a sketch, and writings pertaining to the related families of Berrien, Lawrence, Lindsley, Philips, Warner, and White.

The letters of earliest date are those of Nathaniel Lawrence (native of Long Island) who served in the Revolutionary War. He was captured and confined on a prison ship for two years. After the war he practiced law and later served as attorney general for the state of New York. His health was impaired by his long imprisonment and he died when only thirty-six years of age. Seven letters written by him from 1781 to 1793 are in the collection. One letter, April 6, 1781, addressed to Nathanael Greene, asks for information as to his place in Greene's command after his "long and disagreeable captivity." Another concerns the grants of land to Revolutionary War officers by the state of New York. The other letters are of a miscellaneous nature. There are fifteen letters written by his wife Eliza (Berrien) Lawrence from 1789 to 1792, while on trips to her parents' home "Rockingham" at Rocky Hill, New Jersey. It was at this home that George Washington dictated his Farewell Address to the American Army. Maintained today as a historic shrine by the New Jersey Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, it is called "Washington's Headquarters."

The Lawrence's daughter Margaret Elizabeth (1793-1845) married, in 1813, Philip Lindsley (1786-1855) who in 1822 was the Acting President of the College of New Jersey (Princeton) and in 1824 accepted the presidency of the University of Nashville. Included in the collection are four letters, 1848-1854, written by Lindsley while away on trips to his daughters at home in Nashville. One dated October 28, 1848, mailed from Louisville, Kentucky, speaks of how very crowded the river boats are and of the millions of (passenger) pigeons seen; the one of May 23, 1851, from Madison, New Jersey, describes his mother's home; and one of February 1, 1854, tells of his mother's death.

Included are eighteen letters written by Philip's son John Berrien Lindsley from May 1, 1848 to October 2, 1848. Fifteen were written home to his sisters in Nashville while he was on a trip east to pursue his study of geology. He traveled by way of St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit, and Buffalo, and visited many cities in New York and Massachusetts. He climbed Mt. Washington and "laid in quite a good supply of specimens of the rocks of that region which though as common here as our limestone, will appear quite graceful in a western cabinet where they will be foreigners." He attended meetings of the Association for the Promotion of Science in New York City. He also visited Quebec and other places in Canada.

John Berrien Lindsley's daughter Margaret Lawrence married Percy Warner. Included are eleven letters from Percy Warner's father, James Cartwright Warner, written during the years 1853-1888. Seven, written in 1853, are concerned with his move to Chattanooga with his bride to start a mercantile business. These are addressed to his wife's aunt, Martha (Philips) Martin. He describes his business success, the little city of Chattanooga with its very high rents, and their plans to build a home. The four later letters, 1884-1888, were written from Europe where Mr. Warner had gone for his health. He had suffered from neuritis for many years.

Other family letters include one from Margaret Elizabeth (Lawrence) Lindsley, wife of Philip Lindsley, to her daughter at Bon Air Springs, White County, Tennessee, telling of her youngest child's serious illness; and one from Philip Lindsley's eldest son, Van Sinderen, in Nashville, in 1848, reporting to his father how much money was realized by a sale of lots belonging to the University of Nashville.

Miscellaneous correspondence includes 18 letters spanning the years 1784-1940. One of the earliest is that from Elisha Williams to Joseph Philips (1763-1822) in 1802 regarding the purchase of a horse named Coeurdelion (sic) for \$2,000. This Elisha is probably the father of Josiah Williams (1786-1851) who married, in 1815, Margaret Philips (1799-1844), daughter of the above Joseph.

There is a letter of introduction for James C. Warner written by Bishop Charles Todd Quintard in 1884, addressed to Edward Harcourt, M.P., Oxford, England. Included is one letter of Henry Watterson written April 10, 1865 from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Mr. Warner, regarding affectionate remembrances of their family ties and associations in Chattanooga before the war and his coming marriage to Mrs. Warner's niece, Rebecca Ewing. After the war, Watterson served as editor of the Louisville, Kentucky *Courier-Journal* for fifty years.

Included with a few accounts are two that concern Lieutenant Nathaniel Lawrence: one from the Office of Accounts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 23, 1782, which gives the time period of his captivity by the British, June 1, 1779 to March 17, 1781, in computing pay owed to him. The other account is a copy of that kept by his father of cash advanced to him at several times from the time of his exchange to the time of his return home after the peace.

A small handmade notebook that belonged to Margaret Elizabeth (Lawrence) Lindsley contains but two notations: the amount of money left her by her step-father, John Lawrence, 1836; and legacy left her before that by her uncle, Thomas Lawrence.

The one appointment in the collection is for Nathaniel Lawrence, March 5, 1795, to be "one of the agents appointed by the Governor to confer with the Indians now here..." No location is given but it is probably Albany, New York.

Bible records include a copy of the record from the Bible of Percy Warner which was presented to him by the employees of the Nashville Railway & Light Company on January 5, 1903, as a token of high esteem; and one page from the White family register, the earliest birth noted being that of W. White born October 1811.

There are miscellaneous clippings, in the main pertaining to people and places in Nashville. One concerns Andrew Jackson and "an almost forgotten attempt to kill the Leonine President." It is a newspaper copy of a letter written by Congressman Edward Howell (1792-1871) describing an attempt on the President's life in Washington in 1835.

Included with miscellaneous documents is a notice, ca. 1777, to the electors of the city and county of New York signed "An Elector," recommending several men as representatives in the state legislature who will counteract "the dark and wicked anti-federal plots..." and "will ensure to us wise and equal laws." Among those suggested are William Livingston, Alexander Hamilton, and William Duer.

Other documents pertain to various members of related families in various locations. One of the earliest is dated September 24, 1790, signed by James McGavock, authorizing stock to be paid to James Dean from his stock in Cumberland in repayment for what he had received from him. There are two marriage licenses, 1800 and 1802, signed by Andrew Ewing, Clerk, Davidson County, Tennessee; two oaths of allegiance to the United States taken by James C. Warner in 1863 and 1864; and a certificate for

“Companion J.C. Warner,” in 1861, electing him Grand Scribe of the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Tennessee.

There is a limited amount of genealogical data on the William White (1811-1850) family of Franklin, Tennessee. White married Mary Minor Bennett and included are a few notes on the Bennett family. Included also are some notes on the related family of Johnston (John Johnston, 1734-1816).

In the collection are two invitations: one, 1899, from the Colonial Dames of the State of New York to Mrs. Percy Warner; the other, 1900, for a reception given in honor of Admiral and Mrs. Dewey in Nashville.

The one land grant in these papers is a copy of a land grant from King George II to Henry, George, and John Thweatt, 1737, Prince George County, in the colony of Virginia.

There is a memorial to Elizabeth (Berrien) Lawrence (1762-1799) probably copied from her tombstone.

Included is one photograph, taken about 1891, of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Warner with their three eldest grandchildren: Sadie Lindsley (Warner) Frazer, Mary Louise (Warner) Lea, and Margaret (Warner) White.

One album contains postcards obtained by Mrs. White in 1933 after a trip to Hawaii, the Chicago International Exposition, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

Printed matter includes a card of appreciation to Percy Warner from the Casino Orchestra, Glendale Park, Nashville; a circular of the American Temperance Union, ca. 1836, in regard to alcohol and the United States Merchant Marine; pamphlet “Damning Revelations of Germany’s Turpitude” reprinted from *Manufacturers’ Record*, May 9, 1918, in which August Thyssen, one of Germany’s greatest steel manufacturers, says that the war was started by the Hohenzollerns for the maintenance of their autocratic military power; and an undated account taken from the April issue of the Nashville (Tennessee) *Journal of Medicine and Surgery* praising the election of John Berrien Lindsley as Chancellor of the University of Nashville.

School papers include six report cards: four for Margaret Lindsley (Warner) White in 1881 at Dr. Blackie’s School for Girls and Young Ladies, Nashville; one for Sadie (Warner) Frazer, 1897, at Ward Seminary, Nashville; and one for her sister Mary Lousie (Warner) Lea, 1898, at the same school.

There are four scrapbooks in the collection. Volume I belonged to Mrs. James C. Warner and contains clippings pertaining to the iron industry in which her husband was active. Volume II, dated 1885, belonged to Mrs. Percy Warner. It has clippings on various subjects such as the University of Nashville; The Protestant Orphan Asylum; “The Hermitage” restoration; William Walker; her husband’s great-great-grandfather Robert Cartwright, etc. Volume III also belonged to Mrs. Percy Warner. It has clippings of her wedding in 1884 at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Berrien Lindsley, Nashville; the Warner Furnace, Hickman County, Tennessee; Nashville Railway & Light Company; Percy Warner Park, Nashville; and family obituaries. Volume IV was kept by Mrs. John O. White while a student at Ward Seminary, Nashville. Included in it are some graduation programs, 1903-1908; congratulatory telegrams; a few First Presbyterian Church bulletins; and clippings of her debut and the marriages of her two elder sisters.

There is a sketch of the Warner Parks of Nashville which tells of their genesis and the men responsible: Percy Warner, Edwin Warner, and Luke Lea. The article, by Louise Davis, appeared in the *Nashville Tennessean Magazine*, July 21, 1963.

Included are three little volumes with original poems, notes on sermons heard, etc., written by Margaret Elizabeth (Lawrence) Lindsley from about 1805 to about 1833; and lectures on moral philosophy probably written by Philip Lindsley. There are also other miscellaneous poems, authors unknown. One of special interest is entitled "On the Resignation of his Excellency General Washington."

There is a copy of a talk given in 1925 to a DAR group by Margaret Lindsley (Hoyte) Hicks (ca. 1850-ca. 1930), in which she speaks with admiration of early Americans and their accomplishments. She deals particularly with her own family in New York and New Jersey, members of the Lawrence, Berrien, Lindsley, Condit, Fish, and other families. She comments on her ancestor's pioneer spirit from John Alden to Philip Lindsley, the latter leaving the presidency-elect of Princeton to accept the presidency of the University of Nashville in 1824.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Nathaniel Lawrence

- 1761 July 11 – Born in Newtown, New York
- ca. 1778 Left Princeton College where he was an undergraduate and joined the North Carolina line of the regular army and served as a lieutenant
- 1779 June – Captured by the British and incarcerated on a prison ship in New York harbor for two years
- ca. 1782 Returned to Princeton College; graduated; studied law; practiced in New York City
- 1787 Married Eliza Berrien (1762-1799) daughter of Judge John Berrien whose home was “Rockingham” at Rocky Hill, New Jersey
- 1788 Chosen from Queen’s County, New York, to the Constitutional Convention
- 1791-1792 Represented Queen’s County in the Assembly
- 1793 Only surviving child born, Margaret Elizabeth. She married Philip Lindsley (1786-1855)
- 1792-1795 Served as Attorney General of New York State
- 1795-1796 Represented Queen’s County in the Assembly
- 1797 July 5 – Died at Hempstead, Long Island, New York

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Philip Lindsley

- 1786 December 21 – Born near Morristown, New Jersey, at Basking Ridge
- 1799 Entered the academy of the Reverend Robert Finley of Basking Ridge
- 1802 November – Entered Junior class of College of New Jersey
- 1804 September – Graduated; became an assistant teacher at Mr. Stevenson's then at Mr. Finley's
- 1807 Candidate for ministry
- 1809-10 Latin and Greek tutor in the college at Princeton, New Jersey
- 1810 Licensed to preach by Presbytery of New Brunswick
- 1812 Senior tutor in the College at Princeton
- 1813 Made Professor of Languages and Secretary of Board of Trustees; Librarian; and Inspector of the College at Princeton
- 1813 Married Margaret Elizabeth, daughter of the Hon. Nathaniel Lawrence, Attorney General of the State of New York
- 1817 Twice refused the presidency of Transylvania University, Kentucky; ordained by Presbytery; elected vice-president of the College of New Jersey
- 1822 Acting President, College of New Jersey (Princeton)
- 1823 Chosen president of Cumberland College, Tennessee, College of New Jersey, and several others but declined them all. Doctor of Divinity conferred upon him by Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania
- 1824 Accepted presidency of the University of Nashville
- 1834 Elected moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the U.S. at Philadelphia
- 1845 His wife, Margaret Elizabeth (Lawrence) Lindsley, died
- 1849 Married Mary Ann Ayers, widow of his kinsman Elias Ayers, the founder

of New Albany Theological Seminary. Her father was William Silliman of Fairfield, Connecticut

1850 May – Elected professor of Ecclesiastical Polity and Biblical Archaeology in New Albany Theological Seminary

October – Resigned presidency of the University of Nashville

1851 Began duties as professor at New Albany

1853 Resigned his position at New Albany

1855 Commissioner to General Assembly

May 25 – Died at Nashville, Tennessee; buried in City Cemetery; re-interred in the Lindsley section of Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Nashville

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

James Cartwright Warner

- 1830 August 20 – Born in Gallatin, Sumner County, Tennessee. Great-grandson of Robert Cartwright who came to Nashville in 1780. He was the son of Elizabeth Cartwright and Jacob Levi Warner. His father Jacob Levi Warner was born in Buckingham County, Virginia in 1805 and moved to Sumner County while still a boy. Attended school in Gallatin
- 1847-1851 Salesman in the wholesale grocery establishment of Shepherd & Gordon at Nashville
- 1851-1852 Employed by Kirkman and Ellis
- 1852 November 3 – Married Miss Mary Thomas Williams who lived four miles from Nashville on the Gallatin Turnpike
- 1853-1861 Moved to Chattanooga and went into business on his own account. Elected Mayor of Chattanooga
- 1861-1865 Member of the General Assembly from the counties of Hamilton, Rhea, Sequatchie, and Bledsoe. He did not join the army because of poor health but endured many hardships during the war
- 1866 Cashier of the Bank of the Union
- 1868-1875 Became Secretary and later General Manager of the Tennessee Coal and Railroad Company of which Arthur St. Clair Colyar was president. Iron industry made large advances under his management, new furnaces were built and other bought. The Chattanooga and Sewanee furnace at Cowan and those at Ensley, Alabama, were built and also the Southern States Coal, Iron, and Land Company; the Pratt Mines; the Alice Furnace; the DeBardelaben Coal and Iron Company; and the Cahaba Coal Company
- 1876-1885 President of the Tennessee Manufacturing Company. He continued throughout this period to increase the number if iron furnaces and other businesses
- 1882-1885 President of the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company. Directors were Nat Baxter, Jr., Samuel J. Keath, John P. White, John P. Williams, A.S. Colyar, Thomas Steger, and George A. Washington
- 1885 October – Resigned because of ill health
- 1895 July 21 – Died at “Renraw,” his country home, and was buried at Mt. Olivet

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Berrien Lindsley

- 1822 October 24 – Born at Princeton, New Jersey, son of Philip and Margaret Berrien Lindsley
- 1823 May 18 – Baptized
- 1836 Entered Freshman Class at the University of Nashville
- 1838 Became private pupil of Dr. Gerard Troost
- 1839 Graduated with A.B. degree from University of Nashville
- 1840 Joined the First Presbyterian Church, Nashville; Dr. Edgar, pastor
- 1841 June 4 – Entered W.G. Dickinson’s office as medical student after having received the A.M. degree from the University of Nashville
- October 26 – Left Nashville to attend medical lectures at Louisville
- 1842 October 18 – Left for Philadelphia to attend medical school
- 1843 Received M.D. degree, medical school, University of Pennsylvania.
 Elected member of the Tennessee Medical Society
- 1845 June 8 – At the bedside of Andrew Jackson who died at the Hermitage
- December 5 – His mother, Margaret Berrien Lindsley died
- 1846 June 6 – Began pastorate at Smyrna Church after serving at Hermitage Church
- October 13 – Ordained as an evangelist in First Presbyterian Church, Nashville
- 1847 April 18 – Began preaching as domestic missionary
- 1848 June 7 – Began geological tour with Dr. Troost and others through the northern and middle states. Became charter member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science
- 1849 Rendered service during cholera epidemic. Began keeping a diary. Charter member of the Tennessee Historical Society
- 1850 Organized Medical School at the University of Nashville

- September 14 – Dr. Troost, his friend and teacher, died.
- October 11 – Appointed professor of chemistry and pharmacy in the Medical School at the University of Nashville
- October 14 – Elected dean of the faculty at the University of Nashville
- 1851 Became trustee for the common schools of South Nashville. Elected member of the American Medical Association
- 1852 Spent most of the year in European countries studying medical developments. Called on George Peabody while in London
- 1854 Made plans for consolidation of the Western Military Institute with the University of Nashville
- 1855 Elected Chancellor of the University of Nashville
- May 25 – His father, Philip Lindsley, died
- 1856 Published study on Dr. Porter. Became a member of the Board of Education. D.D. conferred upon him by the College of New Jersey (Princeton)
- 1857 February 9 – Married Sarah McGavock, daughter of Jacob McGavoch and granddaughter of Felix Grundy. Wedding trip through the East.
- 1858 Made another trip though the East visiting Bellevue Hospital, attending meeting of the American Scientific Association in Baltimore and the Tract Society meeting in Philadelphia
- 1859 Made geological tour through Illinois. Made trip to Ireland, England, France, Switzerland, and returned by way of Canada
- 1860 Accompanied Tennessee and Kentucky legislatures to Columbus, Ohio, in a great Union demonstration. Made another trip East where he arranged the publication of manuscript on the life and works of his father
- 1861 Went to Richmond to see if volunteer surgeons were wanted
- 1862 February 17 – Appointed post surgeon of Nashville hospitals. Held office until March 4
- 1863-1864 Protected University property and arranged plan for a free medical school, fashioned after the University of Michigan
- 1865 Elected member of the Nashville Board of Education

- 1866 Entered upon duties of superintendent of Nashville Public Schools
- 1867 Organized Montgomery Bell Academy and petitioned Peabody Education Funds to appropriate money for a normal school
- 1870 Resigned as Chancellor of the University of Nashville. Helped organize the Tennessee College of Pharmacy
- 1873 Retired from medical school as professor emeritus
- 1875 President of the Tennessee State Teacher's Association
- 1876 Elected health officer of the City of Nashville. Published *History of the Law School of Cumberland University at Lebanon, 1876*
- 1877 Elected executive secretary of the Tennessee State Board of Health
- 1878 In charge of health work of Tennessee during the yellow fever plague
- 1880 Elected professor of sanitary science and state preventive medicine in the medical department at the University of Tennessee
- 1886 Published *Confederate Military Annals*
- 1887-1889 Published other works on medicine and public health
- 1897 December 7 – Died in Nashville

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Container List

Reel:

1. Box 1, folder 1 to Box 1, folder 12

Microfilm Reel # 1

Box 1

1. Accounts
2. Appointments
3. Bible records
4. Clippings
5. Correspondence – Lawrence, Eliza (Berrien)
6. Correspondence – Lawrence, Nathaniel
7. Correspondence – Lindsley, John Berrien
8. Correspondence – Lindsley, Margaret Elizabeth (Lawrence)
9. Correspondence – Lindsley, Philip
10. Correspondence – Lindsley, Van Sinderen
11. Correspondence – Miscellaneous, 1784-1841
12. Correspondence – Miscellaneous, 1863-1940
13. Correspondence – Snipes, James Johnston
14. Correspondence – Thweat, Silas Allen
15. Correspondence – Warner, James Cartwright
16. Correspondence – Watterson, Henry
17. Documents – 1763-1864

Microfilm Reel # 1

Box 2

1. Genealogical data
- 1a. Genealogical data – William Claiborne family
2. Invitation, programs, etc.
3. Land records
4. Memorial
5. Photograph & addition, ac. no. 91-11; 1-7-1991 processed
6. Postcard album
7. Printed matter

Microfilm Reel # 1

Box 3

1. School papers (report cards)
2. Scrapbook – Volume I
3. Scrapbook – Volume II
4. Scrapbook – Volume III

Microfilm Reel # 1

Box 4

1. Scrapbook – Volume IV
2. Sketches
3. Writings – Lindsley, Margaret Elizabeth (Lawrence)
4. Writings – Lindsley, Margaret Elizabeth (Lawrence)
5. Writings
6. Addition – 1990; Correspondence & newspaper clippings relating to Felix Grundy.
Ac. no. 91-201; processed: 5- 30-1991

Map Case Drawer No. 3

1. Diplomas

Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1784-1841

Box 1, folder 11

Beach, E.T., to Eliza Berrien, 1784, re: an oration he intends to send her brother
 Berrien, Mary, to her brother Nathaniel Lawrence (2), 1787, re: family news
 Lamater, J.D., to Mrs. Nathaniel Lawrence, 1793, re: her husband; request for verses used
 at Princeton celebrating the Independence
 Moore, William, to Mrs. Nathaniel Lawrence, 1789, re: her child's health
 Ruse, Herbert, to Albert H. Bailey, 1841, re: business matters
 Trift, Jenny, to Nathaniel Lawrence, n.d., re: apologies for opening his letter by mistake
 Williams, Elisha, to Joseph Philips, 1802, re: sale of horse

Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1784-1841

Box 1, folder 12

Cody, Annie, to Belle White, 1937, re: doing genealogical research
 Lott Thweat, to Belle White, 1840, re; Thweatt family
 Low, Mary Elizabeth, to Belle White (2), 1938, re: Thweatt data
 McCampbell, Edna, W. to Mrs. Scruggs (2), 1906, re: questions about White family
 Quintard, Charles Todd, to Edward Harcourt, M.P., 1884, re: an introduction for James
 Cartwright Warner
 Richardson, Mary A. Lindsley, to Mrs. Crockett, 1863, re: condolences
 Snipes, Gertrude (Berry), to Belle White, 1924, re: Johnston family
 White, B.F., to Belle White, n.d., re: his return to Dixie soon