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ROANE, ARCHIBALD (ca. 1759-1819).
PAPERS, 1801-1803

GP 3

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Date completed: 1964
Reprocessed: 1988

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The official papers of Governor Archibald Roane contain several documents of significant value to researchers concerned with early road construction and internal improvements in Tennessee. One of the early projects involved the construction of the Cumberland Turnpike connecting the Washington and Mero Districts. Thomas N. Clark in 1802 touched upon many of the problems faced by this turnpike before its completion, mentioning particularly the Indians over whose land the road passed.

Governor Roane also dealt with the survey of the boundary line between Virginia and Tennessee as well as the construction of the famous Natchez Trace, extending from Nashville to Natchez, Mississippi. During the early days thievery and murder became a common occurrence along the Trace which brought about a series of correspondences between Governor Roane and the Secretary of War, Henry Dearborn in which the idea was advanced for the establishment of places of entertainment at various points along the Trace. Dearborn replied that President Jefferson thought well of the idea and that in addition, small detachments of troops would be stationed on the Tennessee and Duck Rivers for the protection of travelers. This correspondence also contains mention of the hopes that New Orleans and its dependencies would shortly be in possession of the United States.

The continuing conflict between frontier settlers and Indians over the latter's lands receives noteworthy attention in these papers, which also reveal certain dissatisfaction with the federal government's role in settling these problems. Many of the settlers felt that the government seemed to favor the Indians. In a lengthy message of April 13, 1803, Governor Roane cautioned the residents of Anderson County that they were subject to either prosecution in Federal courts, or removal by Federal troops if they continued to occupy land recognized by the United States as the legal property of the Indians.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Governor Archibald Roane

ca. 1759	Born in Derry Township, Lancaster (now Dauphin) County, Pennsylvania.
1767	His father – Andrew, died, followed within a year by his mother. Roane became the ward of an uncle John Roane, a Presbyterian clergyman who gave him a good education.
ca. 1780	Migrated to the west, eventually settling at Liberty Hall, Rockbridge County, Virginia where he met and married Ann Campbell.
1788	Admitted to the Bar at Jonesborough and Greeneville.
1790	Served as Attorney General of Washington District, Territory of the United States of America, South of the River Ohio.
1796	Member of the Convention which framed Tennessee's Constitution for statehood.
1801	Elected second Governor of Tennessee
1803	Defeated by John Sevier for re-election. Earlier, Roane had cast the deciding vote in electing Andrew Jackson over Sevier as Major General of the State Militia.
1811	Roane is elected Circuit Judge.
1815	Served on the Superior Court of Errors and Appeals until his death in 1819.
1819	(January 18) Death of Gov. Archibald Roane. Governor Roane and family are buried at Campbell's Station, Knox County, Tennessee.

ROANE GENEAOLOGICAL DATA

The Roane's are of pure Scottish origin. Sire Archibald Gilbert Roane, among the first of the name, was born in Scotland on February 12, 1680. After serving with distinction under William the Third, in the Civil wars of his time, he removed and settled in Greenshaw, Ireland on a grant of land given by the King to him and his heirs "as long as grass grows and water runs" in reward for his service. He had four sons, all of whom came to America. John and Andrew came in 1739 and settled in Lancaster (now Dauphin County, Pennsylvania). William and James came in 1741 and settled in Essex County, Virginia. Andrew Roane, son of Sir Archibald Gilbert Roane was born in Greenshaw, Ireland July 17, 1710; died 1768 in Pennsylvania. He was married first to Mary Bowman, no issue; second to Margaret Walker.

Archibald Roane, son of the above-named Andrew was born in 1759 and died near Knoxville, Tennessee on his plantation in Grassy Valley in 1819. He was born in Derry Township Lancaster (now Dauphin) County, Pennsylvania. Upon the death of his father in 1768 he was placed in the care of his uncle, the Reverend John Roane, a Presbyterian minister of Pennsylvania.

In the will of the Reverend John Roane, who died 1775, this mention is made of him: "I also allow to my nephew, Archibald Roane, in case the above persons, the Reverend Geo. Duffield and my Executors apprehend him religiously disposed, Twenty Pounds towards his college expense".

Archibald Roane removed from the State of Pennsylvania to Virginia and entered Liberty Hall Academy, afterwards Washington University. He graduated at Liberty Hall Academy and was Professor of Mathematics one year in said school. He studied law and removed to Tennessee; married Ann Campbell, youngest child of David Campbell of Royal Oaks, near Abingdon, Virginia.

Archibald Roane, while at college in Lancaster, Pennsylvania enlisted as a volunteer in the 5th Company, 9th Battalion, Pennsylvania Volunteers and was with Washington at Yorktown, Virginia during the Revolutionary War, and was present at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. After removing to Tennessee, he obtained a license to practice law, was shortly afterwards appointed District Attorney-General, and was in 1796 honored with the position of Judge of the Superior Court of Tennessee. He was Governor of this State from 1801 to 1803, and at the time of his death was Judge of the Supreme Court. Governor Roane was a cousin of Judge Spencer Roane of the Supreme Court of Virginia and of William Henry Roane, United States Senator from Virginia. There were several Roanes from Virginia who served terms in the United States Congress.

LIST OF DESCENDANTS OF GOVERNOR ARCHIBALD ROANE

(as known)

Judge Archibald T. Roane and family, Grenada, Mississippi
Judge William A. Roane, Houston, Mississippi
John Andrew Roane and family, Grenada, Mississippi
Archibald Gilbert Roane, Grenada, Mississippi
John Seldon Roane and family, Grenada, Mississippi
Lt. James F. Roane, Houston, Texas
S. Andrew Roane, Atlanta, Georgia
Miss Eveline Roane, Houston, Texas
Miss Mary Emma Roane, Houston, Texas
John Archibald Roane, Grenada, Mississippi
William R. Roundtree and family, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Walton Callen and family, Selma, Alabama
Archibald Roane Callen, Selma, Alabama
J. Alfred Ritter and family, Colorado Springs, Colorado
T.T. Price and family, Dallas, Texas
R.A. Beard, Jr. and family, Atlanta, Georgia
C.E. Henderson, Jr. and family, Tampa, Florida
John Steves and family, Houston, Mississippi
Eugene Cross and family, Marion, North Carolina
Ulpian Cross and family, Memphis, Tennessee
A.C. Dominick and family, Little Rock, Arkansas
Dr. King and family, Ada, Oklahoma
Hon. J.W. Boling and family, Ada, Oklahoma
William Roane Sugg and family, Ada, Oklahoma
Presnel Sugg, Ada, Oklahoma
Simeon Sugg, Ada, Oklahoma
Gaston Therall and family, Aberdeen, Mississippi
Tom Fite Payne and family, Aberdeen, Mississippi
Lt. and Mrs. Simeon Therall, Camp Pike, Arkansas
Mr. and Mrs. A.M. Harley, Houston, Mississippi
Dr. Miller Ligon and family, Ada, Oklahoma
Judge Archibald Roane Masterson and family, Houston, Texas
Harris Masterson, Houston, Texas
William Masterson, Houston, Texas
Lee Masterson, Houston, Texas
Miss Mary Masterson, Houston, Texas
Mrs. M.A. Cooper; Mrs. Walter G. Lacy, Waco, Texas
Thomas Moore Harwood and family, Gonzales, Texas
Mrs. Nea White and family, Dallas, Texas

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