

Historical Society

When we can now under the present these old and valuable records of generations. records, one has to work in them county.

When trying to copy the oldest and of these are placed in the D.A.R. Society, at Frankfort; and our

of the priceless newspaper files begin with the Kentucke Gazette continuity to date, more than one historians than the Court records, found anywhere else.

Verrett Bach,
man Genealogical Records
Society, D.A.R.

at John Waller Chaper,
Lexington, Fayette Co., Ky.

1813 LETTER

When copying some letters of John Long 1773-1854 of Hawkins county, Tenn., Wayne and Pulaski counties, Kentucky, to his brother-in-law, Joseph McMinn 1758-1824, one time Governor of Tennessee, I made an extra carbon of the following, since it offers an interesting side light on history.

John Long married in 1806 Nancy Kinkead 1788-1878, daughter of David and Mary (Williams) Kinkead of Carter's Valley, Hawkins county, Tenn. The second wife of Governor McMinn, whom he married in 1812, was Rebecca Kinkead 1793-1815, Nancy's sister. The father of Captain John Long of this letter was also named John, a Revolutionary soldier residing in Carter's Valley. Ramsey's Annals of Tennessee says that the Longs and Kinkeads were the first settlers of Carter's Valley; they were located there by 1770.

The "Williams" of the letter was Williams Kinkead, 1792-1860, of Hawkins county, brother to Nancy and Rebecca.

Nine letters of John Long to Joseph McMinn have been preserved. They range in date from 1813 to 1823, the following being the first.

Prentiss Price, Rogersville, Tenn.

—December 8, 1813—

Dear Coln

I gladly embrace this opportunity of writing to you and to inform you that I have arrived Safe at home the 11th of November but far from being in perfect health I was taken Sick the 28th of October at Franklinton in the State of Ohio and Continued So till I Came home Just as much as I Could Ride My horse I have been mending lately very fast but Still very weak Just able to walk a little about or Ride a mile or two in a good Day

the rest of the family is in tolerable health

I Received your letter by my father Which has been the Second letter Since I Saw you I thought you had Determined to write no more none of you in your letter you Requested me to write on the Subject of the Campaign but I am in a poor Capacity to Write my head and my hand both Deficient

another thing I have no explites of War of my own to inform you of; my object of going out was to Serve My Country Retaliate for the River Raisin See procter Surrender his Sword kill tecumsky take Malden and Restore Detroit

Well in all these things I Come Short of only one I had not the happiness of taking procter and altho I did not kill an indian I was always found in my place Ready to execute my orders and prosecuted the pursuit as far as any of the foot men Some —of— the horse went 8 or ten miles further

I Saw what the-y- Said was tecumsky and about 13 more Dead indians and about 12 british the most of the British and indians was Shot through the head A number of British and indians both was killed on their Retreat that I Saw nothing of

there was about 13 of our Men killed in the action and Died of their wounds against the Second morning the Dead was buried a cannon and a platoon of muskets fired over their grave We immediately got orders to be in rediness to Commence our march back them orders was very agreeable for although I think their never was an army of that Size as well Supplied in provisions We was not very plenty at this time the propisions what we had was left in the Vesels Coming up the River but we out went them this Country is the best for Irish tatoes I ever Saw We took abundance of British Beef the beef eat very well Just broiled without Salt or bred at that time I had a very good stomach and Could Eat any thing I had been very hearty from home to I Come to Franklinton

it did not take us long till we arrive at Detroit where all our Sick was on the mend and was able to Come on we made but a Small halt Harrison would not let us have the fleet to bring us across the lake but we had to march Round on the Beach by the way of the River Raisin where we buried a number of bones of our kentuckens; we performed the march and arived at portage and then to hunting our horses I found mine the Second day Started home the 3d and every day Drew nearer and nearer home til at length arived at home Where I found all Well please give My Best Respects to your Companion Also Nancy Wishes to be Remembered to you both and be assured of the Sincere affections of a brother

Joseph McMinn

John Long

December 8th Day 1813

N B give our Compliments to our parents and family tell them I have wrote two or three letters and it fatigues me So much I must quit for awhile I will write by Williams he expects to be at home about Crismus

—Addressd—

Coln Joseph

McMinn Hawkins County

—endorsed by McMinn—

Capt John Long/8 Decr 1813

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