

Guide to the John Augustus Hendrix McLane Papers

MS 3



compiled by Nancy L. Fappiano

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 3

CREATOR: McLane, John Augustus Hendrix, 1848-1893

TITLE: John Augustus Hendrix McLane papers

DATES: 1841-1893

BULK DATES: 1864-1893

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot (2 boxes, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Politician. Correspondence, essays, diaries, clippings, and other papers of J. Hendrix McLane, southern political independent, South Carolina gubernatorial candidate in 1882, and reformer in the Republican party. The papers are mainly concerned with McLane's political career, though there is some material relating to his studies at Tufts Theological School. Notable among the correspondents are George Washington Cable, Selden Connor, and Wendell Phillips.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Herbert J. Seligmann, 1965.

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Preferred Citation

John Augustus Hendrix McLane Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

John Augustus Hendrix McLane (known as J. Hendrix McLane) was born in Jackson County, Georgia, March 23, 1848. His family was relatively poor and had been previously settled in South Carolina. His older brother fought in the Confederate army and died of battle wounds in 1864. As a young man, J.H. McLane returned to South Carolina, married and, in 1874, emigrated to Arkansas. His wife died shortly afterward and he returned to Feasterville, South Carolina, with their small daughter. Despite a limited formal education, he had studied philosophy, history and literature. In 1886, J.H. McLane received a two year scholarship to Tufts College Theological School. He met his second wife, Mary Clifford Friend, in Massachusetts. After the birth of the first of their four children in 1888, she joined her husband in South Carolina.

The political career of J.H. McLane can be divided into five stages corresponding to his party affiliations. Before 1878 he was an active and progressive member of the Democratic Party. However, as a poor farmer, oppressed by the scarcity of cash and by low prices on farm products, he was drawn to the Greenback Party. In 1879 he attended the Greenback Convention in Washington opposing fusion with the Democratic Party; the following year he was nominated by the Greenback-Labor Party to run for Congress. As a candidate he propagated his belief that the farmers of South Carolina had not wished to secede but were forced to take such action by Bourbon appeals to racism. He argued that the disfranchisement of the Negro after 1876 resulted in the establishment of a Bourbon oligarchy.

The South Carolina Independent movement was composed of various groups, including the Greenbackers, who protested the fraudulent practices of the Democratic Party and advocated protection of the Negro's political rights. In 1882 J.H. McLane was nominated for governor by a convention of white Independents and endorsed by a separate black Republican convention. As their candidate for Congress in 1884 he accused Governor Hampton of reneging on his promises of equality to the Negro and economic aid to the poor whites. He appealed to enlightened Southerners to support the Republican National Party. However, when local tension developed between the Independents and the Regular Republican organization, Mr. McLane withdrew from the race.

His experience as a student of theology from 1886-1888 and his marriage to the daughter of a prominent New England family led to J.H. McLane's espousal of the Republican Party on both local and national levels. His acquaintance with Wendell Phillips and his contacts with William Lloyd Garrison, Richard Henry Dana and Frederick Douglass convinced him of the necessity of supplanting South Carolina's Bourbon rule with a revitalized Republican Party. To achieve his goal, he received financial support from several

New Englanders to establish an independent weekly journal at Columbia and returned to South Carolina to organize Republican League Clubs. However, despite his efforts, the Republican Party in the South continued to be dominated by ex-federal officeholders. By 1893, McLane had reached the last stage of his political development: he rejoiced in the election of Cleveland and abandoned his hopes of a reformed Republican Party in South Carolina.

Lilias Hazewell (McLane) Seligman, a daughter born to Mr. McLane the year before his death in 1893, preserved the clippings, diaries, letters and other papers collected over the years of her father's career as a political independent.

Scope and Contents

Politician. Correspondence, essays, diaries, clippings, and other papers of J. Hendrix McLane, southern political independent, South Carolina gubernatorial candidate in 1882, and reformer in the Republican party. The papers are mainly concerned with McLane's political career, though there is some material relating to his studies at Tufts Theological School. Notable among the correspondents are George Washington Cable, Selden Connor, and Wendell Phillips.

Arrangement

Arranged in no particular order.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1-6	Letters to J. Hendrix McLane	1883, 1886-1888, 1891, 1893
b. 1, f. 7	Letters of introduction for J. Hendrix McLane	1888
b. 1, f. 8	Letters to Mary (Friend) McLane	undated
b. 1, f. 9	Letter to Jones McLane from J.M. McCrory	1886
b. 1, f. 10	Letters to Elmer H. Capen (President of Tufts College)	1887
b. 1, f. 11	Letter to Mr. Voss (possibly passed on to J. Hendrix McLane)	1880
b. 1, f. 12	Letters to and concerning Henry C. Wright	1866, 1873, undated
b. 1, f. 13	Political papers of J. Hendrix McLane	1884-1893
b. 1, f. 14	Financial and legal papers	1887
b. 1, f. 15	Scholarship application	1886
b. 1, f. 16	Obituary of E.R. McLane and wedding and birth announcements	1868, 1887, 1892
b. 1, f. 17-21	Diary of J. Hendrix McLane	1887 October 30 - 1889 March 20, 1889 March 26 - 1890 August 9, 1891
b. 1, f. 22	Address and memoranda book of J. Hendrix McLane	undated
b. 1, f. 23	Student notebooks	undated
b. 2, f. 24	Two essays by J. Hendrix McLane about South Carolina after the Civil War	undated
b. 2, f. 25	Two essays by J. Hendrix McLane on Longfellow and Whittier	undated
b. 2, f. 26	"A Few Words from Mary Howitt" English	undated
b. 2, f. 27	Writings by Henry C. Wright: "The Ballot"; "Anti-slavery and Non-resistance applied to Church organizations"; review of "The Unwelcome Child"	1841, 1858, undated
b. 2, f. 28	"A South Carolina Independent of the 1880's: J. Hendrix McLane" by Herbert J. Seligman, with research notes English	1965
b. 2, f. 29	<i>The New Reign of Terror</i>	undated
b. 2, f. 29	"Law and Order" English	1892 July - August
b. 2, f. 30	Newspaper clippings about J. Hendrix McLane and southern politics	1888-1890

b. 2, f. 31	"A Cape Ann Girl's Experience in Dixie," newspaper series by Fannie (Friend) McLane English	undated
b. 2, f. 32	Newspaper clippings about the Civil War and slavery	1864-1865
b. 2, f. 32	Scrapbook	undated
b. 2, f. 34	Photograph	undated
b. 3	Newspapers	1884, undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

African Americans -- Civil rights

Geographic Names

South Carolina -- Politics and government --
1865-1950
Southern States
United States -- Politics and government

Genres / Formats

Diaries

Occupations

Politicians

Names

Cable, George Washington, 1844-1925
Clarkson, James Sullivan, 1842-1918
Connor, Selden, 1839-
Crapo, William Wallace, 1830-1926
Howitt, Mary (Mary Botham), 1799-1888
Humphrey, A. B., 1838-1918
Leonard, Charles Hall, 1822-1918
Long, John Davis, 1838-1915
McLane, John Augustus Hendrix, 1848-1893
Metcalf, Loretta Sutton, 1837-1920
Phillips, Wendell, 1811-1884
Stone, Lucy, 1818-1893
Thurston, John Mellen, 1847-1916
Wakeman, Wilbur Fisk, 1848-1894

Corporate Bodies

National Independent Party (U.S.)
Republican Party (S.C.)