

**Edmund P. and Myra C. Gaines Papers
Collection Inventory**

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1834 November 10. Eliza B. Wiatt DS Copy to Alexander B. Bradford; s.l. (1 page). Deed of Trust, assuring that on her decease, Bradford may pay off her outstanding debts to Edmund P. Gaines with land inherited from her uncle Thomas Blount.

1839 January Term. Manuscript extract from Richard Peters's Reports XIII, pp. 240 and 242. (1 page). Subject: A US President's removal of a capable man from office in order to make the position available to a dependent or favorite is an impeachable offense.

1841 October 11. Albert M. Lea DS (official copy 1) to E[dmund] P. Gaines; Department of War. (2 pages). Ref. to August 21 letter to the late Sec. of War. The position of Commanding General (open on account of Major General Alexander Macomb's death) has been filled. Praises Gaines's meritorious service, particularly in the War of 1812. Postscript indicates that John Tyler returned Gaines's letter without comment.

1841 December 7. Edmund P. Gaines ALS Copy to John C. Spencer; Washington, D.C. (4 pages). Report on the state of Indians in the vicinity of Fort Leavenworth, the strength of the 1st US Light Dragoons at Fort Leavenworth, the good conduct of new recruits. Recommends the appointment of Col. Kearney or Davenport and Gen. Atkinson as commissioners to effect "the arrangement" of removing the remaining Sac and Fox Indians from Iowa. Comments on a line of military posts from Iowa to the Pacific Ocean. Plans to submit his plans for National Defense and assure his willingness to work well with anyone dedicated to implementing and sustaining his better system.

1842 January 14. E[dmund] P. Gaines ALS to Col. McMahon; s.l. (4 pages). Regarding "abusive" articles in the *New York American* and the *Independent*. Preparing for the trial of our case in the Supreme Court. Rough draft of portion of letter to General Joshua Whitney: Address of Myra Gaines on the horrors of war, comments on Free Press, refers to Mrs. Buchanan [Sally Ridley Buchanan].

1842 February 21. Edmund P. Gaines ALS Copy to R[oger] Jones; Washington, D.C. (7 pages). Adds confidential recommendations to his earlier printed suggestions for the improvement of frontier National Defense by the addition of a particular kind of floating battery and two boats. Special attention is paid to the Gulf of Mexico ports.

1842 June 13. Myra Clark Gaines ALS to Col. J. H. McMahon; New Orleans. (2 pages). Response to romantic confessions by Col. McMahon, respecting Caroline, one of the Gaines's cousins. Hopes that he will be their cousin in the near future.

1842 October 10. Edmund P. Gaines LS to John C. Spencer; Pass Christian, near the Bay of St. Louis. (19 pages). Lengthy discussion of a case brought against him without court martial, related to paymaster accounts. Communications related to the case met with Gaines as he engaged in an inspection tour from Baton Rouge to St. Louis. Gaines relies heavily on language used various General Orders to make the case that he is being treated with a Prison Discipline, referring to

Winfield Scott's efforts to make Gaines into a bad or indifferent officer. Encourages a full court of inquiry. Thinly veiled jabs at Scott.

1843 March 6. Myra Clark Gaines ALS to C. H. Williams; Washington, D.C. (1 page). Thanking the Hon. C. H. Williams for his efforts on behalf of Edmund P. Gaines, "for the passage of the Bill in the House." With a docket by C. H. Williams, in which he forwards the letter to another recipient to satisfy them that he "done my duty, please consider it private." Free Frank.

1843 April 20. Edmund P. Gaines LS to Roger Jones; Washington, D.C. (4 pages). Respecting illegal content in General Orders No. 40 (July 12) and No. 53 (para. 7 and 10, August 20). Believes Winfield Scott overstepped his authority in breaking up Gaines's Division. Discusses differences between standing regulations and the law. Several references to Division composition during the War of 1812.

1843 October 9. J. C. Reid ALS to [John H.] McMahon; St. Louis, Missouri. (2 pages). The Gaineses left to deal with an orphan niece and nephew. Enclosed pieces from the Missouri Republican Sept. 20 and 26, and Oct. 6, regarding disarming of Texans assembling to capture Mexican troops, traders, or property, etc. The Republican is the only paper in support of the Texans.

1844 March 28. Edmund Pendleton Gaines ALS Copy to Judge Pascal; Washington. (2 pages). Regarding papers written by Gaines several years past about the desired annexation of Texas (pamphlet with his report of February 28, 1838, pages 27-31, embracing "a plan of defence for our Western Frontier" which suggests the importance of Texas to the Naval power of the United States. Has had to speak and act with impartiality to both Texas and Mexico on account of neutrality. Will embrace annexation as soon as possible in accordance with the laws of war.

1845 July 4. E[dmund] P. Gaines ALS to J. H. McMahon; New Orleans. (1 page). Regarding arrangements with Walker. The sale of Tennessee lands owned by Gaines. "as I am sure they will be sold for less than half their actual value - and since a sacrifice is unavoidable, I wish them to be purchased by the best of Tennesseans - rather than by mere speculators." Intends to enclose a published letter he wrote to Col. Claiborne signed "A Planter."

In same letter:

1845 July 4. Edmund P. Gaines ALS copy (in Gaines's hand) to James K. Polk; New Orleans. (1 page). Excellent positive remarks on the Republic of Texas Congress's unanimous acceptance of the terms of US annexation. Reflection on the Fathers of the Revolution, "we must prove ourselves to be vigilant and ready at every vital point to maintain the ground we have fairly won. Let us no longer be idle, but go to work vigorously until we secure our Sea Ports by means applicable alike to War, and to a prosperous commerce in Peace and in war." Believes that Texas will stand as an example showing that US citizens will not expatriate themselves permanently. Quotes from the Star Spangled Banner. Encloses a copy of the July 4th Picayune.

1846 September 11. M[yra] C[lark] Gaines ALS to her cousin [J. H. McMahon]; St. Louis. (2 pages). Fine political letter, in support of the General for the Presidency "the whole City have said to me 'I wish the General would be brought forward for the Presidency we give our votes - and if our wives were permitted they would most cheerfully give theirs.'" Tennessee largely against Polk for his persecutions toward General Gaines. Believes that, if managed properly, Gaines could become the next President.

- 1846 November 26. M[yra] C[lark] Gaines ALS to her cousin [J. H. McMahan]; New York. (2 pages). Greeted with kindness by the "elite of both sexes." Managers of the Park Theatre invited them to a performance [*King John*, starring Charles Kean]. Updates on her Supreme Court case and plans to handle affairs in New Orleans. Bitter words about her estate issues. How is the baby? Please burn letter.
- 1847 March 25. Edmund P. Gaines ALS to James K. Polk; New York. (3 pages). Soliciting orders to raise a Division of volunteer troops for service in Mexico. Would send notice to Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Louisville, Memphis, Vicksburg, and New Orleans regarding his recruiting efforts. Estimates that he can obtain 20-25,000 "first rate" volunteers. References the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma.
- 1848 March 13. M[yra] C[lark] Gaines ALS to her Cousin; New York. (3 pages). Legal conversation regarding her disputed inheritance. Refers to the "miserable hypocritical Editor of the [New Orleans] 'Delta.'" Apparently refers to an article re-published a week later in the *Troy NY Daily Whig* [currently unclear which publication she enclosed in this letter.]. Will be leaving Washington on the 24th for New Orleans. Will stop in Memphis for a couple of hours. "Mr. Clay tells me that if he runs he will insist that I be put upon his ticket for Vice President - but I think I shall decline - having said I was satisfied." Health of Edmund.
- 1848 September 22. M[yra] C[lark] Gaines ALS to [Col. John H. McMahan]; New York. (3 pages). Will be placing Rhoda in an institution in New York until she is 20. Blames wicked persons from her own childhood. If she hadn't removed Rhoda from New Orleans she'd have not been able to be saved. General Scott applied for "Genl Gaines' Command" and received the position. Has received solicitations for profit from her lawsuits in exchange for capital to see them through. Made arrangements for "R" to attend Madame Conda's academy as a day scholar. Her enemies are relying entirely on an alibi, supported by the testimony of two notaries. Wishes McMahan to assure that they are not being bribed. Believes another friend is not as honorable as suspected.
- 1850 [January?] 7. [] ALS to J[ohn] H. McMahan; Memphis. (2 pages). Gun damaged while friend was using it hunting on horseback - and therefore does not feel it appropriate to send to McMahan. Suggests that he borrow a gun from Robson (of Robson & Allen). Mrs. Gaines suit: How many copies of the brief McMahan is superintending will be printed? Believes Mrs. Gaines is happy that the law will soon be complete; please send her condolences for the loss of her husband.
- 1850 April 5. "A Friend of the Family" LS to Alexander Walker; Biloxi, Miss[issippi]. (28 pages). Lengthy defense of the character and history of Mary Sophia Despau nee Carriere. Includes character statements from many individuals. Item by item refutation of various claims propagated in Walker's *Delta*.
- Undated. Edmund P. Gaines ALS to Colonel J. H. McMahan; [New Orleans]. (3 pages). Enclosing a letter to his wife, as he believes she may be in Memphis. If she is not at Memphis, please open the letter, read it, retain extracts or copies, then fold them and forward them to her at her forwarding address. Details of various troubles with Myra's travel plans and the theft of her purse "no doubt by a Black chambermaid, who was the only person in the Ladies Cabin on board the Steam Boat..." Cannot leave New Orleans for fear of being taken advantage of by his enemies.

Undated. Manuscript fragment of a draft. (4 pages). Circumstances surrounding Madame De Grange's marriage, with intent to show inconsistent testimony. Research will likely show which of Myra Gaines's cases this belongs to. The handwriting is dissimilar from Edmund or Myra.

Undated. Full plate daguerreotype portrait of Edmund Gaines housed in original gilt-plated frame. Most likely taken ca. 1848.