

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid RG 998.523

Manuscript Collections

State Auditor James R. McDearmon Manuscript Collection

Abstract: James R. McDearmon (1805-1848) served as Missouri's eighth State Auditor from 1845 until his death in 1848. This collection contains non-governmental records related to McDearmon and his family in the form of two photographs and fourteen personal letters.

Extent: 4.95 GB.

Record Description: .TIF scans.

Alternative Formats: None.

Location: Missouri State Archives.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

Publication Restrictions: Copyright is in the public domain. Items reproduced for online or physical publication should carry the credit line: Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives.

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [Date]; [Image Name]; [Series]; State Auditor James R. McDearmon Manuscript Collection, Record Group 998.523; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Loaned for scanning. Accession #2024-0080.

Processing Information: Processing completed by Erika Woehlk on 05/09/2024.

Historical and Biographical Notes

James Robertson McDearmon was born in Virginia on Aug. 31, 1805, the eldest child of James and Susannah "Sukie" (Puckett) McDearmon. He and his siblings were orphaned in early 1816 with the death of their father (their mother died c1811-1816), and per James Sr.'s will, the children were assigned to their uncle Joseph McDearmon who, with Jacob Michaux (James Sr.'s friend), served as executor of the estate. McDearmon and his siblings finished out their childhood with Joseph in Prince Edward County, VA.

McDearmon received his higher education in Virginia, but no institution (yet) has been able to confirm his attendance. In his early professional life, he worked as a teacher. He was also a farmer who raised tobacco, corn, wheat, swine, sheep and cattle. According to the 1830 and 1840 Censuses and other sources, he was a slave owner (enslaver) and the letters in this collection reveal the names of at least three of his slaves (enslaved people).

In 1826, McDearmon married Martha Ann Gannaway (1802-1889) and together they had eight children: one girl and seven boys, all of whom lived past the age of eighteen. The first two children were born in Virginia. McDearmon decided to move to Missouri in 1830 and his young family followed soon after. He settled first in St. Louis County, then bought land in St. Charles County in 1834.

It was in St. Charles County that he started to make a name for himself with government positions, first Justice of the Peace, then Postmaster, then Judge of the County Court. McDearmon was a member of the Democratic Party, which, in 1840 when he ran for State Senate, established nine principles at its National Convention. Most of the principles regarded the separation of the federal and state governments, disavowed creation of a federal bank and internal improvement programs, and resolved to protect the institution of slavery (enslavement). In McDearmon's 1840 letter in this collection, he laments that St. Charles County is strongly Whig and predicts his loss in the August election.

In 1842, McDearmon was appointed one of ten directors of the Bank of St. Louis. According to his obituary, the appointment was unsolicited. This seems to be his only foray into finance and lasted less than two months before he resigned. Despite a lack of official financial experience, Gov. John Cummins Edwards appointed McDearmon to the position of Auditor of Public Accounts (aka State Auditor) in December 1845, a post that was vacated when Auditor William Monroe resigned. McDearmon accepted and split his time between Jefferson City and his home near Femme Osage, St. Charles County where he maintained a farm. Two letters in this collection recount his efforts to find lodging in Jefferson City in early 1846.

McDearmon finished out the remainder of Monroe's term as State Auditor, which expired in February 1847. In December 1846, Gov. Edwards, with the advice and consent of the Senate, re-appointed McDearmon as Auditor for a two-year term commencing in February 1847. His time as Auditor seems to have been unremarkable; that is, there was no controversy. He presided over audits in the time of the Mexican-American War (1846-1848).

As early as 1846, prominent Missourians floated McDearmon's name as Democratic candidate for Governor for the August 1848 election. Finally, when it came time to send delegates to the State Convention in early 1848, many promised to support McDearmon for Governor. As it happened, McDearmon became ill and died on March 20; the State Convention was held March 27. He is buried in Woodland-Old City Cemetery in Jefferson City.

James R. McDearmon's legacy lived on through his wife, his children and their descendants. The letters and photograph in this collection came to the Missouri State Archives through McDearmon's descendant Elizabeth Werner, who is his 3x great-granddaughter by James's son John K., author of five letters in the collection. Prior to landing with Werner, the letters belonged

to Orrick McDearmon and Patty (McDearmon) Knoble, then Werner's father Fielding McDearmon. Werner scanned the photographs and one letter herself and sent 13 original letters to the Archives for conservation and digitization. The 13 original letters were returned to Werner in May 2024.

Timeline

Year	Event
08/31/1805	Born in Prince Edward County, Virginia
c1811-1816	Mother Sukie McDearmon died
1816	Father James McDearmon, Sr. died between April 23 and May 20
12/20/1826	Married Martha A. Gannaway
11/08/1827	Daughter Aurelia McDearmon born, Prince Edward Co.
1828-1829	Served as Secretary for the Domestic Retrenchment Society, Prince Edward Co.
11/24/1829	Son John Kirkpatrick McDearmon born, Prince Edward Co.
1830	Arrived in St. Louis, Missouri by way of Louisville, early December, accompanied by his brother Henry (wife and children arrived later)
1831	About the first of January began teaching at a school in St. Ferdinand (now Florissant), St. Louis County, Missouri
05/03/1832	Son Thomas Henry McDearmon born, St. Louis Co.
05/11/1834	Son James Robertson McDearmon born, St. Louis Co.
06/30/1834	Purchased 540 acres in Femme Osage Township on survey no. 1792, St. Charles County, Missouri
02/06/1836	Son William Norvelle McDearmon born, St. Charles Co.
08/01/1836	Elected Justice of the Peace, Femme Osage Township, St. Charles Co.
11/05/1838	Son Francis Lee McDearmon born, St. Charles Co.
02/09/1839	Appointed Postmaster, Femme Osage Township, St. Charles Co.
02/24/1840	Appointed Commissioner of the School Lands, Femme Osage Township, St. Charles Co.
06/14/1840	Son Theodorick F. McDearmon born, St. Charles Co.
08/03/1840	Candidate for Missouri Senate for St. Charles and Warren Cos.; lost to William Campbell
10/08/1840	Served as a delegate from St. Charles Co. to the Young Mens Convention in Jefferson City
12/06/1842	Son Albert Giles McDearmon born, St. Charles Co.
12/06/1842	Elected by the General Assembly as one of ten directors of the Bank of St. Louis
01/25/1843	Resigned as Director of the Bank of St. Louis
02/27/1844	Appointed guardian of the eight children of his brother-in-law Edmund Gannaway
04/01/1844	Delegate to the Democratic State Convention from St. Charles Co.
11/25/1844	Appointed Justice of the St. Charles County Court

Year	Event
12/15/1845	Appointed Auditor of Public Accounts by Gov. Edwards upon the resignation of William Monroe
12/06/1846	Re-appointed Auditor by Gov. Edwards with the advice and consent of the Senate to take effect for a two-year term beginning February 10, 1847
03/20/1848	Died in Jefferson City after an unspecified eight-day illness

Additional Descriptive Information

Bibliography

1810 U.S. Census, Goochland County, Virginia. Shows James McDearmon, Sr. and family with four boys under ten, one man age 26-44, one woman age 26-44 and five enslaved people.

1830 U.S. Census, Prince Edward County, Virginia. Shows James R. McDearmon and family with one boy under five, one man age 20-29, one girl under five, one girl age 15-19, one woman age 20-29, two enslaved boys under ten, two enslaved girls under ten and one enslaved girl or woman age 10-23.

1840 U.S. Census, Femme Osage Township, St. Charles County, Missouri. Shows James R. McDearmon and family with two boys under five, three boys age 5-9, one boy age 10-14, one man age 30-39, one girl age 10-14, one woman age 30-39, one woman age 70-79 and three enslaved people.

Cole County Probate Court Case File 320A, James R. McDearmon, deceased. Available at the Missouri State Archives on microfiche or through [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org). Lists heirs and property.

“Communication.” *Richmond Enquirer* [Richmond, VA], Vol. XXV No. 38 (09/16/1828): p. 1. Reprints James R. McDearmon’s letter to the editor re the Domestic Retrenchment Society.

“Died.” *Jefferson Inquirer* [Jefferson City, MO], Vol. 10 No. 6 (03/25/1848): p. 3. James R. McDearmon’s obituary and tributes from the Supreme Court, public officers and citizens. Provides his date and place of birth.

“Grand Democrat Rally at Troy, Lincoln Co., Missouri!” *The Radical* [Bowling Green, MO], Vol. III No. 50 (10/19/1844): p. 3. Reports that James R. McDearmon is attending the rally.

[*Journal of the Senate, of the State of Missouri, at the First Session of the Twelfth General Assembly, Begun and Held at the City of Jefferson, on Monday, the Twenty-First Day of November, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-Two.*](#) Jefferson City: W. Lusk and Son, 1843: pp. 76 & 257. McDearmon is elected Director of the Bank of St. Louis, then resigns.

[*Journal of the Senate of the State of Missouri, at the First Session of the Fourteenth General Assembly, Begun and Held at the City of Jefferson, on Monday, the Sixteenth Day of November,*](#)

in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-Six. Jefferson City: James Lusk, 1847: pp. 506-507. Gov. Edwards nominates James R. McDearmon for Auditor of Public Accounts and the Senate consents.

Portrait and Biographical Record of St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren Counties, Missouri.

Chicago: Chapman Pub., 1895. Gives James R. McDearmon's place of education as Hampden Sidney [Sydney] College, p. 190. (McDearmon does not appear on a [list of graduates](#) for that institution.)

[Prince Edward County Chancery Court case file for James McDearmon](#), deceased, case file 1830-001, Virginia Memory, Library of Virginia. Includes James R. McDearmon's father's will.

RG5.50 Register of Civil Proceedings, Vol. A p. 319, Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, MO. Gov. Edwards's 1845 appointment of James R. McDearmon as Auditor of Public Accounts.

St. Charles County Court record book entry for election of James R. McDearmon as Justice of the Peace, Femme Osage Township, Vol. 1 p. 362. Available at the Missouri State Archives on microfilm reel #C40638.

St. Charles County Court record book entry for commission of James R. McDearmon as Commissioner of School Lands, Femme Osage Township, Vol. 2 p. 65. Available at the Missouri State Archives on microfilm reel #C40638.

St. Charles County Probate Court record book entry for commission of James R. McDearmon as Justice of the County Court, Vol. 3 p. 78. Available at the Missouri State Archives on microfilm reel #C5912 or through [FamilySearch.org](#). (See also County Court record book Vol. 2 p. 235.)

St. Charles County Probate Court record book entry for the minor heirs of Edmund Gannaway, deceased, Vol. 3 pp. 31-32. Appoints James R. McDearmon guardian of the eight Gannaway children. Available at the Missouri State Archives on microfilm reel #C5912 or through [FamilySearch.org](#).

St. Charles County Recorder of Deeds Record Book of Deeds, Vol. M p. 1. Entry for land purchase by James R. McDearmon and Edmund Gannaway from James and Emilie Morrison. Available at the Missouri State Archives on microfilm reel #C5842.

United States Biographical Dictionary and Portrait Gallery of Eminent and Self-Made Men. Missouri Volume. New York, Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City: United States Biographical Publishing Company, 1878: pp. 770-771. States that James R. McDearmon was educated at St. Mary's College, Virginia. (Unable to verify. College of William and Mary staff do not list McDearmon as an alumnus, nor were they ever known as St. Mary's. There was a St. Mary's College for boys and young men in Baltimore, MD at the time (no inquiry sent).)

Other Finding Aids

MS523_Transcriptions.docx, appended to the end of this finding aid.

Related Material

[Gannaway Family Papers, 1793-1869](#), Accession 19792 Item 33, Personal Papers Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA. Genealogical information on the Gannaway family, James R. McDearmon's in-laws, with an 1847 letter from James to Theodorick C. Gannaway discussing Edmund and Frances Gannaway's children for whom James served as guardian.

Gannaway, Rev. Robertson (contributed by Katherine K. Adams). [“Autobiography of Rev. Robertson Gannaway.”](#) *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* Vol. XXXVIII No. 2 (April 1930): p. 141. Robertson Gannaway (Martha (Gannaway) McDearmon's brother) visited her and James R. McDearmon “15 miles from St. Louis” (presumably Florissant) in November 1834, suggesting the McDearmons hadn't moved to St. Charles County yet, even though they had bought property there in June 1834. While Robertson was visiting, James served as a witness to a deed of emancipation for five of Robertson's enslaved people on December 18, 1834 in the City of St. Louis. (See St. Louis City Recorder of Deeds Record Book of Deeds Volume 7 p. 306, available on microfilm reel #C25799 at the Missouri State Archives.)

[J.D. Eggleston Papers \(CA-000102\)](#), Hampden-Sydney College Archives & Special Collections, Hampden-Sydney, VA. Box 2 Folder 10 regards James R. McDearmon and reprints his *U.S. Biographical Dictionary* entry.

[James R. McDearmon Letters \(C0490\)](#), The State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, MO. Photocopy of a letter from James McDearmon to Martha dated Jan. 21, 1831.

Nathan Heald Papers #24U93, Draper Collection of Manuscripts: Frontier Wars Papers, 1754-1885, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI. Letter from James R. McDearmon to David McCausland re recruitment for the Mexican-American War, 1847.

[Related Papers from George and Mary Easton Sibley Contemporaries](#), Lindenwood University Digital Commons, St. Charles, MO. Letter from James McDearmon to Aurelia McDearmon dated Jan. 5, 1846, transcription only.

RG006 Office of State Auditor, Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, MO. Official records of the Office of State Auditor.

Series

The records are organized into the following series:

Letters, 1830-1889

Photographs, 1870s-1880s

Letters, 1830-1889

Extent: Fourteen letters, 4.73 GB.

Arrangement: Chronological.

Scope and Content

These are digital scans (600dpi .TIF) of fourteen original letters, thirteen of which were on loan to the Archives. The letters all concern James R. McDearmon and his family. The content is generally personal, but there are some references to his professional life. Each letter has been fully transcribed. See “MS523_Transcriptions.docx” for full transcriptions and related historical notes; these also appear on Missouri Digital Heritage.

The thirteen letters on loan were treated by the Conservation Lab, scanned, then returned to the donor. The donor scanned the fourteenth herself. All scans are available on DVD at the Archives as well as online through [Missouri Digital Heritage](#).

Letter measurements reflect when the letter is fully open, not folded. Access copy of DVDs in Reference.

Container List

Location	Image	Contents	Date
	Letter01	From James R. McDearmon, St. Louis, MO, to his wife Martha McDearmon, no location. Measures 16” x 9.75”.	12/06/1830
	Letter02	From James R. McDearmon, Femme Osage, MO, to his brother Henry E.W. McDearmon, Fayette, MO. Measures 15.25” x 12.625”.	06/08/1840
	Letter03	From James R. McDearmon, Femme Osage, MO to his daughter Aurelia McDearmon, Boonville, MO. Measures 15.375” x 12.625”.	02/16/1842
	Letter04	From John K. McDearmon, Femme Osage, MO, to his sister Aurelia McDearmon, St. Charles, MO. Measures 15.125” x 12.25”.	01/28/1846
	Letter05	From James R. McDearmon, Femme Osage, MO, to his daughter Aurelia McDearmon, St. Charles, MO. Measures 15.875” x 10”.	02/13/1846
	Letter06	From James R. McDearmon, Jefferson City, MO, to his wife Martha McDearmon and son James McDearmon, Femme Osage, MO. Measures 15.875” x 10”.	03/02/1846
	Letter07	From Felix Scott, Mount Hood, Oregon Territory, to James R. McDearmon, Jefferson City, MO. Measures 15.375” x 9.625”.	09/26/1847

Location	Image	Contents	Date
	Letter08	From Thomas H. McDearmon and James K. McDearmon, Columbia, MO, to their father James R. McDearmon, Jefferson City, MO. Measures 16.5" x 10.75".	11/14/1847
	Letter09	From John K. McDearmon, Jefferson City, MO, to his mother Martha McDearmon, Femme Osage, MO. Measures 15.25" x 9.75".	04/13/1848
	Letter10	From Martha McDearmon, Femme Osage, MO, to her son Thomas H. McDearmon, Linn, MO. Measures 16.625" x 10.625".	06/21/1848
	Letter11	From John K. McDearmon, Jefferson City, MO, to his mother Martha McDearmon, Femme Osage, MO. Measures 16.5" x 10.75".	07/14/1848
	Letter12	From John K. McDearmon, Jefferson City, MO, to his mother Martha McDearmon, Femme Osage, MO. Measures 15.75" x 9.875".	01/27/1849
	Letter13	From Henry E.W. McDearmon, Council Bluffs, IA, to his nephew (presumed to be James K. McDearmon), no location. Measures 10" x 8".	12/16/1866
	Letter14	From James R. McDearmon to his wife Mary (Irwin) McDearmon, no locations	05/14/1889

Photographs, 1870s-1880s

Extent: Two .TIF photographs, 232MB.

Arrangement: Alphabetical by first name.

Scope and Content

These are digital scans made by the donor of photographs of James R. McDearmon and his wife Martha A. McDearmon. The cabinet card-style photographs were taken by Rudolph Goebel in St. Charles, likely in the 1870s-1880s. This makes James's image a photographic reprint of an earlier 1840s glass image, probably a Daguerreotype. The original glass image has been lost to history, and the cabinet card reproduction is retained by the donor as is Martha's photo. Scans are available on DVD at the Archives as well as online through [Missouri Digital Heritage](#). James's scan is also available on [Flickr](#).

Access copy of DVD in Reference.

Container List

Location	Image Name	Contents	Date
	MS523_001.tif	300ppi .TIF scan of an 1870s-1880s cabinet card derivative photograph of an 1840s photo of James R. McDearmon, made by Rudolph Goebel, St. Charles, MO. Scanned 08/07/2023.	1870s-1880s
	MS523_002_front.tif; MS523_002_reverse.tif	1200ppi .TIF scans (front and reverse) of a cabinet card photograph of Martha A. McDearmon by Rudolph Goebel, St. Charles, MO. Scanned 04/29/2024.	1870s-1880s

Full transcriptions of the letters are reprinted below along with historical notes. Both the transcriptions and the notes originated with the donor Elizabeth Werner; Archives staff made some additions.

LETTER 1

[page 1]

Missouri St. Louis Decr. 6th 1830.

Dear Martha

We arrived at this place last thursday at 12 oclock. the day after I wrote to you from Guyandotte we embarked on board the steamboat Alleghany which took us to Louisville, Kentucky at which place we remained several days endeavouring to get a passage in some boat destined to St. Louis in which endeavour we could not succed [sic] owing to the extreme lowness of the water. there was only one very small boat that could leave port and a trip in it would have cost me \$20. we started from Louisville on Monday morning at 3. o'clock and arrived at this place in 3 1/2 days a distance of 280 miles. my whole trip including all expenses Amounts to \$30 which is considerably beyond my expectations, and had there have been an ordinary tide in the River my journey would have cost me not more than half that sum. we came from Louisville to this place by stage. Henry¹ got work the day after we landed here he is at work by one job and says he can make from 1. Dol 50 cts. to 1.75 [per?] day. I have found a great many Virginians here: Monroe Saunders, N. Grubbs. John P. Morris at whose house I am boarding and Merit Hix who is doing very well and is very kind to me yesterday he rode with me about 14 miles out of Town and introduced me to a Mr. Lackland a gentleman who wishes to engage a Teacher. I am going to see him again on Wednesday [sic] and if I can get a even a common school I will accept it in order to put a stop to my expenses. I would have gone out today but the eastern Mail arrives here Tomorrow and I anxiously expect to Receive a letter from you. Henry tells me that when I start home I may have all money he shall have made. So far as I have become acquainted with the nature of things in this country I am convinced that Missouri is destined at no distant day [to] be one of the first States in this Union in point of wealth and civilization I have never in my life met with a more enterprizing [sic], intelligent [sic], and enlightened people than that of St. Louis and if I had a capital of \$500 I would not want an easier task than to go out in the country and

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make a fortune by trading. The Government price for all publick [sic] lands in this State is \$1.25 per acre, but it is almost certain that the price will be graduated and that the 1st quality will be held at 75 cts the 2nd at 50 cts and so on in proportion to its actual value. a Bill to this effect has already passed the Senate of the U. States. The hire of Negroes is very [dear?] a Negro woman from Virginia for they are more in demand than negroes from any other State. Will hire for \$60 per woman. I think that Edmond² would act a wise part to come to this country. The hire of Mrs. Gannaways negroes would I think ~~hire~~ produce to her more nett [sic] profit than they ever have done upon her own farm and I see no reason to suppose this country unhealthy. St. Louis during the whole year has enjoyed as much health as any town of the same population in the United States. If I cannot get employment soon I shall go out in the country for a few weeks and if I cannot succeed there I shall return home. I was at Wm. Penick's today for several hours. Penick

was not at home. He had gone about 180 miles into the country to move a family out there he lives in this place. His family is well and Miss Price has improved in appearance more than any person I ever saw she would weigh I think 20 pounds more at this time than when she left Va. They are doing very well by sewing for some of the clothes Merchants in Town. I have been entirely well and have never been disturbed in sleep since I left home. Now my Dear I must confess to you that when I wrote to you from Guyandotte my fortitude had almost forsaken me so great was my desire to see you and my little children that I believe I should have abandoned my journey and returned home but I thought that would be an act of weakness that I should be ack-acused [sic] of committing [sic]. Though many hundred miles distant from you my dear, near yet are my prayres [sic] and my affections with you. tis for the happiness for yourself and our dear little ones that I undergo this tedious and painful absence. O! how does memory love to linger on scenes of happiness which have passed between us; when I think of the sweet prattle of my little Babes, which has so often delighted my heart. I cannot but [marked out] look forward with distressing

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impatience to the hour that shall return me to you and to them again. I pray Heaven preserve you for me in safety. May we meet again in circumstances much improved and may neither of us have to tell to the other a tale of sorrow at our meeting. Attend if you please to the instruction of my little Aurelia³, but do not confine her too much to study. tell her that Pa loves her dearly and wishes for her to spell prettily for him when he comes. for the sake of your own health and comfort and

also for that of John³

my advice to you

good friends in Va.

Venables and his

my sister that I

I hope she is happy

Of her with affectio[n]

I regard as my

last named, yet not

_____liss I feel most

_____exhort you to

fortitude that becomes a he

you could bear it with

to Know you wore

dejected as to despair

Historical Notes:

This letter was first transcribed in 1944, and the transcription was donated to The State Historical Society of Missouri by Patty Knoble along with a photostat copy of a second letter James wrote to Martha on Jan. 21, 1831. The 1831 letter expounds on James's arrival in Missouri, saying that he did get the teaching job he mentioned in this 1830 letter. In 1831, he is boarding with a Mr. Richardson 14 miles from St. Louis for his school in St. Ferdinand (now Florissant). He has twenty pupils and intends to come back to Virginia to get his wife and kids and bring them back to Missouri. (source: [James R. McDearmon Letters \(C0490\)](#) at SHSMO)

¹ Henry E.W. McDearmon, James's younger brother

² Edmund/Edmond Gannaway, Martha's older brother

³ Aurelia and John K. McDearmon, James's two children

LETTER 2

[Page 1]

Femme Osage June 8th 1840

Dear Brother:

In haste, I take my seat to address you a few lines, and only a few. I shall probably be very much engaged till After the Election. Contrary no doubt to your expectations and my wishes I am a candidate for the State Senate from this district against Wm. M. Campbell, the strongest man in the state. Our Convention put me in nomination against my wishes and against my letter informing them that I could not be a candidate for any thing. After the nomination, I declined in a card published in the St. Charles Clarion and I did suppose the question was then settled, but I was mistaken, for at our last Circuit Court I was again earnestly solicited to run, and it was declared in fact, that unless I did run no ticket could be made out. I saw that no alternative was left me but either than to run or disoblige my friends and as much as I disliked the former alternative, I was bound to prefer it to the latter. Many of our friends are sanguine in their expectations Of our success, but they are mistaken; -We shall be again beaten. We have gained considerably I am sure, -not among the Old Voters, for an angel of light could produce no change among them, but in the recently naturalized Germans, nearly every man of whom is Democratic. In my own Township we shall have at least 60__ who are now Democratic. But whether they possess firmness and intelgence [sic] enough to pass the rough ~~a-hot~~ the ordeal of a hotly contested Election yet remains to be seen. The Whigs are moving

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Heaven and Earth to secure them. Dr. McIlhenny one of our candidates to the lower House, I think Will beat any of us. He is a real Poker player a tip top Hand at a frolick [sic] and will probably exceed our party Vote in St. Charles 15 or 20, in other places, the party will vote from principle and we will run about even. Captain Carter our other Candidate has a good many Whig relatives some of whom will vote for him, and in this Way I shall probably be a little behind our two candidates in this County and Old John Wyatt of Warren County is nearly related to ~~every man~~ at least half of the voters in this County and therefore you need not be surprised if I should fall. behold the apparent Democratic vote; -I say apparent for I have the satisfaction to believe that no one in our section is more acceptable to the Democrats than I am and in the Whole District no one could be found so hateful to the Whigs. None Of our Candidates ever attempt to speak, the Whig Candidates are all speakers; --you sed [sic] then I shall have them all on my bones. Friday Week I attended A Battalion Muster at Warrenton and addressed perhaps 130 or 140 voters. Thurday [sic] previous Genl. Clark spoke to about 45 at the same place and the day previous to that, and at the same place Judge Reynolds spoke to about an equal number. After leaving Warrenton I attended another Battalion Muster in the same County and spoke to about 150 voters. My opponent was not present either time.

Judge Reynolds gave great satisfaction to his friends. Genl. Clark I understand is an evasive and non committal fellow. I apprehend a much severer contest than we have ever had in this District.

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heretofore the whig majority has been all powerful and they could afford to be patient, but things have already undergone some change and if they fail to secure the German vote, St Charles in 2 or at farthest 4 years will be a decided Democratic County. I have already met with some instances of Whig intolerance, and I hear Of certain threats, which if attempted to be put in execution upon me, will produce a downright explosion. I shall keep cool, but will not be bluffed off or bullied or brow beaten. I know my rights and shall maintain them

I have been thus minute in explaining the state of things here, supposing you would feel an additional interest in them from the relation they have to me. It is believed by my friends that I can [paper torn] any man on our side, but for reasons already named I think this is a mistake. I expect Frances¹ Will be up in A day or two. -Martha² expects to be confined in about that time and Frances is under a promise to visit us then.

I have the best crop of wheat I ever saw. -Corn also looks Well.

Let me hear from you frequently, how you are coming on &c &c.

Your Affectionate Brother
James R McDearmon

[Page 4]

Femme Osage MO
June 10th 1840

From
Jas. R. McDearmon
P.M.

Henry E. W. McDearmon Esqr.
Fayette
Howard County, MO

Historical Notes:

James was running for State Senator to represent St. Charles and Warren Counties. The election held on August 3 resulted in his defeat, as he predicted.

¹ Frances (McDearmon) Gannaway, James's sister who is married to Martha's brother Edmund

² Martha, James's wife, will give birth to their son Theodorick on June 14

LETTER 3

[Page 1]

Femme Osage, Mo Feby 16th, 1842 --

My Dear child:

I take a few minutes to reply very briefly to your letter of 7th Inst. which came to hand yesterday. Our family is not well, -little Theodorick¹ is very sick and Dr. Eaton is now with him. He has been sick about 4 days. We hope that he is better this morning. It is an inflamatory [sic] winter attack. I will write to you by next mail and let you know how he shall have gotten.

You should, ere this, have let me know certainly, whether I am to come after you or not. I cannot now be able to make such arrangements as will enable me to bring you home as I should otherwise have done. I must wait to hear from you again and then make preparation to come if it shall be necessary, as I suppose it will. It is extremely inconvenient for me to leave home on such a trip. I shall be compelled to furnish myself with some new clothing which I otherwise would not have done till next spring. And to be candid I am very much straitened in money matters, my Tobacco is not sold and the prospect for effecting a sale is gloomy as it can well be.

I need to tell you that your last letter has deeply and painfully distressed my feelings. I am exceedingly pained. My prospects for educating you are entirely cut off. I am far from being able to sustain you at Boarding school, so great is the expense involved. This is distressing enough. Without a good education I know that a hard fate awaits you. I know it. I am thoroughly acquainted with the state of things in our community and under certain circum-

[Page 2]

stances you can have but little to hope for. It were well for me that I felt less solicitude for your welfare, – that I was less proud or that you were more fortunate. I will not reprove you. I am grievously disappointed and most painfully do I feel it. I have done all I can for you and I must submit to what I cannot avoid. I knew that Mrs. Collins² and your Aunt³ would probably subject you to many restraints, some of which although salutary might not be pleasant. I had no objection to this. There is one thing in which I am not disappointed in Mrs. C. and your Aunt. It is this, I know them to be the neatest and most systematic Housekeepers that I ever saw, – in this I am not mistaken, and I knew that in this you would have a golden opportunity to receive much improvement. And it does seem to me that had I been situated as you were that I could have pleased the very devil and his dans [dance].

You had the highest inducements. And when you discovered the extreme delicacy of your uncle's situation it should have stimulated you to renewed efforts to prevent that "rupture" of which your uncle with the most painful sensibility spoke. But there can be no "rupture" between him and me, for I know him as I know myself and a better heart than his beats not in the breast of a man on earth. I fear that you have been very unhappy and that you have made little if any progress in knowledge. I renew my complaints about your careless manner of writing. I have considered your excuse, and I must say that I do not consider them sufficient.

I must hear from you again before I shall make my preparation to come after you. I suppose there is an open undisguised rupture between you and your aunt.

[Page 3]

The ink freezes as I write. I must stop and attend to your little sick brother. you shall hear from him by next mail. He is very sick but the doctor feels sure of his recovery.

Your affectionate Father
James R. McDearmon

[Page 4]

Femme Osage, MO
Feby. 16th 1842

Free _____
Jas. R. McDearmon P.M.

Miss Aurelia McDearmon
Boonville
Cooper County, Mo

Historical Notes:

At the time of this letter, Aurelia McDearmon is fourteen years old and has been sent away to live with her uncle Henry E.W. McDearmon and his family in Boonville, MO.

¹ Theodorick McDearmon, James's son and Aurelia's younger brother, age twenty months

² Susan Collins, Aurelia's aunt Sarah's mother

³ Sarah (Collins) McDearmon, Aurelia's aunt married to Henry

LETTER 4

[Page 1]

Femme Osage Jan 28th 1846

Dear Sister

I received your leter [sic] of the twenty second and I was verry [sic] glad to hear that you are getting alon [sic] so well. papa¹ arrived home on Friday last and I assure you we were all verry [sic] glad to see him. he does not in tend returning untill [sic] Saturday. he wishes very much that he could hav [sic] seen you be fore he returns to Jefferson City however he will not hav [sic] the time he is much better pleased than I expected. he says it will not be in his power to be at your next examination he does not expect to be home again before the last of March when he intends moving us up to the City.

Uncle Jeffrey² has been down several days he intends moving down in the spring. his family is all well and Cousin Btsy. Black was married a week or two since to a widower by the name McMand³ he is a farmer living near Uncle Jeffrey's I think uncle Jeffrey is verry [sic] much pleased with the match. he started yester day mornin home The family is all well. Harriet Johnson⁴ is well at present but I must say she has had verry [sic] little [sic] health this winter I saw her the last sabbath.

The two Mr. and Mistress Fants and Mr. & Mistress Johnson also spent the day with us yesterday Mistress Johnson sends her love to you. and Miss Ann Fant⁵ also.

I had the pleasure of taking a seigh [sleigh] ride with Miss Ann Fant last week and we had a considerabe [sic] sport Miss Ann told me when I wrote to you I must tell you that you have lost Mr. Willis Horze [horse?].

I was at Mr. Kenners when Mr. Orric⁶ went up and I sent some articles to papa by him.

[Page 2]

we received aleter [sic] from Asbury⁷ and uncle Robertson the last weeks mail Asbury is well and says he has not herd [sic] from Robertson since the day after we left him he says we left him in the station he says that they found it verry [sic] dangerous crossing [sic] the river that evening we lef [sic] him.

I would like to know if you received the book I left in the care of Miss Westernheler she promised me to hand it to Mistress Sibley⁸ at sabbath school the next sabbath.

Mr. and Mistress Davidson⁹ are both well at present Mr. Davison is teaching school in the neighborhood of Mr. Bigelos. We wer [sic] mistaken about Mr. Davison sister Mary's being dead it was a yonger [sic] sister. You must remember me to the yong [sic] ladies at Linden Wood and Miss Elizabeth Lindsay especially and tell her that I will sing Lucy Neal¹⁰ for her when I come Down again mama ~~sends~~ returns her love to Mis Elizabeth and her respects to Miss Ott and Rosseter Mistress Sebly also. papa brought your miniature down with him I think it is a verry [sic] good representation only a good deal beter [sic] looking than you are

I ~~don't~~ do not agree with you in sayin that as the time draws near for our departure that I am getting out of the notion of leavin the Femme Osage I must say as the time draws nearer and nearer I get more and more in the leaving hear [here?] if it was not on acount [sic] of health I would not care much but I fear the City of Jefferson is not a healthy place Though I must admit if times wer [sic] as they used to be our once loved Femme Osage might be called the garden of the West I think you now have the minutia of the neighborhood gossip in general you must excuse me for wrightind [sic] so litle [sic]. Nothing more at present your affectionate brother.

John K. McDear

[Page 3]

[blank]

[Page 4]

Paid 5

Femme Osage, MO
Jany 28 1846

Miss Aurelia McDearmon
Care of Mrs. Sibley
Saint Charles MO

Historical Notes:

John mentions the family moving to Jefferson City because his and Aurelia's father James R. McDearmon is serving as State Auditor. Based on an Apr. 4, 1847 letter held at the Library of Virginia, it seems as if some of the family did eventually come to Jefferson City. James mentions that "Old Mrs. Gannaway" (his mother-in-law Rhoda) stayed at the farm in St. Charles County and that Jeffrey Gannaway was there with her, as were young Martha and Edmund Gannaway. He had the youngest Gannaway child, Sarah Ann, with him in Jefferson City. (See Letter 10 for additional information.)

¹ James R. McDearmon was serving as State Auditor and dividing his time between Jefferson City and the family home near Femme Osage, St. Charles County

² Jeffrey/Jeffery Gannaway, John and Aurelia's uncle by their mother Martha, was living in Missouri in Callaway County at this time

³ Elizabeth "Betsy" (Gannaway) Black, Jeffrey's daughter, married Richard Pickering McMahan, her second husband

⁴ Possibly Harriet Johnson (1831-1902)

⁵ Possibly Ann Fant (1827-1869) who would marry John Deatherage later that year

⁶ Possibly John Orrick (1805-1879), who would become John K. McDearmon's father-in-law in 1854

⁷ Asbury C. Gannaway, cousin to John and Aurelia

⁸ Mary Easton Sibley, founder of Lindenwood University (then The Boarding School for Young Ladies at Linden Wood), with whom Aurelia is staying while she studies there

⁹ Calvin H. Davidson and Adaline (Gannaway) Davidson; Adaline is John and Aurelia's cousin, older sister to Asbury

¹⁰ "Lucy Neal," a popular minstrel song at the time

LETTER 5

[Page 1]

City of Jefferson Mo. Feby 13 -- 1846

Dear Aurelia

Your letter Of the 5th instant, was not received till yesterday; this delay was occasioned, I suppose by the difficult nature Of the Roads. I also received on yesterday a letter from your mother under date of the 4th instant. When I left home John K¹ was very sick, and I requested that a letter might be written to me on Wednesday the 4th so that I might know how he had got. Your mother informed me that he was much better, though he had continued very sick for several days after I left, which was on the 1st. I have felt and still feel much solicitude about him, and I am extremely anxious to hear from him again. Thos. H.² came up with me, and started home on the morning Of the 4th. I saw [him] safe over the river. he had pleasant weather and if nothing happened to him, I suppose he reached home in time for dinner on the 7th. I am very solicitous to hear whether he reached home in safety.

I was pleased on visiting home to find everything proceeding so well. If your uncle from Callaway³ could arrange his business so as to take Charge Of my place, by the Opening Of navigation in the Spring, I should be able to move the family up at Once, as I should most certainly do, for such life as I am now living is exceedingly unpleasant to me. I have not as yet procured a situation in town, and do not feel very well pleased with any situation, which I have, up to this time, had an opportunity to procure. I shall wait a while longer, and at length take the place I can get.

There is nothing new or interesting in this place about which to write, and it is my purpose to write you, at this time, only a brief letter.

[Page 2]

I am pleased, you cannot conceive how much, to learn that you are doing well at Linden Wood. I am pleased too, at your course of study. I shall confidently indulge the hope that the time spent with Miss Waters and at Linden Wood will be permanently and eminently useful to you throughout your whole future life.

You ask whether you are to return home or not at the end Of the present Session. In reply, I answer, that I engaged with Mrs. Sibley⁴ to send you to the end Of the present "Semi-Session," as my letter to Mrs. S, if I am not much mistaken will show. I have Mrs. S's letter to me on file. I do not know how Mrs. S. understands the matter. My Object was, to engage you to the end Of the present "Semi-Session," and then be at liberty to continue you there, if you should wish it, and I should consider it advisable. I should be willing if you wished, for you to remain at Linden Wood another session. -I shall not advise you to do so, but leave you [to] act in the case as you prefer. If you shall conclude not to stay another Session, and there should be a vacation during the month of March, it will not be in your power to return to School, because, it is my wish and my intention to move the family to Jefferson by the last March or the first Of April. I shall be very willing to pay Mrs. Sibley for all the time you may be a[t] school, that from the time you commenced till the end Of the session, and I think she will not require any more, but if she does I will pay it. I wish you to say to Mrs. S., I shall not forget my indebtedness to her and that it shall be paid up, at any rate when I come down in the spring.

I have written to day to your Mother, but as a letter from St. Charles came to hand from St. Charles about one half the time, that

[Page 3]

it does from Femme Osage, I request that you write will write to me immediately on the receipt Of this, as perhaps, you may be able to let me know how John K has got, and whether Thomas H. has got home &c.

I am quite busy, but expect to be more at leisure in a few days: business in the Office accumulated considerably during my absence.

You say that each pupil at Linden Wood, is required to spell once a day, and add that Mrs. S. considers it (very properly too) the first element Of a good education. Here I must call your attention to one instance of faulty orthography in your letter now before me, and which I

consider in other respects, a very good letter. You say “Mr. Elbert the Principle thinks” &c. President I presume is the word. It w[ould? – page torn] do [equally? – page torn] well however to say Principal. This I consider [page torn] [ina-]dvertently as I am not willing to believe, that you do not [page torn] the difference between principle and principal.

I thank Miss Lindsay for her respects, and in return, tender her mine, tell Miss L. that my best wishes ~~for~~ will attend her, and I hope, as I am sure she will continue to be a good a girl – the delight and pride Of her parents, and favorite Of her acquaintances. In haste, I remain your affectionate & devoted father.

Jas. R. McDearmon

[Page 4]

Postmark Jefferson City MO 13 PAID

Miss Aurelia McDearmon
Care of Mrs. M. Sibley
Saint Charles MO

Historical Notes:

Eighteen-year-old Aurelia is studying at The Boarding School for Young Ladies at Linden Wood (now Lindenwood University). In an earlier letter, James expresses his wish for his daughter to receive a good education. It looks like he was able to make that happen. Later in life, Aurelia worked as a teacher. James discusses moving the family to Jefferson City where he is serving as State Auditor and hopes his brother-in-law Jeffrey can take over the operations of his family farm while he is in office.

¹ John K. McDearmon, Aurelia’s brother

² Thomas H. McDearmon, Aurelia’s brother

³ Jeffrey/Jeffery Gannaway, Aurelia’s uncle by her mother Martha, was living in Callaway County at this time

⁴ Mary Easton Sibley, founder of Lindenwood University (then The Boarding School for Young Ladies at Linden Wood), with whom Aurelia is staying while she studies there

LETTER 6

[page 1]

City of Jefferson March 2nd 1846

Dear Martha

Your’s and James’¹ letter was received yesterday about 10. O,clock A.M. at a time when my anxiety to hear from home was most intense. Your letter again was without date; fortunately James dated his and but for this, I could not have known whether the letter had been a week or a month in reaching me. I should after reading your letter have felt much better satisfied if John² had been at home, having been sick so recently. I am sorry you consented to let him go. I do wish that you had sent Willis or Sam in his place. I shall feel unceasing Solicitude till I hear from

him again. I doubt not Mr. Davison³ was right in taking down the beeves when he did. I should have done the same thing, had I been at home. I have no doubt either that it would have been best, had you sent down the bacon at the same time in a waggon [sic]; it would have saved the price of hogsheads, would have weighed more, and the [crossed out] expense of selling the beeves would have sufficed also for selling the bacon, except the waggoner's price for hauling it down. You say that the boys have not been able to do any work for several weeks past, because of the cold. Of course, I neither expected nor wished them to work during such cold weather. It will not take two hogsheads to hold 2000 lbs of bacon. One hogshead will hold from 1500 to 1700 lbs. As to a sale do as you think best. I have rented Gen'l Miller's house, near the capitol for \$140.00 and will move

[page 2]

as soon as you are ready and the state of the river will permit. I got a letter from David Thomas⁴ last week. He finally hired Moses⁵ to Sanford. Thomas will make my settlement with the Court. He has succeeded pretty well in collecting and I sincerely hope that the day will come when the administration of that estate may be closed.

I am very much pleased with James's letter, and as it is the first letter he ever wrote, he asks me to make liberal allowances for his errors in spelling &c. I willingly do this. But I don't believe Jimbo wrote that letter. I hardly think he can write so good a ~~letter~~ one. I believe Thos. H.⁶ wrote it. Is not this the fact, Jimbo? If there should not be seconds enough to make a hogshead full, it will be best to put in enough good Tobacco to make I out. I am very much pleased that Theodorick⁷ is so good a boy as to learn his book so well. I will not forget him, and will be sure to make him a present of a nice little Book if he will continue to learn so fast. Tell Albert⁸ I want to see him mighty bad, and I must come down before long any how after him. I should hardly think it possible for us to move up sooner than the 1st of April. It would suit me better to come down immediately after the last day of March. And I presume this will be as soon as you can leave home. But if you should be ready sooner we will move up. If the Tobacco can be prized and sent off before we leave, I shall be glad, for I need the money, but such is the state of the weather, that I hardly think it can be done, and I do not wish it to be put up in bad ~~weather~~ order.

[page 3]

I again say that you must manage about a sale. about writing to your Bro. Jeffery⁹, and about getting ready to move as you may think best. Situated as I am it is impossible for me to advise you as to particulars.

Let me hear from home regularly. I am to give Genl Miller 10 day's notice before I move up in order that he may leave the House.

Give my Respects to Mrs. Gannaway¹⁰ and all the children, and to my friends down the creek. Hamilton Fant¹¹ expects to come down in a week or 10 days. Aurelia¹² I suppose will be Home ere this reaches you: therefore I have not written to her since the receipt of her last letter. If convenient I sho[uld] like very well for you to pay off Mrs. Sibley's account and Aurelia's Bills in St. Charles.

I am glad to hear that you are no longer troubled with the Post Office.

Affectionately

Jas. R. McDearmon

I still continue in good health. Mr. _____gh [Hough?] has been very unwell for several days-----

In other handwriting, perhaps one of his children practicing:
I still continue in good health Mr Slough
I still continue in good health
I I still continue in good health Mo Haugh
I I still continue in good health Mr Hough

[page 4]

Postmark Jefferson City Mo. Mar 1 and stamped "PAID"
Addressed to James R. McDearmon Jr.
Femme Osage
St. Charles County Mo

In other handwriting, perhaps James, Jr. practicing:
Master James R. R.

Historical Notes:

James references an estate settlement in this letter, which is the estate of his brother-in-law Edmund Gannaway who died in 1841. James became Gannaway's administrator and guardian of his eight children. (See Letter 10 for additional notes.)

¹ James R. McDearmon, James and Martha's son, age 11

² John K. McDearmon, James and Martha's son, age 16

³ Calvin H. Davidson, married to James and Martha's niece Adaline

⁴ Possibly Judge David Thomas. Indeed, the St. Louis County Probate Court Record Book Vol. K pp. 332-333 shows that Thomas appeared on James's behalf on March 5 and made his settlement.

⁵ Moses, an enslaved person formerly belonging to Edmund and Frances Gannaway. In November 1849, the St. Charles Probate Court ordered that he and the rest of the former Gannaway enslaved persons be sold by public auction on January 1, 1850: Moses (32), Styra (26), Daniel (21), George (13), Charles (11), Jerry (10), Emily (6) and Moses (1).

⁶ Thomas H. McDearmon, James and Martha's son, age 13

⁷ Theodorick McDearmon, James and Martha's son, age 5

⁸ Albert G. McDearmon, James and Martha's son, age 3

⁹ Jeffrey/Jeffery Gannaway, Martha's brother, was living in Callaway County at this time

¹⁰ Mrs. Gannaway is Martha's mother, who is living with the family at Femme Osage

¹¹ Hamilton Fant, a hotel owner in Jefferson City and family friend

¹² Aurelia McDearmon, James and Martha's daughter, age 18, is away studying at Linden Wood in St. Charles, run by Mrs. Sibley

LETTER 7

[Page 1]

Mount Hood, Sepr. 26th 1847

Respected Friend,

At the base of this Monument of eternal Snows I address you a few lines having heard of my friend Mr. Comegis¹ being on the road I set out to meet him with team & supplies Knowing that the tug of this journey was at the Cascade Mountains. having met him on the Columbia in fine spirits and good health with his teams in good plight, we proceeded on & met at this place our old Friend Mr. Glendi², on his return to the states – having come from the states this season and intends taking his Christmas dinner at home St. Charles. if he succeeds it will be surpassing any traveling hitherto performed – and the next thing to the electric Telegraph.

My former letter to you gave my journeyings [sic] through and views [sic] of California and Oregon. This summer has been unusually [sic] warm, and the dry weather setting [sic] in very early made short crops of Spring wheat, but the wheat sown in good order in the fall produced a fine harvest. Although the emigration is double any previous year I think there will be a sufficiency [sic] of breadstuff. we are much disappointed and chagrined at the neglect we have met with in Congress. the hive here is in a universal hum and threatens to swarm, but I hope the bees will bear another season, or till forbearance ceases to be a virtue. The first law of nature is self preservation - and it is equally so with communities as well, as with individuals. our situation as at present organized cannot long be endured [sic]. The Indians, whose lands we have violently taken possession of have become restless & impatient. we have told them that the “Boston Lyes” would come and pay them for their lands. they with great patience have waited from year to year till their patience have become exhausted. they tell us now that these promises are all “cultus wa wa³ (bad talk) and are occasionally making reprisals on the frontier settlers. then again

[Page 2]

we have perplexities among ourselves – altho [sic] a verry [sic] morral [sic] community we have some who will not submit to our little code of laws - & we do not wish to use any verry [sic] exemplary measures. besides we are living in an uncertain Condition as to our homes. you Know Sir the inducements held out to the emigrants. different Presidents have recommended liberal donations, both houses of Congress have passd. Bills of the same nature. we have had the unofical [sic] Pledges of the whole Government. Many grave members of Congress have assured their Constituents that Congress would make the donations. you Know too that the Orogan [sic] question was interwoven in the last Presidential Contest.⁴ Yet both Political parties have failed to carry out their assurances [crossed out] the apology [sic] – was it interfered with the Treaty then pending. pray who made that Treaty the Emigrants to Orogan [sic] made it. We have done what the Government was affraid [sic] to do. least they would Stur [sic] the Ire of the Lion. and now the Treaty being settled, the Mexican war is the way. & by Mr. Calhouns⁵ amendments I see that its to be an other Missouri question.⁶ its to be made part of the Presidential Contest, and we are to be made the victims of it. We dont want Slavery here. none of us ever expected slavery here. & why force it on us, against our wishes. On the subject of Donations⁷ I wish to God, more members of Congress who oppose the Bill would have to cross these mountains, as poorly outfitted as the emigrants generally are. they would learn by hardships & privations, to feel for others. & I think it would qualify Mr. Calhoons [sic] eloquence to a little morral [sic] honesty. They may introduce Bills, commit, and recommit, and lay on the table, but the land we will have. peaceably if we can _____ if we must. nothing but Linns Bill with Crittenden’s amendment will satisfy the people. They might possibly put up with something less, ~~but~~ but the land they will have. This is no Bombastic threat. we are bound by every ligament of our hearts to to our

country and its institutions, but we are also bound to our wives & little ones. [illegible] we thank our friends in Congress for their perseverance we pray them to continue to fight with us to the brink of the ditch.

I remain
your friend [sic] and humble
Servant,
Felix Scott

Hon J.R. McDearman [sic]

[Page 3]
[blank]

[Page 4]
[in another hand] Description of Oregon & California

[in another hand] High [illegible]
Yours

Honbl. James R. McDearman [sic]
Jefferson City
MO

[in another hand] Politeness of Mr. Glendi

Historical Notes:

Felix Scott (1786-1858) was born in Monongalia County, Virginia and settled in St. Charles County in 1816. He served in the Missouri House and Senate in 1822-1828 & 1830-1832. In 1845, Scott and his family crossed the plains to California and moved to Oregon in 1846. He settled in what is now Lane County and served in the Oregon Territorial Legislature.

¹ The Abraham Comegy and Felix Scott families were friends in Monongalia County, VA (now West Virginia) and moved to St. Charles County, Missouri, and finally to Oregon together. He had been a politician in Virginia, Missouri, and finally Oregon.

² Possibly "Glenday." Thomas Glenday, son of Ann Lindsey and Patrick Glenday, immigrants from Scotland who moved to St. Charles. His name appears on land records from 1840 to about 1854 in St. Louis and St. Charles Counties.

³ A Chinook Indian expression for worthless talk

⁴ 1844 – James K. Polk (Democrat) vs. Henry Clay (Whig)

⁵ John C. Calhoun (1782-1850) of South Carolina insisted on the rights of slave holders to take slaves into any U.S. territory and opposed Congressman Wilmot's 1846 resolution that would have prohibited slavery in any territory acquired in the Mexican War.

⁶ The Missouri Compromise whereunder both Maine and Missouri became U.S. states with Missouri a slave state and Maine free

⁷ The Donation Land Act was ultimately passed in 1850, granting single men a half section (320 acres) of land and married couples whole sections (640 acres) of free land. Recipients had to live

on and cultivate the land for four years and file a claim by 1853. In 1846-47 Felix Scott was one of the first white men to claim and settle on 640 acres land in what is now Lane County. He filed Oregon Donation Land Claim #1270 on this land.

LETTER 8

[Page 1]

Columbia, Mo.

Dear Fath

Yours of the 8th came to hand on yesterday and was very gratifying to us as we had not heard from home before for about two weeks. on the same day John received a letter from Aurelia¹ also We were getting so anxious indeed to hear from home and had almost come to the conclusion that you did not intend writing to us any more. Now there Mama², Aurealia [sic], and James³ all of might write to us if they would. And I hope that hereafter some one of them will write to us at least once a week. you must not come to the conclusion because you hear from us, that we do not wish to hear from you also, for I assure [sic] you that we are as anxious to hear from you as you can be to hear from us. You asked some questions in your letter which I shall now attempt [sic] to explain. First you said "I have been informed that a few days since when Thad Boon⁴ and _____ Baber passed through Columbia, that you, John and young Mr. Kennedy and perhaps some others went with Thad upon his invitation into a liquor house and drank liquor at the Bar." When Thad Boon arrived here he called at our boarding hous [sic], went up to Mr. Selbys Hotel when he immediately put at us to drink with him he continued his entreatys [sic] until at last we consented in order that we might get rid of him. You cannot conceive how miserable has been my condition ever since the receival of your letter on finding

[Page 2]

that you were so much distressed. I have thought of nothing else since I read your letter and can think of nothing else now. I know not how dark Thad may have made it appear, but I do know that it is precisely as I have stated it. That it was the first time since I have been here and will also be the last. You asked for a true history of this affair and I have now given it. And now I ask to be excused to be forgiven and that this may be the last that we shall ever hear of it. You also said that if you rightly remembered that we both promised you when we left home that we would not enter a dramshop while at the university. In this I think you are mistaken I do not remember it John says that he does not remember it, but however since this has been brought into discussion a I now promise that I will not enter a dramshop while I remain here. As respects to the character of Thad Boon there is no one who more detests such than I do, And can conceive of nothing in our actions heretofore or at present that would lead any one to believe this but on the contrary. I own I have committed [sic] a very bad action and I know [sic] ask to be excused and I assure [sic] you this shall be the last.

I remain your Obt. Son
Thomas H. McDearmon

[Page 3]

Columbia Nov. 14th

Dear Father

In your's of the 8 you express a wish ~~that~~ to hear from us both soon, relative to a report you have heard, to which I answer this. When Thad Boon arrived here in the stage, some days since, He called at our room to see us and we went to the Hotel to see him start. When he went to start he asked us all to drink with him wich [sic] we refused to do, but upon his repeated entreaties we finally concluded to drink with him to get rid of him. I need not tell you that this was the first and the last time that I shall ever taste a drink of Liquor in this town. We addmit [sic] that we have done rong [sic] and that [we] should not have done it, but we did it unthoughtfully, and we beg to be forgiven. We feel that we have so [paper torn]_____ a deed almost unpardonable and we blush to think of it. But it is done and it cannot be helped or remedied [sic] now.

You say in your letter "~~you~~ I need not express ~~your~~ my opinion of Thad Boon for that you knew before." I now say that no one has more more contempt for such a character as that of Thad Boon's than I do.

This news has been communicated to you by Thad Boon him self. I know no one else who could have done it and I am now glad that he told you for it will be a warning that I never shall forget. This thing has never left my mind since I herd [sic] it, and I now beg that it will be forgiven, forgotten and never again mentioned.

Your Affectionate Son,
John K. McDearmon

[Page 4]

Private

Mr. James R. McDearmon
City of Jefferson

[in pencil by a later hand] Brother John & Thomas, letter to their father Year Th[r]ee

Historical Notes:

John K. McDearmon and Thomas H. McDearmon, brothers, were attending University of Missouri in Columbia (then Missouri State University). No year appears on the letter, but it is presumed to be 1847. John was about to turn 18, and Thomas was 15. The boys' father James would die just a few months later in March 1848. John would drop out of school to help support his family and move to Jefferson City.

¹ Aurelia McDearmon, Thomas and John's sister and James's daughter

² Martha A. (Gannaway) McDearmon

³ James R. McDearmon, Thomas and John's younger brother

⁴ Possibly Thaddeus Boon/Boone (1825-1862), great-great-nephew of Daniel Boone

LETTER 9

[Page 1]

City of Jefferson
April 13. 1848

Dear Mother

Dr. Davidson requests me to write to you. he wishes me to "wave [sic] notice" on his account so the he may have it allowed at the next term of the court. he wish me to sign your name to the notice and he wants your consent to my doing so. I have no news. I wrote to Aurelia¹ last sunday and I suppose that you will get both of my letters at the same male [sic]. Tell Aurelia that Miss Ann Minor & Mr. Walker are married and they came to town day before yesterday. the yong me [young men?] gave them a glorious Shirevarie² on the Night they came in town. Mr. Hodge the widower from Osage is to be married on next monday to a widow Lady near Boonville, a relation of Mrs. Parsons. Miss Fanny Parsons is going up to the wedding. The small Pox is in town or in other words it is in the Penitentiary. a convict brought it up on him some two weeks ago. I fear it will be spread through the whol [sic] town. if it gets out of the Wall of the Penitentiary I am for leaving this burg as soon as I can make tracks. Nothing more.

Your affectionate Son,
Jno. K. McDearmon

{ P.S. please answer this tuesday [sic] or it will be too late for the court }

[Pages 2-3]

[blank]

[Page 4]

Postmark Jefferson City MO. APR 14

Mrs. Martha A. McDearmon
Femme Osage
St. Charles
County MO**Historical Notes:**

John writes this letter to his mother Martha following the March 20, 1848 death of his father James. John dropped out of university to move to Jefferson City to help manage his family's affairs. It references the Cole County Probate case for his father's estate.

¹ Aurelia McDearmon, John's sister and Martha's daughter

² Shivaree: a noisy mock serenade for newlyweds. Before the time of honeymoons, friends of a newly married couple would gather outside the couple's window on their wedding night to sing loudly and make noise with kettles and any tools they could gather. Also *charivari* in some regions.

LETTER 10

[Page 1]

June 21 femeosage

Dear Thomas Henry

As I am alone and vary [sic] loansome [sic] I will try to write to you and let you no [sic] how we are getting along I cant say that it is vary [sic] well for it is vary [sic] dry and we have not got our little Crop of tobaco [sic] to Stand well and your uncle is quite Crass and dont Care to help us along the rest of the family is vary [sic] friendly I have hired Daniel¹ out and it makes him cray [cry?] I found that wouldad [sic] not make any tobaco [sic] nor nothing else that would bring me anny [sic] monay [sic] and Could not afford to hire a negro to fill my cribs a with Corn that was owing to me I understand that he says that I shall not have half of the Crop and if thare [sic] is nothing making but the corn and that I am bound to have Mr. Johson² has taken Denul [Daniel] Davidson³ raised such a row that I said nothing to him thomas thay [sic] have acted meaner then [sic] you ever saw people they got mad with me because I objected to his being the guardian of the Children and sayd [sic] he would give anny boddy [sic] a scuffle before thay [sic] should have it after you left hear [sic] I got a letter from your uncle Henry⁴ and he wished me if possible to get Mr. Johsan [Johnson] take the business [sic] wich [sic] he agreed to ablige [sic] me

and Adaline has take him in hand and before she is done she will make him out as mean

[Page 2]

as we are. She has bin [sic] round in the neighborhood to let the people no [sic] how mean we are She does not scruple to say that thay [sic] ware [sic] rich when hur [sic] papa died and yours cheated them out of it all are [or] what little is left I want old Johnson to have Thomas this is too much for us to stand I some times think I cant stand it long and would not care how soon if it was not for my children I wish I had rented in Jefferson and tryed [sic] to stayd [sic] thare [sic] whare [sic] I no [sic] I had friends. I received a letter from Mr. Factlar and you cant amagin [sic] how much pleasure it was to me to hear how he spoke of you he spoke of you in the best terms and sayd [sic] that he hard that general Parsons⁵ was pleased with John you must tell Mr. Facklar that I was vary [sic] glad to receive a letter from him especial one with such good news and give my best respects to Mr and Mrs factlar tell them thay [sic] must visit me I want to see them and talk with them

we are trying to get the children along but it is slow we have bet little heart to do anny [sic] thing but I try to the best I can I sent to St Louis by Mr Johnson and got Aurelia⁶ a saddle it cost fifteen dollars and he got me a barrel of Shugar [sic] that was ten dollars we cant live with out spending money [sic] Aurelia is obliged to

[Page 3]

have many little things such as shoes and I had to get a bridle and martin gale for her and I have not received one cent of money since I came hear [sic] we have this morning sint [sic] sixty bushels of wheat to St Charles and it will bring nothing now and as for the tobaco [sic] I dont no [sic] as it will ever get of and if it does its worth nothing now⁷ thay [sic] have got six hogs head prised [sic] and thare [sic] is two more of the old Crop to prise [sic]

thomas when do you think you will Come to see us you must Come when you can but you are much better of then [sic] if you ware [sic] hear [sic] for there is two many of us hear [sic] now

I think that I will try to get James⁸ to stay at Dr Macelhany⁹ to go to School with James william this fall if it does not Cost two much

tell me what you think of it you grand mother¹⁰ sends her love to you) Mr wiatt¹¹ want to hire Jane¹² but I dont think I shall lit [sic] him hire hur [sic] when you write to me let me know what you think of things in general. I conclud [sic] by [illegible]
you most affectionate mother

M A McDearmon

the black girls¹³ sinds [sic] there [sic] love to you

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Femme Osage, MO
June 21st. 1848

Mr. Thomas McDearmon
Linn
Osage MO

Historical Notes:

Martha writes to her son Thomas who at the moment seems to be staying in Osage County, though eight months earlier he was attending university in Columbia, Boone County. Martha speaks of trouble between her and the Davison/Davidson family. James R. McDearmon's (Martha's husband and Thomas's father) sister Frances was married to Martha's brother Edmund. When Edmund died in 1841 (according to the donor, family lore says Frances died on or around that same day), the eight Gannaway children were assigned John S. Wyatt as their guardian. On Feb. 27, 1844, Wyatt resigned his guardianship at the request of the children and James R. McDearmon was assigned to be their new guardian. At that time, the children were Adaline D., Francis R., Asbury C. (all over 14), and Rhoda V., Susan E., Martha F., Edmund and Sarah Ann (all under 14).

An Apr. 4, 1847 letter from James to Theodorick C. Gannaway of Virginia states that all eight Gannaway children lived with him and his wife until the time Adaline, the eldest Gannaway heir, married (May 20, 1845). At that time, Francis and Asbury were sent to St. Louis to become carpenters' apprentices. James sent Rhoda and Susan to live with Adaline and her husband Calvin Davison, leaving the youngest (Martha, Edmund and Sarah) with James and family.

When James died in March 1848, Adaline apparently started badmouthing Martha (per this letter) and she and her husband wanted her youngest siblings with them. (Asbury died in September 1847 and Rhoda in July 1846, prior to this letter.) Although Martha would remain the guardian of the actual children, Charles M. Johnson became the administrator of their estates at Adaline's behest.

¹ Daniel, an enslaved person formerly belonging to Edmund and Frances Gannaway. In November 1849, the St. Charles Probate Court ordered that he and the rest of the former

Gannaway enslaved people be sold by public auction on January 1, 1850: Moses (32), Styra (26), Daniel (21), George (13), Charles (11), Jerry (10), Emily (6) and Moses (1).

² Probably Charles M. Johnson, administrator of the Gannaway children's estates

³ Probably Calvin Davison/Davidson, husband of Adaline

⁴ Henry E.W. McDearmon, brother of James R. McDearmon, who lived in Boonville, Missouri

⁵ Mosby Monroe Parsons, served in the Mexican-American War, now working as a lawyer in Jefferson City. Martha's son John K. McDearmon was studying law under him.

⁶ Aurelia McDearmon, Martha's daughter and Thomas's older sister, age 20

⁷ In 1850, [Martha sued John Orrick](#) (John K. McDearmon's father-in-law) for over \$300 worth of uncollected debt for tobacco.

⁸ James R. McDearmon, Martha's son and Thomas's younger brother, age 14

⁹ Possibly Dr. William J. McElhiney (1798-1883)

¹⁰ Martha's mother Rhoda Gannaway, who is living with the family at Femme Osage

¹¹ John S. Wyatt

¹² Jane, another of the family's enslaved persons. She appears in the estate file inventory for James R. McDearmon with Martha as administratrix.

¹³ James's estate file lists several enslaved persons by name: Harriet and her child, Jane, Clarissa and Benjamin. By the time of the 1850 Census, Martha's number of enslaved grew from five to ten, likely because of the addition of the Gannaways.

LETTER 11

[page 1]

City of Jefferson
July 14th 1848

Dear Mother:

I received your letter on last Saturday of the first word I had received from home for three weeks, except by chance I hapened [sic] to meet with old David Hayse on the steamer Roma he told me that he had ~~received~~ seen uncle Jeffrey¹ a few days before he left Femme Osage and that he told him that our family was all well.

You speak of your troubles and difficulties [sic] and how Adaline² has treated you and Aurelia³ by going round the neighborhood vilafying [sic] and abusing you. I would advise you not to have anything to do with her but treat her with that cool contempt she so justly merits if I were in your place I would not mention her name to anyone unless it was mentioned to ~~you~~ me and then in a mild manner. You have nothing in the world to expect from her and nothing to ask ~~of her~~ ~~except~~ not even charity of her silence; if she is willing to take upon her self the name of a "neighborhood slanderer" she is welcome to do so, it will evidently not avail her anything, but on the contrary it will have a tendency to sink her in the estimation of everybody in that neighborhood except old Stallard [?] and he is too contemptible to notice. You ought not to suffer yourself to become uneasy about the crops or anything of that kind for you will not have any dificulty [sic] in raising enough to live upon.

I received a letter from uncle Henry⁴ last week he writes me that his family are all well except aunt Sarah, she has the mumps. he told me that he would write to you and give you advice how to

[page 2]

proceed in your ~~letter~~ business. I heard from Thomas⁵ a day or two since he was well. The health of Jefferson is very good at this time but we have had some very sever [sic] cases in town since you left. Mrs. Linn is just recovering from one of the most sever [sic] attacks I ever heard of. Major Huston and William Minor are both came very near dying about a month since; Judge Glove is also dangerously ill occasioned by the falling from a horse. I would write you more in detail but the office is crowded with men and I am very much fatigued, from being so busy all day, and Gen Parsons⁶ is not at home so all the duties of the office devolve upon me. I will close by promising you a longer and a better letter next time.

Your affectionate son
John K. McDearmon

P.S. I intend coming down if possible about the last of August or the first of October.

John K. McDearmon

[page 3 – blank]

[page 4]

Postmarked Jefferson City
Addressed to
Mrs. Martha A. McDearmon
Femme Osage
St. Charles Co. Mo.

Historical Notes:

See historical notes for the previous letter.

¹ Jeffrey Gannaway, one of Martha's older brothers, born 1781 in Virginia and living in Callaway County, Missouri

² Adaline Davison/Davidson, Martha's niece and John's cousin. See Letter 10 for more information.

³ Aurelia McDearmon, Martha's daughter and John's older sister

⁴ Henry E.W. McDearmon (1808-1882), James R. McDearmon's brother living in Boonville. Sarah (Collins) was his wife.

⁵ Possibly John's brother Thomas or his cousin Thomas H.B. McDearmon, son of Henry E.W. McDearmon

⁶ General Mosby Monroe Parsons (1822-1865), who had served in the Mexican-American War in 1847. After the death of his father, John K. McDearmon had to drop out of the University of Missouri. He worked in the circuit and county clerk's offices and studied law under General Parsons. John was working in Parsons's law office at the time of this letter.

LETTER 12

[Page 1]

City of Jefferson
January 27, 1849

Dear Mother

Your letter bearing date of Jan'y 17 was duly received and I take this my earliest opportunity of answering it. I was very glad to hear from home and will still be more anxious to hear from there since I received your letter on account of hearing that Theodorick¹ has been sick and also Sam. I should like to hear from you as soon as possible. You speak in your letter of the cholera being in St. Louis that is a fact there has been several cases there. should it come to Jefferson and there is no doubt of its coming here I will no[t] know what to do whether to come home or stay here, but I do not see any use in running from it. I received a letter from uncle Henry² last week he seems to think that it will be sure to come to Jefferson. it is indeed a very alarming disease, and one to be avoided if possible. Jefferson has not been as healthy this winter as it usually is. there have been several death in town and its vicinity but none of those among your acquaintances Except Old Mrs. Miller she died about a week since.

[Page 2]

The members of the Methodist Church gave a Tea Party over at the state House last saturday Evening and one last Tuesday Evening there were a good many persons in attendance. I attended both of them and particularly enjoyed my self very much at both. Four of the Columbia ladies have been here for some three or four weeks. Misses Shields, Miss Todd & Miss Thomas and several ladies from Fulton & Boonville. Aurelia³ is well I was down to see her last night she told me she had to written to Ann M. Johnson this week. Nothing of Interest is doing in the Legislature this winter. I suppose you have not heard that Judge McBride and Judge Scott are no longer Judges of the Supreme Court. Govenor [sic] King⁴ refused to nominate them. he nominated in their stead James Burch & Judge Ryland it has caused a great deal of dissatisfaction with him here. he is in my opinion a poor Govenor [sic]. It is thought and I believe that he is under the management of Gen. Thos. L. Price, which is a bad omen you know. Lieutenant Wm. Royall was over here a week or two since he came I suppose for the money we owed his mother. Thomas⁵ was up here at the time and we concluded that rather than be

[Page 3]

bothered about it any more we would pay him and we did so. ~~Well, Mama, I have put the most~~ Well, Mama, I have deferred the most important part of my letter until the last. I suppose you have heard of a fiver [sic] which is prevailing now called the "California Fever," and I must inform you that I have been one of its earliest victims. I have hitherto been affraid [sic] to mention this subject to you, but I now see nothing in the way and nothing to hinder me from going except your won consent, but I think you will be willing for me to go when you think of what a field is opened for the yong [sic] and enterprising [sic] in California. I have a number of chances afforded me for going but I shall await your consent before I choose among [them? – paper torn]. I would like to know what you think about it for I do not know how you can refuse to let me go. You may rest asured [sic] that I will not go without your consent. If you are willing for me to go, let me know as soon as possible so I may make the necessary preparations for such a trip. If you are willing for me to go I will come down and see you all before I start I expect a company will leave here about the last of April and if I go I would like to go with them. I would like to Hear from you soon on that subject.

Your affectionat [sic] son,

John K. McDearmon

[Page 4]

Postmark Jefferson City, MO JAN 30

Mrs. Martha A. McDearmon
 Femme Osage
 St. Charles Co.
 MO

Historical Notes:

John mentions the California Gold Rush and expresses interest in going. There is no record that he actually went.

¹ Theodorick McDearmon, Martha's son and John's younger brother, age 8

² Henry E.W. McDearmon lived in Boonville

³ Aurelia McDearmon, Martha's daughter and John's older sister, age 21

⁴ Austin Augustus King (1802-1870) was Missouri's governor from 1848-1852. Apparently, John K. McDearmon did not like the Governor's choice of appointees. From a family standpoint, had his father James R. McDearmon not died in March 1848, James might have run as the Democratic candidate for governor instead of King.

⁵ Thomas McDearmon, Martha's son and John's younger brother, age 16

LETTER 13

[page 1]

Council Bluffs, Iowa
 December 16th, 1866

Dear Nephew¹

Yours of the 19th Ultimo came to hand in due time, and on last Sunday I received one from William and my wife. The one from ~~my~~ her was dated Nov. 19,th and post marked Leavenworth. She says I can come home whenever I wish, that she has called on Mr. Adams Attorney at Boonville, an old and able Lawyer, and he says I must go direct to Jefferson City and give myself up to the Govenor [sic]. Things have transpired since and are now transpiring in Missouri, which I am not sufficiently advised of to thoroughly understand the purpose. The Gov. proclamations, the ordering out

[page 2]

the Militia. This looks as if Missouri was again going to have a Military substituted for Civil government; at least wherever the troops are National. I have no desire to fall into their hands, and I do not see how I could escape it if I were to return. I have no fears of a jury, but I have of a mob. I do not feel safe here, the material here is for almost anything. I had concluded to leave here about the first of Jan'y for Jefferson City direct; until I saw the proclamation; but I must defer it until farther advised. I would like to have your views. I am fearful that you are to have a

troublesome time in Missouri. There seems to be no way to circumvent the Govenor [sic]. His Government is absolute.

[page 3]

Whenever I return for trial, I shall demand a change of venue, and unless Judge Miller has changed entirely, the case would be sent to Howard, where I would have no fears; but I know you cannot always rely on him. he is always for Judge Miller. that you may rely on; and apart from that, and he is uncertain. I could write you a great deal in regard to this matter, but I am not certain that it would be prudent. I am expecting a letter from Thomas every day, and when I do get one I am in hopes he will give me a full statement on the condition of things about Boonville. Write me when you receive this and give me your views in full in regard to myself, and also the objects of the Gov.

[page 4]

The Missouri River has been frozen over for five or six days, and the snow is some eight or ten inches deep here. Until six or eight days ago we have had pleasant weather. Give my love to your Ma and the rest of my relations. I am fearful that you will not be able to read this letter, it is so badly written. I am so nervous I can scarcely write. Your ever affectionate uncle

H.E.W. McDearmon

Historical Notes:

In January 1865, Henry E.W. McDearmon was Mayor of Boonville, Cooper County. He was called to the scene of an argument between Margaret Beck and Henry Hillsman. Hillsman, a discharged soldier formerly of the 1st Infantry Missouri State Militia Co. G, had been harassing Beck (a "huckster shop" owner per the 1860 Census) and McDearmon was called to restore order. According to contemporary newspapers, Hillsman became belligerent with McDearmon, and McDearmon shot him. Hillsman died three days later. McDearmon fled Missouri under threat of his life, and Gov. Thomas Clement Fletcher issued a proclamation for his capture on January 23 with a \$300 reward. McDearmon did turn himself in to the Governor after this letter. He was indeed granted a change of venue to Howard County. In June 1867, a jury there found him not guilty based on self-defense and acquitted him of all charges.

¹ Presumably John K. McDearmon

LETTER 14

May 14th / 89. Tuesday A.M.

Dear Wife,

Grandma McDearmon, after weeks of agony and suffering passed into the sleep which knows no waking at half past eleven o'clock last night. Her last hour was the freest from pain she has had for weeks and with full possession of her mental faculties she died as calmly and quietly as a child dropping to sleep. For some time past she has prayed continually that God would take her and end her sufferings, and she was fully prepared and willing to go down into the "dark valley of the shadow." No arrangements as to the burial have been made, but she will be buried

sometime tomorrow. No one could have had tenderer care, or kinder better friends than poor old Grandma and she appreciated it all.

Your affectionate husband
J.R. McDearmon

Just as she was dying she closed with her own hand her poor weary eye lids.

[News clipping #1]

Death of Mrs. M. A. McDearmon.

A dispatch from St. Charles, Mo., received here this morning announced the death last night of Mrs. M. A. McDearmon at the home of her son, John K. McDearmon. Mrs. McDearmon was the widow of the late Hon. James R. McDearmon, who was at the time a prominent man in the State and filled the office of State Auditor. She and her husband were among the pioneer residents of St. Charles County. Mrs. McDearmon was 87 years of age, and up to within a few weeks of her death after she had suffered from lingering disease retained all of her faculties, and the bright, cheerful disposition which characterized her to a remarkable degree. She was a member of the Episcopal Church. The funeral will take place to-morrow at St. Charles.

[News clipping #2]

Mrs. McDearmon's Funeral

By Telegraph to the Post-Dispatch

ST. CHARLES, MO., May 16. – The funeral of Mrs. Martha A. McDearmon took place yesterday from the residence of her son, Capt. John K. McDearmon, to Trinity Chapel and thence to the City Cemetery, where the remains were interred. The Rev. Mr. Hunt officiated. Despite the heavy rain in the morning the funeral was attended by people from all over the county, as Mrs. McDearmon was wisely known and was held in the highest esteem. Her character was so admirable and her disposition so bright, sweet and lovely that she bound her friends closely to her and the news of her death was received with profound regret, although it came as a relief after long and intense suffering. It was remarkable that although 87 years of age she retained her cheerful spirit and every faculty to the hour of her death. Her last act was to close her eyes in preparation for the end.

Historical Notes:

The letter writer is James R. McDearmon (1856-1891), son of John K. McDearmon (1829-1896) and grandson of State Auditor James R. McDearmon (1805-1848) and Martha A. (Gannaway) McDearmon (1802-1889).