

Library Company of Philadelphia

**McA MSS 022**

**MCALLISTER AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION**

undated  
(19th century, bulk)

.83 linear feet, 2 boxes

Series I. Individual Signatures  
Series II. Group Signatures  
Series III. Civil War Signatures

May 2006

**Descriptive Summary****Repository**

Library Company of Philadelphia  
1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5698

**Call Number**

McA MSS 022

**Creator**

McAllister, John A. (John Allister), 1822-1896

**Title**

McAllister Autograph Collection

**Inclusive Dates**

Undated (19th century, bulk)

**Quantity**

.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

**Language of Materials**

Materials are in English.

**Abstract**

A collection of approximately four hundred autographs clipped from letters and documents that contain signatures of most of the prominent men (and seven women) in eighteenth and nineteenth-century American history. There is also a specific group of Civil War-era autographs collected from servicemen during the war.

**Administrative Information****Restrictions to Access**

The collection is open to researchers. It is on deposit at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and should be accessed through the Society's reading room at 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA. Visit their website, <http://www.hsp.org/>, for reading room hours.

**Acquisition Information**

Gift of John A. McAllister; forms part of the McAllister Collection.

**Processing Information**

The McAllister Autograph Collection was formerly interfiled within the large and chronologically-arranged McAllister Manuscript Collection. The items, which are primarily signatures clipped from letters and documents, were removed, arranged, and described as a single collection in 2005, under grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the William Penn Foundation. The collection was processed by Janet Koszalka and Sandra Markham. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this finding aid do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Preferred Citation**

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**Online Catalog Headings****Document Types**

Autographs

**Related Collections**

The Sanitary Fair Collection (McA 5781.F), McAllister Collection contains a selection of autographs that were sold at Philadelphia's Great Central Fair from the booth set up by the Relics, Curiosities, and Autographs committee. The committee collected letters, cancelled bank drafts, etc., from prominent citizens in the community, and mounted them in specially printed folders annotated with the donor's name. Because they remain in their folders, they have been kept with the Sanitary Fair Collection

**Biographical/Historical Notes**

Like other antiquarian collectors of the nineteenth century, John A. McAllister sought and saved autographs. His father John McAllister Jr. (1786-1877) also collected autographs along with books, pamphlets, prints, newspapers, etc. The inventory he made of his entire collection, a manuscript volume held by the Library Company of Philadelphia, lists his holdings as stored both in "albums" (numbering seven) and "loose" (550+ items). As with the other articles in his collection, John McAllister Jr. assigned the autographs to his children as part of their inheritance. Two albums were left to Agnes McAllister, and her siblings William, Sarah, John, Thomas, and Wardale were to have one each. For the loose autographs, Frances, Sarah, John, and Wardale each received one hundred, and fifty were to be received each by William, Agnes, and Thomas.

With the exception of the Civil War material in Series III, which is thought to have been assembled by John A. McAllister himself, there is no way to tell the provenance of the pieces in this collection. While it is possible that some were originally in the collection of John McAllister Jr., these autographs are primarily clipped signatures and as such have no other identifying features.

## Collection Overview

The autographs in this collection are arranged in three series: Series I, Individual Signatures; Series II, Group Signatures; and Series III, Civil War Signatures.

Series I, Individual Signatures holds fragments clipped from letters, account and receipt books, bank drafts, and deeds, bonds, and other financial and legal instruments. In addition, many of the autographs of congressmen and cabinet members are simply envelopes that were saved because their signature served as franking during their terms in office. As a number of the envelopes are addressed to Edwin Stanton (1814-1869) as secretary of the War Department (a post he held from 1862 to 1868), it is likely that John A. McAllister either had a friend working in that office, or acquired a trove of discarded envelopes through another means. The McAllister Collection, however, does not hold the letters that had been enclosed in the envelopes. Additional envelopes (without notable autographs) are filed in Series III.

With a few exceptions, the autographs are not annotated to identify the signature; one exception is for Anton Probst (1842-1866), on which someone wrote "autograph of Probst the Murderer." Probst axed to death of six members of the Dearing family, their farm hand, and a family guest, on April 7, 1866. In the case of artist Thomas Sully (1783-1872), his folder holds both a clipped autograph and a calling card on which a facsimile of his signature was engraved. Another interesting item is the autograph of naval commodore Thomas ap Catesby Jones (1790-1858) of Georgetown, which is on a promissory note dated 1833. The verso of the note is annotated in red ink: "Taken from the/residence of T. Ap/Catesby Jones by/Dr. W.T.W. Dickeson/Surg 4<sup>th</sup> Pa Res. Vol/October 1861," and as such marks it as an item collected for John A. McAllister.

Most of the men and women listed have single signatures in their folders, but if more than one appears, it is indicated in the box and folder list. Occasionally there are multiple signatures; for example, there are a dozen for Samuel Delucenna Ingham.

Series II, Group Signatures holds ten fragments of paper which were signed by several people on each piece. These were clipped from documents such as petitions and legal documents and probably were meant to be further cut down. In one case, individual signatures had already been clipped out of the group. The individual signers in each group are listed.

Series III, Civil War Signatures is arranged in two subseries: Autograph Album; and Clipped Signatures. The first is not an actual bound album, but is a collection of nineteen sheets of ordinary lined paper blind-stamped with "E.H. OWEN," each of which holds four or fewer signatures of military men, with their rank, unit, and home town. It is not known who compiled the pages, but if it was John A. McAllister, who did not serve in the military, the signatures might possibly have been those of servicemen who passed through the Cooper Shop or Union volunteer refreshment saloons in Philadelphia, or were patients in one of the local army hospitals.

The second subseries holds fragments that were cut from orders, correspondence, and other official military documents, and were formerly mounted in an album of Civil War ephemera (which was disbound prior to 2005). They are housed alphabetically by signer in five folders; surnames appear in the box and folder list following. Many of the fragments were annotated on their verso in red ink with the officer's name and rank.

Box    Folder

## SERIES I. INDIVIDUAL SIGNATURES

Arranged alphabetically.

1	1	Adams, William H.
		Annesley, Thomas - See: Charles Bird
	2	Bache, Richard
	3	Bache, Sarah
	4	Bainbridge, William (2)
	5	Barker, John
	6	Barnum, Phineas T. (2)
	7	Barry, Sarah
	8	Barton, J. Rhea
	9	Bayard, Andrew
	10	Belsterling, John F.
	11	Benton, Thomas H.
	12	Bingham, William (2)
	13	Binns, John (2)
	14	Bird, Charles (4)
	15	Blair, Montgomery
	16	Blake, W. R.
	17	Bonaparte, Charles Lucien
	18	Breck, Samuel Jr.
	19	Buchanan, James
		Bucles, Anthony - See: Vaughan, John
	20	Butler, Benjamin Franklin
		Cadwalader, Thomas - See: Thompson, John
	21	Calhoun, John C. (2)
	22	Campbell, John
	23	Chamberlain, J. G.
	24	Chandler, Joseph R.
	25	Chase, Salmon P.
	26	Chew, Benjamin
	27	Childs, Cephas Grier
	28	Chipman, John
	29	Clark, Daniel
	30	Clarke, Matthew St. Clair
	31	Claypoole, Josiah
	32	Conkling, Joseph
	33	Conrad, Cornelius
	34	Cook, Joel
	35	Corwin, Thomas
	36	Covode, John
	37	Coxe, Tench (2)
	38	Crawford, William H.

Box    Folder

## SERIES I. INDIVIDUAL SIGNATURES, cont.

[1]	39	Crowninshield, Benjamin Williams (3)
	40	Cunnington, William P.
	41	Curtis, Thomas
	42	Cushman, Charlotte (2)
	43	Dahlgren, John Adolphus
	44	Dale, Edward C.
	45	Dale, Richard
	46	Dallas, Alexander James
	47	Dallas, George M.
	48	Daschkoff, Andrew
	49	Davis, Jefferson (2)
	50	Dawson, Joseph A.
	51	Decatur, Stephen
	52	Dennie, Joseph
	53	Dickens, Asbury
	54	Dix, John A.
	55	Dixon, James
	56	Doane, George Hobart
	57	Drew, John; and Drew, Frank
	58	Duane, William John
	59	Dunn, Nathan
	60	Dyott, Thomas W. (2)
	61	Emerton, William
		Etting, Benjamin - See: Gratz, Jacob; See also: Gratz, Hyman
	62	Evans, Oliver
	63	Fillmore, Millard
	64	Fisher, George P.
	65	Florence, Thomas B. (2)
		Ford, John - See: Charles Bird
	66	Forney, John W. (2)
	67	Gibbons, Charles
	68	Gilpin, Henry D. (2)
	69	Girard, Stephen (3)
		Gratz, Barnard - See: Moses, Isaac
	70	Gratz, Hyman (6)
	71	Gratz, Jacob - See also: Gratz, Hyman
		Gratz, Simon - See: Gratz, Hyman
	72	Guérin, Victor
		Gurney, F. - See: Smith, Daniel
	73	Hale, Sarah Josepha Buell
	74	Halleck, Henry W.
	75	Hannegan, Edward A.
	76	Hare, Robert Jr.
	77	Harlan, James

Box    Folder

SERIES I. INDIVIDUAL SIGNATURES, cont.

[1]	78	Harris, Ira Harrison, George – See: William Waln
	79	Hart, John (2)
	80	Hay, John Hays, Samuel - See: Gratz, Hyman
	81	Hemphill, Joseph
	82	Hobart, John Henry
	83	Hoff, Henry
	84	Hopkinson, Joseph
	85	Ingersoll, Charles J.
	86	Ingersoll, Joseph Reed
	87	Ingham, Samuel Delucenna (12)
	88	Ingraham, Edward D.
	89	Inskeep, James
	90	Jewell, Kenneth
	91	Johnson, Andrew
	92	Jones, Thomas ap Catesby
	93	Kearsley, John
	94	Keppeler, Michael
	95	King, Preston
	96	Lane, James H.
	97	Lapsley, David, John & Joseph (14)
	98	Lay, Benjamin Levy, Hayman - See: Moses, Isaac
	99	Logan, Deborah
	100	Lovejoy, Owen
	101	Lowell, J. R.
	102	Lyon, Pat
	103	McClenachan, Blair McIlhenny, William - See: Barker, John
	104	McLane, Louis (7)
	105	Magri, M. Lavinia (2)
	106	Markoe, Abraham
	107	Mason, W. B.
	108	Mayo, Isaac
	109	Meade, George
	110	Meade, George Gordon
	111	Meredith, Samuel Miller, Crawford - See: Vaughan, John Montmollin, Frederick - See: Wachsmuth, John G.
	112	Moorhead, James Kennedy
	113	Morris, Edward Joy
	114	Morris, George Pope
	115	Morris, Robert (4)



Box    Folder

## SERIES I. INDIVIDUAL SIGNATURES, cont.

[1]	116	Moses, Isaac
	117	Myer, J.
2	118	Nagle, William J.
		Nathan, Simon - See: Moses, Isaac
	119	Nicolay, John G.
	120	Onderdonk, Henry Ustick
	121	Palmer, Henry
	122	Peale, Charles Willson
	123	Peale, Raphaelle
	123	Peale, Rembrandt
	124	Peale, Rubens
	125	Penrose, Charles B.
	126	Peters, Richard, Jr.
	127	Peterson, Charles
	128	Pettit, Andrew - See: Bayard, Andrew
	129	Peyton, Bernard
		Phillips, Jonas - See: Moses, Isaac
	130	Pierce, Franklin
	131	Plitt, George
	132	Plumstead, George
	133	Porter, Albert Gallatin
	134	Porter, David
	135	Poulson, Zachariah
	136	Probst, Anton
	137	Raguet, Condy (2)
	138	Randall, Matthew
	139	Randall, Samuel Jackson
	140	Randolph, John (of Roanoke)
	141	Ravel, Jerome (2)
	142	Read, John
		Read, William - See: Plumstead, George
	143	Reed, G. W.
	144	Reed, Joseph - See also: Barker, John; and: Bayard, Andrew
	145	Reinagle, Alexander (2)
	146	Richings, Peter
	147	Ridgway, Jacob (2)
		Rogers, Charles - See: Charles Bird
		Rush, James - See: Ridgway, Jacob
	148	Rush, Richard (2)
	149	Sansom, William
	150	Scott, John V.
	151	Sergeant, John (2)
	152	Sergeant, Thomas (2)
		Seixas, Benjamin - See: Moses, Isaac

Box    Folder

SERIES I. INDIVIDUAL SIGNATURES, cont.

[2]	153	Sharswood, George
	154	Sherman, John
	155	Sickels, William H.
	156	Sims, J.
	157	Sloan, Andrew Scott
	158	Smith, Benjamin Bosworth
	159	Smith, Caleb Blood
	160	Smith, Daniel
	161	Sparks, Jared
	162	Stockton, Robert Field
	163	Stone, William M.
		Stribling, Cornelius K. - See: Hoff, Henry
	164	Strickland, William (2)
	165	Sully, Thomas (2)
	166	Sumner, Charles (2)
	167	Swift, Joseph
	168	Taber, George H.
	169	Tabor, Stephen J. W.
	170	Taylor, James H.
	171	Thompson, John W.
		Thumb, Mrs. Tom - See: Magri, M. Lavinia
	172	Tilghman, Benjamin
	173	Tilghman, Edward
	174	Tilghman, William (2)
	175	Tyler, R.
	176	Upshur, Abel Parker
	177	Van Buren, Martin
	178	Vaughan, John
	179	Vaux, Roberts
	180	Veal, Moses
	181	Wachsmuth, John G.
	182	Wade, Benjamin Franklin
	183	Wager, Peter
		Waln, Jesse - See: Conkling, Joseph
	184	Waln, William (2)
	185	Walworth, John
		Warren, Minnie - See: Magri, M. Lavinia
	186	Webster, Daniel
	187	Webster, Fletcher (2)
	188	Weller, John B.
	189	West, Charles J.
		Wharton, Robert - See: Thompson, John W.
	190	White, William (3)
	191	Wignell, Anne

Box    Folder

SERIES I. INDIVIDUAL SIGNATURES, cont.

[2]	192	Wilmot, David
	193	Wise, Henry A.
	194	Unidentified

Box    Folder

SERIES II. GROUP SIGNATURES

Filed alphabetically by the first signature.

- |     |     |   |
|-----|-----|---|
| [2] | 195 | Binns, John, with Edward D. Corfield; Thomas Hart; Benjamin Duncan; J. Engleman; Adam Woepfer [?]; William J. Duane; and George W. Jones  |
|     | 196 | Boyd, George, with William Neill; William Augustus Muhlenberg; and Richard Dale   |
|     | 197 | Bringhurst, James, with Thomas Smith; Joseph Roberts; James Davidson; and J. Williams   |
|     | 198 | Chauncey, Charles, with John Welsh; Richard Willing; Cadwalader Evans; Benjamin Stille; James Lyle; L. Clapier; John Bohler   |
|     | 199 | Cox, Paul, with William Nassau; J. Workman; G. Conyngham; James Stuart; Robert Ralston; and Ferguson McElwain   |
|     | 200 | Groves, Anthony, with John Grenier; Thomas Roberts; Charles Graff; Jasper Cope; Israel Cope; Josiah Starkey; Henry Whitmer; Jacobs; [?]; Samuel Pancoast; William H. Howell; Abraham Carlele [?]; Charles Foulke; Robert Gray; Coleman Sellers; Samuel Robbins; and John M. Price |
|     | 201 | Latimer, Thomas, with J.J. Janeway; T.H. Skinner; Alexander Henry; D. Jaudon; and Robert Ralston  |
|     | 202 | Logan, with Algernon Sydney Logan; Cauffman; and Jacob Holgate  |
|     | 203 | Neill, William, with Alexander Henry; John McMullin; George Latimer; James Stuart; and John W. Thompson   |
|     | 204 | Reed, Joseph, with Pettit; Sergeant; Charles J. Ingersoll; Samson Levi; John M. Scott; and Abraham Shoemaker  |

Box    Folder

## SERIES III. CIVIL WAR AUTOGRAPHS

Arranged alphabetically by subseries.

[2]	205	Autograph "album"
		Clipped signatures
	206	A-D Anderson, Ashur, Baird, Barry, Belknap, Biddle, Blair, Boyle, Bowers, Breckinridge, Brott, Burbridge, Byrd, Cameron, Campbell, Carrington, Chetlain, Cobb, Coburn, Cochrane, Connell, Coon, Cruft, Crawford, Cummings, David, Dickson, Dodge, Donaldson, Doolittle, Doubleday, Dudley
	207	E-I East, Easton, Elliot, Erving, Flad, Flynn, Forney, Franklin (2), Fry, Gaun, Gavin, Geary, Gillem, Gilfillan, Given, Goldsborough, Goodwin, Grant, Grant, Granger (3), Granger, Harrison, Hill (3), Hoffman, Hoffman, Hooker, Howard
	208	J-M Johnson, Johnson, Jones, Kahn, Keller, Kelley, Kimball, Krupe, Kryzanowski, Lane (3), Logan, Loomis, Lowe, Lucys, Lyon, McClellan, McMichael, Milroy, Miller (2), Mitchell, Mizner, Montgomery, Moore, Morgan, Morton, Mundy
	209	N-S Negley, O'Neill, Osterhaus, Paine, Palmer, Parkhurst, Reynolds (2), Rice, Rochester, Rousseau, Sawyer, Schofield (2), Schoepf, Schurz, Shaw, Sickel, Sickles, Sigel, Sipes, Slocum (2), Smith, Smith, Smith, Stanley, Slemmer, Stanton, Starkweather, Steedman, Stokes, Stoneman (2)
	210	T-Z Taylor, Thomas (2), Thompson, Townsend, Turney, Tyndale, Upton, Van Cleve, Wadsworth, Ward, Webster, Whitaker, Williams, Wise, Wistar, Wood (2)
	211	Unidentified