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

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Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Hill McAlister Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.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


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
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
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
14. Speeches – Hill McAlister to General Assembly, 1937
15. Speeches – Howell E. Jackson to Teachers Association, 1885

**Box 5**
1. Scrapbook of Aaron V. Brown when he was Postmaster General, 1857 to his death, 1859

**Box 6**
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*.

**Box 9**
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Addressee</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, H.C.</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, J.M.</td>
<td>1910 to W.K.</td>
<td>McAlister</td>
<td>1-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrews, T. Coleman</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachman, J.W.</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker, Helen Cecelia</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass, E.D.</td>
<td>1935</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baughman, Howard E.</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beard, W.L.</td>
<td>1910</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beeler, Roy Hood</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell, Henry R.</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biggs, J.F.</td>
<td>1935</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bland, Julian A.</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonner, Fannie</td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>to Mrs. Erwin</td>
<td>1-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyd, Frank</td>
<td>1935</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradshaw, Emmett R.</td>
<td>1939</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brewer, Dr. J.D.</td>
<td>1935</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadbent, A.B.</td>
<td>1924</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broch, W.E.</td>
<td>1924</td>
<td>to Austin Peay</td>
<td>1-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, Aaron V.</td>
<td>1846</td>
<td>to A.R. Crozier</td>
<td>1-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, H.B.</td>
<td>1895</td>
<td>to Judge Jackson</td>
<td>1-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce, M.D.</td>
<td>1935</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan, Eugene</td>
<td>1935</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan, M.T.</td>
<td>1889</td>
<td>to W.K. McAlister</td>
<td>1-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cain, Walter</td>
<td>1919</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caldwell, Rogers Clark</td>
<td>1921</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameron, Walter</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chambliss, Alexander W.</td>
<td>1923</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chancellor, William Estabrook</td>
<td>1920</td>
<td>an open letter</td>
<td>9-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocking, Walter D.</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collins, L.W.</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couch, Wiley</td>
<td>1935</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtney, Wirt</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>9-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cox, Thad A. (4)</td>
<td>to Hill McAlister and A.V. Louthan</td>
<td>1937-1938</td>
<td>9-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cox, W.W.</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crump, E.H.</td>
<td>1923</td>
<td>1-11; (21)</td>
<td>1919-1932, 9-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davis, Paul M.</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeBow, J.D.B.</td>
<td>1923</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorris, Finley M.</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>9-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drake, Herbert T.</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td></td>
<td>9-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dunlap, Porter, undated, 1-11
Dunn, S.H., 1935, 1-17
Ellis, W.E., 1923, 1-11
Erwin, Sam, 1935, 1-17; (2), 1937 to Hill McAlister and A.V. Louthan, 9-6
Ewing, F.M. (2), 1930, 9-6
Ewing, Randal (3), 1862, to W.G. Harding, 1-15
Farley, James Aloysius, 1932, to Horace Frierson, 9-6
Farrell, Norman (4), 1936, 1-18
Ferguson, Roy L., 1935, 1-17
Forcum, V., 1935, 1-17
Fort, Dancey (4), 1936, 1-18; 1932, 9-6
Fouche, W.D., 1935, 1-17
Fuller, Melville W., 1894, to Judge Jackson, 1-11
Gale, C.A., 1922, 9-6
Gale, Dudley (circular), 1943, to Office of Civil Defense, 1-11
Gardenhire, Joseph M., 1938, 9-6
Guthrie, F.M., 1931, to Howell E. Jackson, 9-6
Hague, William, 1862, to W.G. Harding, 1-15
Hall, Frank, 1923, 1-11
Hammer, L.D. (2), 1935, 1-17
Hand, S.E., 1937, 9-6
Hannah, Gertrude Taylor, 1937, 9-6
Happell, T.K., 1932, 1-11
Harding, Elizabeth (20), 1862, to W.G. Harding, 1-15
Harding, Mary (2), 1862, to W.G. Harding, 1-15
Harding, Selene (3), 1862, to W.G. Harding, 1-15
Helvering, Guy, 1936, 1-18
Henderson, John H., 1902, to W.K. McAlister, 1-12
Hillm, M.E., n.d., 1-12
Hoyt, T.A., n.d., 1-12
Hull, Cordell, 1923, 1-12
Jackson, Howell E., Judge (2), 1880, 1881, to his wife, 1-16; 1931, 9-6
Jackson, N. Baxter, 1922, 9-6
Jackson, W.H., 1938, to his brother, Howell E. Jackson, 1-16
Kamp, Sue Jones, 1936, 1-18
Lansden, D.L., Judge, 1917, to Smith & McAlister, 1-12
Lyn, W.G., 1935, 1-17
McAlister, Hill (30), 1932-1936 (outgoing), 1-19; (33), 1939, 9-7
McAlister, Sam (2), 1899, 1900, 1-16
McAlister, W.K. (2), 1890, 1-16
McGavock, Randal (2), 1806, to Joseph Kent, 1-14
McConnico, K.T. (2), 1910, to W.K. McAlister; 1936, to Hill McAlister, 1-12, 1-18
McKellar, Kenneth (2), 1923, 1931, 1-12; (3), 1919-1937, 9-8
McKinney, J.L., 1937, 9-8
McMillen, Benton, 1932, 1-12
Martin, George L., 1921, 9-8
Millon, W.E., 1862, to W.G. Harding, 1-13
Moore, John Trotwood, 1925, 9-8
Moore, Mrs. John Trotwood, 1936, 1-18
Moss, William P., 1937, to A.V. Louthan, 9-8
Murray, David, 1935, 1-17
Murray, Roger, 1935, 1-17
Nool, Roger T., 1932, 9-8
Norman, Jack, 1937, 9-8
Odle, Joe F., 1935, 1-17
Ormes, L.B., 1938, 9-8
Parks, W.H., 1935, 1-13
Pickle, G.W., 1910, to W.K. McAlister, 1-13
Porter, Claude, 1936, 1-18
Pouder, William, 1936, 1-18
Preston, Thomas R. (2), 1932, 9-8
Putnam, J.C., 1879, to Mrs. Margareta Ewin, 1-13
Reece, Joseph I., 1932, 9-8
Reed, Jack, 1936, 1-18
Rhea, Robert P., 1859, to W.K. McAlister, Sr. (?), 1-13
Roberts, Albert Houston, 1918, 9-8
Roosevelt, Franklin, 1934, 1-13
Ross, Mrs. M.S., 1942, to Mrs. McAlister, 1-13
Sanford, Edward T., 1919, to W.K. McAlister, 1-13
S., E.J., n.d., 1-13
Shepherd, Lewis, 1910, to W.K. McAlister, 1-13
Shields, John K. (3), 1913-1923, to W.K. and Hill McAlister, 1-13
Shields, W.S. (2), 1918, 1923, 1-13
Smith, Edward J., 1932, 9-8
Smith, Lucy H., 1926, 1-13
Southall, M. (3), 1862, to W.G.Harding, 1-15
Southall, R.M. (3), 1862, to W.G. Harding, 1-15
Sparks, J.W., 1910, to W.K. McAlister, 1-13
Stokes, Walter, 1910, to W.K. McAlister, 1-13
Taylor, Hillsman, 1935, 1-13
Thorp, Hattie, 1878, to Mrs. Erwin, 1-13
Vanderbilt Law Faculty, 1923, re: W.K. McAlister, 1-13
Van Deventer, Martha, 1933, to Mrs. McAlister, 1-13
Wade, Irwin Clinton (2), 1956, 1-13
Ware, Lee F., 1935, 1-17
Watkins, R.S., 1935, 1-17
Whitehead, C.M., 1935, 1-17
Williams, F.E., 1889, to W.K. McAlister, 1-13
Wright, Neill, 1935, 1-13
Zimmerman, Capt. Larry (2), 1935, 1-17
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:

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 congratulations 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
12. Miscellaneous items in order of appearance:
   1. 5 clippings
   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?