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MCALISTER, HILL
(1875-1959)
PAPERS,
1806-1959

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INTRODUCTION

The papers of Hill McAlister (1875-1959), City Attorney (1905-1910), State Senator (1911-1913), State Treasurer (1919-1927), Governor of Tennessee (1933-1937), and United States Referee in Bankruptcy for U.S. District Court from 1940 until his death, were the gift of his daughters, Mrs. Hamilton Love and Mrs. Donald U. Bathrick, both of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The materials in this finding aid measure 3.36 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Hill McAlister Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The papers of Hill McAlister, numbering approximately 1,050 items and 8 scrapbooks, contain correspondence, speeches, briefs, sketches, reports, biographical and genealogical data, one little diary, scrapbooks, photographs, clippings, and personal memorabilia dating from 1806 to 1956. The bulk of the material falls in the period 1933-1937 when he served as Governor of Tennessee. The date 1806 of a letter signed by R.M. McGavock is the earliest found in the collection. Another early item is the little diary kept by Hill McAlister's grandmother, Mrs. W.K. McAlister, Sr., 1847-1851. It is primarily concerned with her children and her religion. On September 26, 1846, she wrote in her diary that "Mr. McAlister and the children have gone to church and oh that the Lord may this day send some arrow of conviction to his soul." Several scrapbooks follow the political careers of Hill McAlister and his father, W.K. McAlister. There are about forty letters (typed copies) written to General William Giles Harding, at Fort Mackinac, Michigan, by his family at Belle Meade. These letters are for the dates April 27 to September 24, 1862, while he was in prison for failure to take the loyalty oath. Other letters were written to Hill McAlister in 1923 following the death of his father. There are also several telegrams and letters to Hill McAlister condemning an attempt at impeachment by a representative from Dyer County.

Among Hill McAlister's correspondents are W.E. Brock, A.V. Brown, Alexander W. Chambliss, E.H. Crump, Porter Dunlap, Cordell Hull, Howell E. Jackson, Kenneth McKellar, Franklin Roosevelt, Edward T. Sanford, John K. Shields, and W.S. Shields.

ADDITIONS 1 & 2

The two additions to the Hill McAlister Papers, consisting of approximately 50 items, are composed of diaries, family letters, memorabilia, programs, invitations, diplomas, family photographs and some legal documents. One little diary of William King McAlister, Sr., grandfather of Hill McAlister, was kept in 1836 while he was on a trip to Arkansas and later entries in 1842 while on a trip to New Orleans. The little volume contains the names of numerous steamboats on the Cumberland and the Mississippi Rivers. On the earlier trip he commented about Martin Van Buren and James K. Paulding who were passengers on the same boat with him. Items about the cargoes and the various

places where the boats stopped are included. Another little volume, which seems to be in the handwriting of Judge W.K. McAlister, Jr., contains an entry for July 21, 1897, some addresses, clippings, and personal notes, etc. The letters in these additions are primarily family letters of W.K. McAlister, Sr. and Howell E. Jackson. One large album of family photographs, programs, invitations, and memorabilia make up the remainder of these additions. A booklet published by the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 1947, contains some interesting pictures of Nashville during this hundred year period.

ADDITION 3

This addition, covering the period 1918-1951 and containing approximately 140 items, consists primarily of political correspondence addressed to and sent by Hill McAlister during the period 1918-1939. Correspondents include prominent individuals such as Edward Hull Crump, Dancey Fort, Howell E. Jackson, Kenneth McKellar, and Governor A.H. Roberts. Subjects covered include the political split between Gordo Browning and E.H. Crump, the county unit plan, the poll tax, women's suffrage, and McAlister's gubernatorial administration. Also included are some accounts, campaign literature, legal papers, and the will, 1923, of William King McAlister.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Hill McAlister

- 1875 July 15. Born in Nashville, Tennessee, the son of William King and Laura Dortch McAlister. (William McAlister had served as City Attorney of Nashville, Circuit Judge and later as a member of the Tennessee Supreme Court.)
- 1893 Entered Vanderbilt University
- 1897 Received LL.B. from Vanderbilt University
- 1899 Began law practice
- 1901 November 27. Married Louise Jackson, daughter of Howell E. and Mary Harding Jackson
- 1901-1905 Appointed Assistant City Attorney
- 1905 Appointed City Attorney; later returned to that office by popular vote
- 1911 Elected to the Tennessee State Senate
- 1916 Served as Elector for President Wilson

- 1918-1920 Elected to Democratic State Executive Committee
- 1919-1927 Elected State Treasurer of Tennessee
- 1920 Delegate to Democratic National Convention
- 1926 Ran for Governor, and was defeated
- 1928 Ran for Governor, and was defeated
- 1931 Recalled as State Treasurer of Tennessee
- 1932 Elected Governor of Tennessee
- Appointed as Tennessee Chairman of Democratic "Victory Drive"
- 1934 Reelected as Governor of Tennessee
- 1936 Field Counsel of Bituminous Coal Commission in Washington
- 1940-1959 United States Referee in Bankruptcy for the U.S. District Court
- 1959 October 30. Died and was buried in Nashville, Tennessee

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Bills, notes, receipts, 1880-1935
2. Briefs – State vs. Seth Walker
3. Briefs and Opinions
4. Briefs – State Training and Agricultural School
5. Clippings, re: Civil War and other Historical Subjects
6. Clippings, re: W.K. McAlister; Centennial Parade, 1896
7. Clippings, re: obituaries of Howell Jackson and Hill McAlister
8. Clippings, re: politics: Horton, McAlister, Peay
9. Clippings, re: Presidents of the United States
10. Confederate Items
11. Correspondence – Anderson – Happell
12. Correspondence – Henderson – McMillen
13. Correspondence – Millon – Wright
14. Correspondence – McGavock, Randal, 1806
15. Correspondence, family – Letters to W.G. Harding, 1862
16. Correspondence, family – Jackson, McAlister, et al.
17. Correspondence, re: Impeachment resolution, 1935
18. Correspondence, re: Tax on Gasoline
19. Correspondence – Hill McAlister – Outgoing

Box 2

1. Diaries – McAlister, William K., 1836, 1842; McAlister, W.K., Jr.; McAlister, Mrs.W.K., 1847-1851
2. Diplomas of Howell E. Jackson – University of Virginia and Cumberland University
3. Genealogical Data, re: Jackson and Miller families
4. Invitations and Programs
5. Legal Documents – Abstracts: Burland and Cockrill and Harding and Graham
6. Legal Documents – Abstracts: Harding and Jackson; Angus McPhail to Felix Grundy and Randal McGavock
7. Legal Documents – Agreements, etc.
8. Legal Documents – Appointments, Licenses, etc.
9. Legal Documents – Bank Stocks, etc.
10. Legal Documents – Deeds and Indentures
11. Legal Documents – Re: Insurance companies
12. Legal Documents – Stocks, securities, etc.
13. Legal Documents – Wills, etc.

Box 3

1. Memorabilia
2. Memorials: Howell E. Jackson; Selene Harding Jackson
3. Photos – family: Harding, Jackson and McAlister

4. Photographs

Box 4

1. Religion – Church of Christ
2. Religion – Church of Christ
3. Sketches – Howell E. Jackson
4. Sketches – Places – “Belle Meade”
5. Speeches – Hill, McAlister, re: Sam Davis 1925
6. Speeches – Hill McAlister, re: Andrew Jackson – At St. Louis, January 8, 1936
7. Speeches – Hill McAlister, re: James Knox Polk
8. Speeches – Hill McAlister to Democratic gathering, 1934
9. Speeches – Hill McAlister to General Assembly, 1933
10. Speeches – Hill McAlister, re: Tennessee, 1934
11. Speeches – Hill McAlister to General Assembly, 1935
12. Speeches – Hill McAlister to Special Session, 1935
13. Speeches – Hill McAlister, re: Gasoline Tax, 1935
14. Speeches – Hill McAlister to General Assembly, 1937
15. Speeches – Howell E. Jackson to Teachers Association, 1885
16. Speeches – K.T. McConnico, re: Woodrow Wilson, 1925
17. Speeches – Edwin Mins, re: Woodrow Wilson
18. Speeches – Edward J. Smith, re: Judge William King McAlister, 1935

Box 5

1. Scrapbook of Aaron V. Brown when he was Postmaster General, 1857 to his death, 1859
2. Scrapbook of Hill McAlister – Political and Social Life; the death of his father, W.K. McAlister; Law cases of Hill McAlister; death of President Harding. Period covered, 1905-1923.

Box 6

1. Part of old scrapbook of Judge W.K. McAlister, Judge of Supreme Court of Tennessee, 1893-1910. Born July 4, 1850 – Died May 16, 1923. Memorandum by Hill McAlister, September 20, 1946
2. Scrapbook kept by Judge W.K. McAlister, 1905-1917
3. Scrapbook – Memoranda concerning trips made by Hill McAlister to Gettysburg, the home of Chief Justice Taney and Arlington. Also includes some Christmas cards and some items about Cordell Hull, 1936

Box 7

1. Scrapbook, re: Hill McAlister’s first campaign for Governor, 1924-1928

Box 8

1. Scrapbook kept by Judge W.K. McAlister for the years 1886-1905
2. Scrapbook containing letters of congratulations to Howell E. Jackson on his appointment as Justice of the United States Court, 1893. An index to the letters is

included in the volume *U.S. Court Citations of Howell E. Jackson*.

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1. Accounts – n.d. and 1924-1951
2. Campaign literature – 1928
3. Commission – 1919
4. Correspondence – Anderson – Cox
5. Correspondence – Crump, Edward Hull – 1919-1932
6. Correspondence – Davis-Jackson
7. Correspondence – to various recipients, 1919-1939; re: politics; Sen. John K. Shields
8. Correspondence – McKeller – Smith
9. Correspondence – Stewart – Williams
10. Greeting card
11. Legal records
12. Oath – 1893
13. Wills – McAlister, W.K., and Virginia Moore

Box 10

1. Scrapbook concerning Hill McAlister's Politics, National politics, Queen Elizabeth's visit to this country, and material on Sam Davis, 1928-1955

Box 11

1. Scrapbook, re: Hill McAlister's campaign for re-election as Tennessee Governor, June 17, 1934

NAME INDEX

This is a name index of only the correspondence in the Hill McAllister Papers, together with the dates of the letters and the addressee if other than Hill McAlister. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the box and folder in which the material is to be found.

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MICROFILM #70

The microfilmed McAlister Papers (Mf. 70) contain genealogical correspondence and some early family letters of John McAlister, William King McAlister, Sr., M.E. Hill, W.K. King, Samuel Rhea, and others; wills of Charles, James, and John McAlister and Nancy Baker, and Johnson Knowles; and some data about Howell E. Jackson. There are genealogical charts and data for the Blount, Brown, Dysart, McAlister and Rhea families. The originals of the material microfilmed are in the possession of Mrs. Hamilton Love and Mrs. Donald U. Bathrick, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The material appears on the microfilm in the following order:

1. Will of Johnson Knowles. From Henrico County Records, Virginia. Miscellaneous Records, Vol. I, p. 49
2. Volume of Howell E. Jackson containing the Records of Decisions of the United States Supreme Court for October 1893-May 1894
3. Letters of congratulation to Howell E. Jackson on his appointment as Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court
4. Louise Jackson's trip abroad, May-August 1898
5. Genealogy of Hill McAlister
6. Genealogical documents – Indentures, wills of McAlisters and Bakers; funeral notice of Mrs. Frances McAlister, H.R.W. Hill, W.K. and F.R. McAlister. Provision for organization of the State Militia, October 1, 1864, and franchise of W.B. Dortch, August 9, 1866
7. Early letters of John McAlister, 1826; W.K. McAlister, Sr. to his son, W.K. McAlister, Jr., 1846; J.D. Hill to uncle, 1851; M.E. Hill to sister, 1852; H. Hill McAlister to father, 1855; W.K. King to Mrs. McAlister, 1856; Samuel Rhea to Matthew, 1856
8. Genealogical charts of McAlister, Rhea, Dysart, Blount, and Brown families
9. Genealogical data of Blount family; sketch of Willie Blount; genealogy of Lewis Brown, Sr.; partial record of descendants of Lewis Brown; McAlister family; genealogical notes
10. Genealogical correspondence for the years 1908-1950 of Hill McAlister
11. Genealogical correspondence of Hill McAlister with H.F. Eaton, 1954-1957
12. Miscellaneous items in order of appearance:
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 2. Oration on Learning
 3. Picture of H.R.W. Hill with note on back
 4. Cemetery Records of Rhea family
 5. Information about Joseph Rhea
 6. Record of trip in 1955
 7. History of old desk
 8. Cliff Taylor
 9. Is there a doctor in the house?

Charles McAlister
1686-1770
married
Rosanna Penna
1680-1790

John McAlister
1737-1814
married in 1775
Frances Dysart

John McAlister
1776-1826
married
Frances Thompson

William King McAlister
1804-1891
married
Frances Rhea Anderson
1812-1856

William King McAlister
1850-1923
married
Laura Dortch
1853-1919

Hill McAlister
1875-
married
Louise Jackson
1879-1955

