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W.W. Mansfield [typed transcripts], 1861-1864

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W.W. Mansfield letters [typed transcripts]
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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Arkansas State Archives
Title	W.W. Mansfield letters [typed transcripts]
Date [inclusive]	1861-1864
Extent	0.05 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials entirely in English.
Microform [Reel]	MG00201

Preferred Citation

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Biographical Note

Judge William W. Mansfield was born January 15, 1830, in Scottsville, Kentucky. His parents were Col. George Washington Mansfield and Frances Cockrill Mansfield of Scottsville.

Mansfield studied law in the office of Judge Loving at Bowling Green and was admitted to the bar there in 1852. In 1853 at the age of 22, he went to Franklin County, Arkansas, and settled at Ozark, where he made his home almost continuously for 60 years. He was married to Sallie Henderson Shores on December 22, 1859, at Pleasant Hill, in Franklin County. Sallie Shores Mansfield was the daughter of Alfred M. Shores and Betsy Quesenbury Shores of Crawford County. She was born on October 26, 1837. After a few years, the Shores family moved to Pleasant Hill, Franklin County, where Sallie remained until her marriage.

Judge William W. Mansfield was a school teacher, at the same time, justice of the peace, and attended to small legal business entrusted to him. He was representative from Franklin County in the General Assembly of 1856; a delegate to the convention of 1861 (which passed an ordinance of secession); a member of the convention of 1874; and at the first election held under the new constitution was elected judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, but at the close of his term, in 1878, he resigned and resumed the practice of law. In 1882, he was defeated by Governor Berry, to digest the statutes of the State, and compiled the work published in 1884, usually referred to as "Mansfield's Digest." He was a reporter to the Arkansas Supreme Court from 1887 until 1890. As a climax to an honorable career on the bench, Judge Mansfield was appointed associate justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court in 1891 to succeed Judge J.R. Eakin. He resigned from that position May 5, 1894, because of ill health. He returned to his home in Ozark, where he died on July 26, 1912. His wife died on October 3, 1909.

William and Sallie Mansfield were the parents of seven children: George W., John H., Mary Amanda, Walter N., Asher Caruth, W.W. Mansfield Jr., and Sallie Adelaide.

A memorial to Judge Mansfield prepared by the Arkansas bar had the following to say: "He lived during a history-making epoch of the state. He was a distinguished factor in the maintenance of order, law, and justice in this state during the stormy period succeeding Civil War. All who knew him had unbounded confidence in his uprightness of character, purity of life, and sincerity of purpose. He had so schooled himself to love justice and right that no one who knew him could conceive of his knowingly committing a wrong. Such was the love and confidence of the people in him that all positions of honor and trust that he held were rather of the people's choosing than of his seeking."

Scope and Contents

This collection contains transcripts of letters written to W.W. Mansfield between 1861-1864.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Arkansas State Archives 10/5/2020

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use. The ASA possesses the material listed in this finding aid in the original format, but due to preservation concerns this collection is accessible to the public through microfilm format.

Conditions Governing Use

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17-U.S. Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The person using this material is liable for any infringement.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Mrs. Sally Johnston Gochenour, St. Louis, Missouri, 1959.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

This collection contains typed transcripts of letters contained in the W.W. Mansfield collection (MS.000123).

Collection Inventory

D.W. [], Ozark Ark., to W.W. Mansfield 1861 March 3

John J. Walker, Ozark, Ark., to W.W. Mansfield 1861 March 12

John J. Walker, Ozark, Ark., to W.W. Mansfield 1861 March 17

C.C. Danley, Steam Boat Tahlequah, to W.W. Mansfield 1861 April 23

John J. Walker, Camp near Cassville, Mo., to W.W. Mansfield 1861 July 31

S.S. Griffith, Fort Smith, to W.W. Mansfield 1862 January 8

R.B. Tyns, Washington, to W.W. Mansfield 1864 December