HARDING-JACKSON PAPERS
1874-1891

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INTRODUCTION

The Harding-Jackson Papers, 1874-1891, were donated by Mrs. Jesse E. Willis, of Nashville, Tennessee through the agency of William Ridley Willis, Nashville, Tennessee. The collection consists of 40 items and occupies .42 linear feet of shelf space. This collection has no restrictions.
SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Harding-Jackson Papers, 1874-1891, consists of correspondence of Howell Edmunds Jackson (1832-1895) and his wife, Mary (Harding) Jackson (1850-1913) of Jackson and Nashville, Tennessee.

Eighteen of the letters are written by Howell E. Jackson to his wife, Mary Harding Jackson, while the former was engaged in his law career in Memphis and later, Jackson, Tennessee. The contents of the letters are generally of a personal nature, reflecting Jackson’s sense of loneliness during his separation from his wife and their children, legal work and court matters, as well as descriptions of local events (see Folder 2).

The twelve letters of Mrs. Mary Jackson to her husband also expresses a feeling of bleakness. Her first letters are written from “Belle Meade,” her parent’s plantation near Nashville. These letters discuss family activities and plans for their impending marriage. Other letters include concerns about the illnesses of their daughter and her father, William Giles Harding (see Folder 3).

Of the remaining letters in the collection, two are of particular interest. John R. Beasley, Representatives in the 41st Tennessee General Assembly, writes to Jackson authorizing his view on the public debt question and the wisdom of the issuance of bonds by the state to the railroads (see Folder 1).

Another letter in the collection suggests that there was a period of strained relations between the two Jackson brothers, Howell and William Hicks (1835-1903) (see Folder 2).

The letters, collectively, provide additional social information on this well known and influential Davidson County, Tennessee, family of the late nineteenth century.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Howell Edmunds Jackson was born on April 8, 1932 in Paris, Tennessee to Dr. Alexander and Mary (Hurt) Jackson. In 1840, the family moved to Jackson, Tennessee and in 1849, Jackson graduated from West Tennessee College. From 1851-1852, he studied at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, Virginia. In 1856, he graduated from the Law School of Cumberland University, in Lebanon, Tennessee and in 1858, he moved to Memphis to practice law. In 1859, Jackson married Sophia Malloy who later died around 1872 or 1873. Jackson then married Mary E. Harding, daughter of William Giles and Elizabeth (McGavock) Harding of Nashville, Tennessee in 1874. He then returned to Memphis and served on the Court of Arbitration for West Tennessee by appointment of two decades. In 1880, Jackson was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives and was elected and served as a Democrat in the U.S. Senate from 1881-1886. From 1886 to 1893, Jackson served as a Circuit Judge for the Sixth Federal Circuit. In 1891, he became the first presiding Judge of Circuit Court of Appeals, established in Cincinnati, Ohio. From 1893 to 1895, he was the Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Jackson died on August 8, 1895 in West Meade, Tennessee and is buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Nashville, Tennessee.

*Source: Dictionary of American Biography*
CONTAINER LIST

Box 1
1. Correspondence---Beasley-Jackson, H.E.
2. Correspondence---Jackson, Howell E.
3. Correspondence---Jackson, Mary (Harding)
4. Correspondence---Jackson, William H.-Sykes, William J.
NAME INDEX

This is a name index of correspondences for the Harding-Jackson Papers together with the dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the folder in which the material is to be found.

Beasley, John R. to Howell E. Jackson, 1891, re: public debt questions; issuance of bonds by the state to railroads, 1
Fall, Philip S. to Mary E. (Harding) Jackson, 1889, re: requests that Mrs. Jackson support the nomination of her son, James to the Church of Christ pulpit in Jackson, Tennessee; personal and family news, 1
Gibbs, C.N. to H.E. Jackson, 1882, re: newspaper clippings, 1
Jackson, Henry to Mrs. H.E. Jackson, 1876, re: fire in Jackson, Tennessee; personal news, 1
Jackson, Henry and Billy (2) to Mrs. H.E. Jackson, 1876, re: personal news while on vacation in Memphis, 1
Jackson, H.E. to John R. Beasley, 1881, re: [copy]: receipt of letter with enclosure of Winchester speech on the state debt; offers his criticism of Beasley’s position on the state liability of the debt; [clipping of Winchester speech attached], 1
Jackson, Howell E. (18) to Mrs. H.E. Jackson, 1875-188-, re: expressions of attention; personal news; news of the children; law work in Memphis; concerns re: poor health of his father-in-law; description of major fire in Jackson; mentions the drinking problems of “Jimmy,” Sam’s engagement to Lena; acting as a temporary judge in Jackson; occupied with court matters; bursting of steam engine at Latham’s new mill; business matters; elected by fellow lawyer to try special cases; loneliness for his wife and children, 2
Jackson, Howell E. to William H. Jackson, 1891, re: [copy]: complaint that his brother influenced H.E.J’s dairyman and his wife to leave his service and take employment with W.H.J., 2
Jackson, Mary E. (Harding) (12) to Howell E. Jackson, 1874-1877, re: family news from Belle Meade; appreciation for picture received; forthcoming marriage; loneliness experienced during separation; Henry’s loss of clothes due to a burglary; family news; race and sale of horses at Belle Meade; illness of their child [Elizabeth]; illness of her father, 2
Jackson, William to Howell E. Jackson, 1875, re: reports the burglary and loss of Henry’s clothes from his trunk, 4
Sykes, William J. to [Howell E. Jackson], 1882, re: funding of the state debt, 4