

BLACKSTON McDANNEL COLLECTION

Accession Number 20
1840-1867 and undated
2 folders

Provenance: This collection of personal papers was found among county records returned from the Paul Fink Collection to the archives by the McClung Historical Collection, Knoxville, Tenn., on August 26, 2019. In July 2020, the papers were processed as a separate manuscript collection.

Access Note: The papers are available for research use.

Biographical Note: Blackston McDannel, sometimes spelled McDonald, was born January 15, 1811, probably in Knox County, Tennessee. His parents were John McDannel and Sally Whitson. McDannel married Elizabeth Britton in Greene County on Oct. 28, 1830, and had two sons, James and John. Elizabeth (born 1811) died in 1848, and McDannel married Louisa Britton in 1854. He traveled widely in the southeast doing plastering work. During the Mexican-American War, he was a clerk with the army's Quartermaster's Corps. In 1861, he was appointed U. S. Marshal for East Tennessee in Greeneville, where he was a friend and political supporter of Andrew Johnson. Blackston McDannel died on July 27, 1888.

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of personal correspondence, receipts, financial records, and notes documenting Blackston McDannel's life and his career as a United States Marshal in East Tennessee during and following the Civil War. Documents are arranged in chronological order. Two oversized documents are housed in a map folder and stored in the map cabinet by accession number.

Important subjects include:

McDannel, Blackston
Tennessee—History—Civil War, 1861-1865
United States marshals—History

Folder/Item List

Folder 1

1. Personal letter from Blackston McDannel to his mother, sister and brother, May 9, 1840.
2. One note to Lowry Eason & Co., September 19, 1856.
3. Letter from McDannel to the Honorable West H. Humphreys, U. S. District Judge, April 13, 1861.
4. Letter from W. H. Humphreys, U. S. District Judge to McDannel, April 17, 1861.
5. Confirmation of land sales, June 27, 1866.

6. Document with listing of receipts from H. C. Smith and a letter from McDannel, Jul 25, 1866.
7. Questionnaire from the joint select committee on retrenchment, September 24, 1866.
8. Payments in Confiscation cases by Clerk, March 7, 1867.
9. Account H. C. Smith, duplicate Statement to 30th Jun 1867.
10. Items for Emolument Return of July 1, 1867.
11. District Court, Allowances to Marshal in confiscation cases disposed of and considered earned from January 1, to July 1, 1867.
12. Department of the Interior, letter acknowledging receipt of Emolument Return and notifying McDannel that he had omitted to have "the certificate attached," August 21, 1867.
13. Letter from McDannel to the Honorable George C. Whiting, Department of the Interior acknowledging that he had sent the required certificate December 2, 1867.
14. Department of the Interior, letter acknowledging receipt of Emolument Return, December 5, 1867.
15. First District Court Confiscation fees and allowances, undated.
16. Memorandum of Deeds for Confiscated lands, undated.
17. Recapitulation of Fees and Emoluments, undated.
18. Receipts, 1848, 1865 and 1867.
19. Two documents, random notes, unidentifiable, 1866-1867 and undated.
20. Four envelopes (empty), undated.
21. Court-style envelope that reads, "Private papers—my father's will & Deeds, etc. -- J. W. McDannel," undated (empty).

Folder 2 (Oversized)

22. Oversized document: "Return of the Fees and Emoluments of Blackston McDannel, Marshal of the United States for the Eastern District of Tennessee, from January 1, 1867 to July 1, 1867 and of moneys paid out by him during same period for the services of his deputies and for his office expenses also of the receipt or non-receipt of fees and emoluments previously returned by him as "not received."
23. Oversized document: First District Court, Fees and Emolument earned from the United States, Undated, circa 1866-1867.