Summary Information

Call number: C0489
Repository: Princeton University. Library. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections
Manuscripts Division
One Washington Road Princeton, New Jersey 08544 USA
Size: 2 linear ft.
Language(s) of Material: English
Abstract: Consists of the selected writings and correspondence of American educator and writer, Grace Latimer Jones McClure. Materials primarily relate to her unpublished book, A Clippership Honeymoon, which centers around the diaries of Malvina "Mallie" McClure, the wife of a mid-19th century New England sea captain.
Location: This collection is stored onsite at Firestone Library.
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Grace Latimer Jones McClure was an American educator and writer. McClure was born in Columbus, Ohio in 1879. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1900, and studied philosophy at The Ohio State University. In 1904 she became a teacher at the Columbus School for Girls in Columbus, Ohio where she taught English and Italian art, eventually serving as the headmistress of the school from 1926 through 1938. In 1921, she married Charles F.W. McClure, Professor of Biology at Princeton University.

This collection primarily consists of materials related to American educator and writer Grace Latimer Jones McClure’s unpublished book, A Clippership Honeymoon. They include research notes, annotated drafts, typescripts, and correspondence related to the editing of the book and McClure’s efforts to have it published. Also included is the original source material - nine diaries written from 1850-1862 by Charles F.W. McClure's aunt, Malvina "Mallie" McClure, that document her early life in mid-19th century Cambridge and her travels as the wife of sea captain, Seth Williams. Several volumes of these diaries document their honeymoon voyage on his clipper ship Gem of the Ocean.

The collection also includes correspondence related to her position as the headmistress of the Columbus School for Girls, and as an active member of the Princeton University community in Princeton, New Jersey.

In addition, two diaries from Malvina’s mother and Charles F.W. McClure’s grandmother, Mary McClure, are included.
Gift of Professor E.D.H Johnson in 1972 and in 1974 (AM 21529)

Appraisal

No materials were removed from the collection during 2018 processing beyond routine appraisal practices.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Grace L.J. McClure Papers, Box and Folder Number; Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Encoding

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit 2018-08-22T14:07-0400

Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Subject Headings

- McClure, Malvina, 1834-1867
- McClure, Mary
- McClure, Charles F. W. (Charles Freeman Williams), 1865-
- Columbus School for Girls (Columbus, Ohio)
- New England.
- School principals.
- Ship captains.
- Ocean travel--History--19th century.
- Women at sea.
- Correspondence.
- Diaries.
- Manuscripts.
- Cartes-de-visite (card photographs).
- Women's studies
- Travel
General Correspondence, 1906-1952

Description: Primarily consists of professional correspondence related to McClure's role as a teacher and headmistress at the Columbus School for Girls. Letters from fellow educators, administrators, and potential commencement speakers are included. Additionally, there are letters related to the McClures' involvement with the Princeton University community, and Grace's participation in various clubs and organizations in Princeton, New Jersey. Letters to her husband, Charles F.W. McClure, and her father George D. Jones are also included.

Correspondence, A-C, 1906-1952
Description: Includes two letters from Jane Addams.

Correspondence, D-G, 1906-1952
Description: Includes a signed photograph of John Drinkwater.

Correspondence, H-L, 1906-1952

Correspondence, M-O, 1906-1952

Correspondence, P-S, 1906-1952
Description: Includes five letters from former First Lady, Frances F. Cleveland Preston. Also included is an emergency passport issued in 1914 from the American Embassy at Rome.

Correspondence, T-Z, 1906-1952

Letters to Charles F.W. McClure, 1929-1941
Description: Letters addressed to Charles F.W. McClure from multiple correspondents.

Letter to George D. Jones, 1911
Description: Letter addressed to Grace McClure's father, George D. Jones.

A Clippership Honeymoon, 1860-1951

Description: Consists of materials related to the researching, writing, editing, and publishing of A Clippership Honeymoon. Also includes additional outlines of short stories written by McClure based on her research into maritime history and clipper ships.

Correspondence related to the Writing and Publication, 1932-1951
Description: Consists of letters written and received by McClure related to the writing, editing, research, and publishing of A Clippership Honeymoon. Correspondence is arranged chronologically and correspondents include Gene Rea, editor of the text; McClure family members; and literary agents and publishers.

Collected Research, 1860-1933

Description: Consists of collected clippings, notes, and catalogs related to the topic of clipper ships and women at sea. Also included is a letter from Seth Williams, and photographs of Seth Williams, Mary McClure, and John Nay McClure.

Notes and Drafts, undated

Description: Annotated drafts and notes related to multiple chapters of A Clippership Honeymoon.

Notes and Drafts, undated

Description: Annotated drafts and notes related to multiple chapters of A Clippership Honeymoon.

Sea Journals of Malvina McClure, March 17, 1860-August 31, 1862, undated

Description: Bound copy of chapters IV through XIII.

A Clippership Honeymoon Being the Life and Sea Journals of Malvina McClure, Typescript, undated

Other Stories Related to Clipper Ships, 1936

Description: Correspondence, drafts, and research related to other stories written about clipper ships by Grace McClure.

Malvina "Mallie" McClure, 1850-1862

Description: Consists of nine diaries, a book, and a notebook owned by Malvina "Mallie" McC cle who was born Susan Malvina McClure in Raymond, New Hampshire in 1834. The youngest daughter of John Nay McClure and Mary McClure, she spent much of her early life in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She married Seth Williams (1834-1869), a sea captain, and spent several years, including the first year of their marriage, traveling with him aboard the clipper ship the Gem of the Ocean. She died March 1, 1867.

Diaries, 1850-1862

Description: Nine diaries written by Malvina "Mallie" Williams (née McClure) that Grace McClure used as reference for A Clippership Honeymoon. The diaries recount Mallie’s early life in Cambridgeport; her marriage to Seth Williams and their honeymoon year on the clipper ship Gem of the Ocean; and other events related to her life as the wife of a sea captain. Diaries were assigned volume numbers by McClure, and each have a brief synopsis of the dates and content attached to the front cover. Bookmarks from McClure were also left in their original locations.
Diaries I - II, 1850-1855
Box: B-001214
Folder: 5

Diaries III - IV, 1856-1857
Box: B-001214
Folder: 6

Diaries V - VI, 1860-1861
Box: B-001215
Folder: 1

Diaries VII - IX, 1861-1862
Box: B-001215
Folder: 2

Notebook, undated
Box: B-001215
Folder: 3

Paul & Virginia, from the French of Bernardin Saint-Pierre : Elizabeth, of the exiles of Siberia, from the French of Madame Cottin : to which is added the Indian cottage, from the French of Bernardin Saint-Pierre. , 1854
Box: B-001215
Folder: 4

Creator: Saint-Pierre, Bernardin de, 1737-1814.

Description: Published by T. Allman & Son, 42, Holburn Hill.
Inscribed "Mallie S. Williams, May 9th, 1861, Port Louis, Mauritius." Also includes the stamp "H.J. Snelling, Mauritius."

Mary McClure Diaries, 1855-1861
Box: B-001215
Folder: 5

Description: Consists of two diaries from Mary McClure, the mother of Malvina "Mallie" McClure and grandmother of Charles F.W. McClure. Born in New Hampshire in the early 19th century, she married Jedediah Nay and had three children. When Nay died, she remarried a distant cousin of his, John Nay McClure, and had three additional children - Charles Freeman, John Freeman, and Susan Malvina. The McClure family moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts in the 1840s and there she spent the rest of her life. She died in 1867. The diaries recount several years of her life in the Cambridgeport area. Any notes or markers placed by Grace McClure have been left in their original locations.