**Collection #**
**SC 1235**

# CATHERINE LAWRENCE RANDOLPH PAPERS, 1802—1824


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Reprocessed by

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February 2018

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

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| VOLUME OF COLLECTION: | 6 manuscript folders |
| COLLECTION DATES: | 1802—1824 |
| PROVENANCE: | Alan Smith, March 1976. |
| RESTRICTIONS: | None |
| COPYRIGHT: | |
| REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: | Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society. |
| ALTERNATE FORMATS: | |
| RELATED HOLDINGS: | Arthur St. Clair Papers, F1058-F1065; Elisha M. Huntington Correspondence, SC2069; Northwest Territory Collection, M0367; Arthur G. Mitten Collection, M0211; Harlow Lindley Collection, M0186; Varney-Porter Family Papers, M0639; James Dill Letters, SC3310 |
| ACCESSION NUMBER: | 1976.0325; 1991.0534; 1991.0767; 1992.004; 2021.0021 |
| NOTES: | |

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Catherine Lawrence Randolph was born in Pottsgrove, Pennsylvania in 1789 to John Lawrence and Elizabeth St. Clair Lawrence. Her maternal grandfather was Northwest Territory governor Arthur St. Clair. John Lawrence died in 1799, and Elizabeth married James Dill.

For a woman of her time, Catherine traveled a fair amount, writing letters from Cincinnati, Vincennes, Jeffersonville, Lawrenceburg, and Elk Hill. In 1810 she married Thomas Randolph, Indiana Territory's attorney general; they lived primarily in Vincennes. In August 1811 they had a daughter, Mary Skipwith Randolph. Thomas Randolph died in November 1811 at the Battle of Tippecanoe while serving on William Henry Harrison's staff.

Catherine Lawrence Randolph died in Paris, Kentucky in 1816.

Sources:

Collection materials

James Dill Letters collection guide

Previous Catherine Lawrence Randolph Papers collection guide

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of Randolph's letters to family members written from Cincinnati, Vincennes, and Jeffersonville. It also includes letters to Randolph from her mother and stepfather, Elizabeth and General James Dill, written from Natchez, Mississippi and Lawrenceburg (spelled "Lawrenceburgh" by some correspondents, which was typical for the time). The correspondence includes numerous references to Arthur St. Clair and William Henry Harrison.

The letters are noteworthy in that collections of women's correspondence from the time are relatively rare. They give a great deal of attention to local events and family matters such as births, deaths, personal relationships, and the education of children. Two duels are mentioned.

Letter summaries, many from the previous collection guide, are as follows:

1802, Oct. 29 D. St. Clair, Travellers Rest, to Mrs. Elizabeth Dill, at the Hermitage, carried by Mr. Dill. Enjoyed visit of Mr. Dill but wish you could have been with him. I have been depressed, so a visit from you would have been a help. Remember me to Mr. and Mrs. Vance and Mr. Kelly. 2 pp. and integral address sheet.

1805, May 25 James Dill, Natchez, to Miss Catherine Lawrence. Complains about the weather on his journey down the river but has little fear. Hears detestable things about Thomas and warns her against being intrigued by his advances. Please attend to the educations of Betsy and Hamilton. Sends $5 for new shoes. 3 pp.

1805, May 31 James Dill, Natchez, to Miss Catherine Lawrence at Captain Vance's, Lawrenceburgh. Has been ill with violent fever. Depressed. 2 pp. and integral address sheet.

1808, Feb. 23 Catherine S. Lawrence, Cincinnati, to her mother Mrs. Elizabeth Dill, Lawrenceburgh, Indiana Territory, courtesy of Major Brownsen. Account of trip down river then by horse. Had a ball last evening in commemoration of Washington's birthday. Enjoyed being with Mr. and Mrs. Brownson; they wanted me to go on with them to Fort Adams (25 miles north of Fort Recovery). If you and Mr. Dill were there I would have gone. Comments on Mr. Cutler, Miss Peirce. Mentions St. Clair family in Cincinnati, Uncle Arthur, Mrs., Frances, John. Have not found a situation for Thomas. Messages for Molly, Betsy, Mrs. Wardell. P.S. mentions Mr. Findlay and Mrs. Salmons. 3 pp. and integral address sheet.

1808, Aug. 2 Catherine S. Lawrence, Cincinnati, to her mother Mrs. Elizabeth Dill, Lawrenceburgh, Indiana Territory, courtesy of Major Pike. I visited the cheeley (?) beat Springs on Licking; I think I received much benefit from

drinking the water. I should like to go up the river with you if Mr. Dill's circumstances would admit. I have heard of Grandpa; Mr. Pearce saw him in Pittsburgh. 2 pp. with integral address sheet.

1809, Jan. 21 M. H. ("Patsy"), Amelia, Virginia, to her brother Thomas Randolph, Vincennes, care of Governor Harrison. Apologizes for lengthy silence, as she has been ill with her pregnancy and after the birth of her daughter Ann Wayles. Praises Eliza's character and progress in her studies. Feels the love of a mother for her and promises to always care for her. The baby looks like Eliza. 3 pp. with integral address sheet.

*1809, Mar. 2 Catherine S. Lawrence, Cincinnati, to her sister Mrs. Mary Vance (wife of Samuel Colvill Vance), Lawrenceburgh, courtesy of Captain Vance. Mr. Cutler is leaving; prospect of war in that country. Mentions Mr. and Mrs. Brownson, Mrs. Salmon, Mr. and Mrs. Stone, Frances (wife of Arthur St. Clair), Uncle Arthur St. Clair. Message for Thomas. *This letter is probably 1809, but may be 1808 as the date is unclear.

1809, Apr. 11 Jonathan Taylor, Saline, to Thomas Randolph, Vincennes, Indiana Territory. Want to hear news from your country, how it affects ours. I hear that Judge Boyle of Kentucky is to be our governor. We are doing a great business in salt. Messages for Governor Harrison: His carriage will be forwarded soon and I expect to sell his land at the Fish Biou. 2 pp. and integral address sheet.

1809, Apr. 23 Catherine S. Lawrence, Cincinnati, to her mother Mrs. Elizabeth Dill, Lawrenceburgh, courtesy of Mr. Miller. Mentions Mr. Dill and Molly, brother John, and Mr. St. Clair. Messages for Molly, Catherine (child), brother Thomas, brother Samuel, sister Betsy, and brother Hamilton. 2 pp. and integral address sheet.

Circa 1809 James Dill to Miss Catherine S. Lawrence, at Mr. Stones, Cincinnati. I send you a pattern of a gown. Next time will send a shawl and any other article you should need. Glad to hear you are acquainting yourself with housewifery. 1 p. and integral address sheet.

1809, May 4 M. W. H., Clifton, Virginia, to her brother Thomas Randolph, Vincennes. In a state of suspense regarding the impending birth of her child. Patsy's baby has died of whooping cough. Mentions William Randolph's family. Molly's husband left her but friends have helped her establish a boarding house in Richmond. David is in Europe, perhaps in league with Burr or trying to leave his family. The children were sick earlier this year and Mr. H. is having them vaccinated today. Discusses the making of new suits. Describes the governor as "my old playmate Billy Harrison." Gives regards from several servants [probably enslaved]. 6 pp. and integral address sheet.

1809, Oct. 3 Thomas Randolph, Vincennes, to his sister, Cartersville, Virginia. Has been ill. Discussed Harrison's mission to buy land from the Indians; is not sure he will be successful. Praises Harrison as a warrior and politician. Despairs at being separated from his loved ones. Inquires after acquaintances and discusses upcoming travel plans. 3 pp. and integral address sheet.

1810, May 19 Thomas Randolph to Catherine Lawrence, Lawrenceburg. Sends his affection and reluctantly agrees to postpone their wedding until fall; by then he will have a mansion for them. Governor Harrison has offered to have them live with him, but he has refused. Hears from his sister that Elizabeth's aunt and caretaker has died; will Catherine take her place?

1810, Jun. ? Elizabeth Dill, Lawrenceburgh, to her daughter Mrs. Catherine Lawrence, Vincennes. You have got to your journey and, I hope safe and pleasant. I just returned from Cincinnati; saw Mrs. Stone. I think you are happy [as a wife]. Mentions members of family. N.B. "I hope you are not hurry going to housekeeping till yours is ready." 2 pp.

1810, Dec. 14 Catherine S. Randolph, Vincennes, to her sister Miss Elizabeth Lawrence, Lawrenceburgh, Indiana Territory, courtesy of Mr. Beaty. Begs for a letter. Mentions three tea parties and a ball. Hopes to go to house-keeping soon. Is eager to have a home of their own, although Governor and Mrs. Harrison are very polite. In order to be in fashion I intend to commence spinning. My husband is opposed to it. 3 pp. and integral address sheet.

1810, Dec. 18 Catherine S. Randolph, Vincennes, to her mother Mrs. Elizabeth Dill, Lawrenceburgh, Indiana Territory, courtesy of Mr. Rue. Describes ball last night. Mentions persons at home in Lawrenceburgh: Molly, Captain Vance, and their expected child; Mrs. Wardle; Mrs. Chambers. Mrs. Harrison desired me to give her compliments to you and Molly. Message for Mr. Dill. P.S. I shall not let Mr. R. add postscripts as I find he abuses the privilege.

1810, Dec. 25 Thomas Lawrence, Cincinnati, to his sister Catherine S. Randolph. Glad you are happy with your situation. Have called on A. St. Clair's. I see your friend Mr. Stone every day. Visited Lawrenceburgh. General Morrison has returned from the East; he saw our grandfather, in excellent health, in Greensburgh. John waiting for a letter from you. Tell Mr. Randolph that I talk to many who will support his election; Jennings I think is losing ground fast. 3 pp. and integral address sheet.

1811, Jan. 9 Catherine S. Randolph, Vincennes, to her mother Mrs. Elizabeth Dill. Last night went to a ball given by four officers of the garrison at Captain Posey's quarters. They conveyed the ladies to the garrison, three miles up the Wabash, on a large keel boat with music on board. Wishes Grandfather would write. Mr. Randolph will be a great deal absent until after the election. 2 pp.

1811, Feb. 5 Catherine S. Randolph, Vincennes, to her husband Thomas Randolph, courtesy of Governor Harrison. I am in good health but occasionally gloomy. Your boots are not done because the shoemaker has been drunk. We have generous friends. I will be uneasy about your journey if the Ohio is high. 3 pp. and integral address sheet.

1811, Feb. 14 Thomas Randolph, Louisville, to his wife Catherine S. Randolph, courtesy of Mr. Johnson. I am heading to the upper counties but miss you terribly. Molly has left her bed of straw and has a fine son. I refused to deliver a letter from Captains Dill and Vance to the governor that advised against the appointment of [Vanwarren?]. 2 pp. and integral address sheet.

1811, Feb. 18 Thomas Randolph, Jefferson County, to his wife Catherine S. Randolph, courtesy of Governor Harrison. Please be happy and do not worry about me. I cannot see why you are gloomy. I will be home as soon as possible. Do you wish to go to Lawrenceburg this summer or to house-keeping? I have little doubt I will be elected. P.S. I have reconciled with Johnson. 3 pp. and integral address sheet.

1811, Mar. 12 Catherine S. Randolph, Vincennes, to her husband Thomas Randolph. It is painful to know my letter gave you pain. I have been happy. Fountain challenged Jones to a duel but Judge Parke put a stop to it. Captain Floyd and Mr. Jennings have been arrested. Your horse was probably stolen. 3 pp. and integral address sheet.

1813, Feb. 18 Catherine S. Randolph, Lawrenceburgh, to Mrs. General Harrison, Cincinnati, courtesy of Mr. Lawrence. Sorry Mrs. Harrison's health is poor. Hears through Mr. Dill Vincennes is in state of alarm. Mary grows every day more and more like her beloved Father. 2 pp. with integral address sheet.

1813, Jul. 12 N. Gibson, Jeffersonville, to Mrs. Catherine Lawrence, courtesy of Mr. Lawrence. Had I no inclination to consult but my own, I should not hesitate to visit you. If the legislature were to consult the women, our new capitol would be in Lawrenceburgh. The loss of your husband is great, but we shall all meet again one day. Dr. Scull has shot Captain [Beckes?] in a duel after refusing to marry the Captain's daughter. 2 pp. and integral address sheet.

1814, Aug. 1 Catherine S. Randolph, Jeffersonville, to her sister Mrs. Mary Vance, Cincinnati, courtesy of Mr. Dubois of Vincennes. Mary is feeling better. There is great many people out at the Spring from Louisville; I generally go twice a day. Mrs. Floyd of Louisville, whom I knew at Vincennes, will come next week. I am anxious to hear the news about the treaty [Kappler, v. 2, p. 107, Aug. 1814]. j2 pp. and integral address sheet.

1814, Aug. 13 Catherine S. Randolph, Jeffersonville, to her mother Mrs. Elizabeth Dill, Lawrenceburgh, Indiana Territory. Is Mr. Dill coming to Legislature? Sad to hear that Molly lost her child Clarissa. Mentions Margaret Robb, and grandfather. Hope Mr. Dill can come after me soon. 3 pp. and address sheet.

1815, Dec. 3 John Lawrence, Cincinnati, to his mother Mrs. Elizabeth Dill, Lawrenceburgh, Indiana Territory. Politeness of Mr. H. Sparks. Stayed with aunt while uncle was gone (Arthur St. Clair, Jr.). Had a swelling removed from behind ear. Influenza prevalent. Having difficulty with creditors. Reports of Vance family, Margaret Robb, and Aunt Frances. 3 pp. and integral address sheet.

1816, July 18 Catherine S. Randolph, Elk Hill, to her mother Mrs. Elizabeth Dill, care of Captain Vance, Cincinnati, and courtesy of Captain Pemberton, a gentleman from Cumberland County, Virginia, who is returning via Cincinnati. We are well. Cousin Mary Richardson owes me an apology for not coming to see me. 2 pp. and integral address sheet.

1816, Aug. 1 Catherine S. Randolph, Elk Hill, to her mother Mrs. Elizabeth Dill, Lawrenceburgh, courtesy of Mr. Richardson. Glad to hear of birth of sister Molly's son; Molly has lost other children. Mrs. Short lost a child. Mentions Betsy Short, General and Mrs. Harrison. I expect to return with General Harrison on his way from Vincennes. If Mrs. Harrison brings me the wool she promised I will have Nancy spin it. 4 pp. including integral address sheet.

1817, Feb. 23 Margaretta B. Robb, Chestnut Ridge (mailed from Youngstown?), to her aunt Mrs. Elizabeth Dill. I have avoided writing for fear of causing you more pain over Catherine's death. Little Mary will find a mother in you and Betsy. If you would come here perhaps you could sell your place directly. Grandma is failing. News of Phebe, Elanor, George, Father. When Father leaves Army he may go down the Wabash. 3 pp. and integral address sheet.

1824, Sep. 2 James Clarke, Laughlinstown, Pennsylvania, to Mrs. Elizabeth Dill. I have been appointed one of the Pennsylvania Canal commissioners, and am thus regrettably unable to act as your agent. 1 p. and integral address sheet.

undated [Mrs. Edmond Harrison, according to Docketing] to Mr. Thomas Randolph, courtesy of Spencer. [This letter possibly written by sister of Mr. Randolph's deceased wife Elizabeth, soon after her death.] Child "Bet" is frail; hope she lives. Painful and severe illness of [writer's father?]. Please bring me gloves, etc. You are as dear to me as my own brother. Aunt sends message that she will always be happy to have Elizabeth visit her. 4 pp. and integral address sheet.

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