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MS-022: Papers of David McConaughy, 1823-1902

Jaclyn Campbell
Gettysburg College

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MS-022: Papers of David McConaughy, 1823-1902

Description
The McConaughy collection is composed primarily of correspondence and is arranged into four series: I. History of the Battle, II. McConaughy Family History, III. Correspondence Regarding the Soldiers’ Reunion of August 1869, and IV. The Establishment of the National Cemetery and all administrative matters required therein.

Reports of General George M. Meade is included in this collection, as well as correspondence from General Robert E. Lee and General George M. Meade in regards to the Soldier’s Reunion of 1869 and correspondence from General U.S. Grant regarding his election to Honorary Director of the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association.

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Keywords
David McConaughy, Gettysburg College, Thaddeus Stevens, Civil War, Adams Rifles, Battle of Gettysburg, national cemetery, Soldiers’ National Cemetery, battlefield, veteran, Evergreen Cemetery

Disciplines
Cultural History | History | Military History | Public History | United States History

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Guide to the
Papers of David McConaughy, 1823-1902

Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections & College Archives

Processed by Jaclyn Campbell
June 2001
**Provenance:** Donated by the McConaughy Family, 1932

**Biography:**

David McConaughy, born in 1823, was the grandson of Irish immigrants who settled in Chester, Pennsylvania in 1712. His father died when he was four years old and he was raised by foster parents. He attended Gettysburg College from 1834 until 1838 when he transferred to Washington College (presently known as Washington and Jefferson College) where he graduated in 1840. He transferred because, at the time, his uncle, also named David McConaughy and a former Presbyterian minister in Gettysburg, was the President of the college. McConaughy thence studied law under Thaddeus Stephens and became an attorney in Adams County.

He formed a company of scouts at the beginning of the Civil War, composed of his law clients, called the Adams Rifles of which he was the captain. A mere 40 days after the Battle of Gettysburg, McConaughy desired to form a national cemetery for the war victims of the Battle of Gettysburg to be located on the Battlefield. He began to purchase lots of the battlefield for this memorial and asked veterans of the battle to contribute financially. In late August of 1869, McConaughy organized a reunion of the soldiers who fought at Gettysburg to recount their experiences and locate specific historic sites on the battlefield.

McConaughy served as a state senator for Adams and Franklin Counties after the Civil War. During this time, he commissioned the painting of a picture of the Battle of Gettysburg done by P. F. Rothermel. This painting, *The Battle of Gettysburg*, was originally housed in Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, but was later moved to the Capitol Building in Harrisburg.

McConaughy was also instrumental in establishing the nearby Evergreen Cemetery, where he was buried upon his death in 1902.

**Scope and Content Notes:**

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For additional information concerning the Adams Rifles, see also Civil War Vertical Files 1 and 2.
Box I

(Box/Folder)

Series I - History of the Battle

1-1  History - Brockway, C. B.: Battle Memories
1-2  History - Dutton, Emilie: Battle Memories
1-3  History - French, Benjamin Brown: Battle Memories
1-4  History - Gibbon, John: Officer's Report
1-5  History - Hancock, Winfield S.: Officer's Reports
1-6  History - Hartranft, J. F.: Officer's Report
1-7  History - Hoffman, John W.: Battle Memories
1-8  History - Hooker, Joseph: Battle Memories
1-9  History - McGregor, M.: Battle Memories
1-10 History - Meade, George M.: General's Reports and Correspondence
1-11 History - Misc.: Correspondence
1-12 History - Reynolds, John Fulton: Battle Memories
1-13 History - Robinson, John Cleveland: Battle Memories
1-14 History - Rothermel, P. F.: The Battle of Gettysburg Papers (Contract, Exhibition Information, etc.)
1-15 History - Sharpe, George: Correspondence shortly before the Battle
1-16 History - Sykes, George: Officer's Reports, Dispatch Book, and Correspondence
1-17 History - Vincent, John P.: Battle Memories
1-18 History - Wilson, W. P.: List of Division and Brigade Commanders

Series II - McConaughy Family History

1-19  McConaughy Family History

Series III- Correspondence Regarding the Soldiers' Reunion of August 1869

1-20  Correspondence - Agnew, Erwin M. D.
1-21  Correspondence - Armor, Thomas
1-22  Correspondence - Austin, John
1-23  Correspondence - Ayres, R. B.
1-24  Correspondence - Banes, Charles H.
1-25  Correspondence - Barn, Sam F.
1-26  Correspondence - Baxter, D. W. G.

Box 2

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2-2  Correspondence - Bingham, Henry H.
2-3  Correspondence - Burbank, S.
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3-42 Establishment - Agnew, Daniel: Subscription to fund
3-43 Establishment - Badeu, Adam: Correspondence regarding General Grant
3-44 Establishment - Benedict, G. G.: Correspondence advising against National Cemetery
3-45 Establishment - Browne, John C.: Correspondence regarding Certificate
3-46 Establishment - Bullard, William: Correspondence regarding Col. Burns
3-47 Establishment - Couch, Darius Nash: Correspondence regarding enlistments
3-48 Establishment - Crawford, S. W.: Correspondence regarding election
3-49 Establishment - Crozer, John Price: Subscription and Correspondence declining membership on Provisional Committee
3-50 Establishment - Curtin, A. G.: Correspondence from Governor noting progress

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4-1 Establishment - Delafield, Richard: Request for Survey Instruments
4-2 Establishment - Dix, John Adams: Discrepancy of Funds
4-3 Establishment - Drur, Fred L.: Correspondence regarding artifacts
4-4 Establishment - Everett, Edward: Decline to serve as Chairman, offer of help
4-5 Establishment - Finley, I. W.: Election to become Honorary member
4-6 Establishment - Geary, John W.: Election to Presidency of Board, Obituary, Misc. Correspondence regarding Cemetery
4-7 Establishment - Grant, U.S.: Election to Honorary Director
4-8 Establishment - Hamlin, H.: Notice of Adjournment of Maine Legislature
4-9 Establishment - Hancock, Winfield S.: Notice of Funds, Suggestions to Board, etc.
4-10 Establishment - Henry, Alexander: Notice of Election to Provisional Committee
4-11 Establishment - Howard, O. O.: Notice of Election to Association and Misc. Correspondence
4-12 Establishment - Huston, A. O.: Notice of Re-Election
4-13 Establishment - Ingersoll, Joseph R.: Notice of Election
4-14 Establishment - Krauth, Charles P.: Concurrence for Monument
4-15 Establishment - Lossing, Benson John: Acceptance of Artifact to New York Historical Society and Correspondence
4-16 Establishment - Mitchell, W. S.: Introduction to Major Burham and request for Survey
4-17 Establishment - Shurz, Carl: Notice of Election to Executive Committee
4-18 Establishment - Stevens, Thaddeus: Notice of Check and misc. correspondence
4-19 Establishment - Stoever, Martin Luther: Concurrence of Battlefield idea
4-20  Establishment - Strong, W.: Offer of Assistance
4-21  Establishment - Stuart, George H.: Interest in buying shares
4-22  Establishment - U. S. History: Civil War: Registers, Lists, etc.
4-23  Establishment - Washburn, Emory: Correspondence
4-24  Establishment - Woodward, George Washington: Correspondence