

C Draper-McClurg Family, Papers, 1838-2009
3069 3.9 linear feet; folders 1-134 also available on 5 rolls of microfilm

MICROFILM

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INTRODUCTION

The Draper-McClurg family papers are comprised of correspondence, photographs, Civil War diaries and records, and other personal papers of the families of Philander Draper and Joseph W. McClurg. The papers document the families' involvement in politics, farming and orchards, lead mining and smelting, the Civil War, and frontier life in Missouri, the Dakota Territory, and several western states.

DONOR INFORMATION

The Draper-McClurg Family Papers were loaned to the University of Missouri for microfilming by Emma Phillips on 4 February 1987 (Accession No. 4761). Multiple additions were made to the collection between 1989 and 2009 by other family members who also decided to donate the original materials from the first accession that had been loaned for microfilming (Accession No. 4916, 4945, 5163, 5723, and 6164).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Philander Draper, the son of Daniel and Susannah Gibbs Draper, was born in Tennessee in 1811. The family moved to a farm near Auburn, Lincoln County, Missouri, in 1816. Philander joined his brothers Edwin and Daniel as a partner in Edwin Draper and Brothers in Louisiana, Missouri. In addition to a general mercantile business, the brothers expanded into port packing, lumber, sawmills, building, shipping, and real estate. The business was dissolved in 1861.

Philander married Eliza Ann Clark in 1835. Their son, James, worked in foundries in St. Louis. During the Civil War he helped build ironclads for the Union navy. Eliza died with her unnamed infant in 1838. Philander married Sarah Fentem in 1839. They were the parents of four sons and six daughters: Daniel Marshall, Anna Hassell, Eliza Clark, Susan Fentem, Charles Clinton, Edwin F., Laura Emma, Emma, Arthur Gibbs, and Fannie Lyon. Eliza Clark was educated at the ladies' seminary in Danville, Missouri, and attended classes in St. Louis. Letters indicate the daughters taught school in rural Missouri, operated a store in Louisiana, traveled, and cared for their parents.

Sons Daniel and Charles, along with their father, served in Missouri during the Civil War. Philander was discharged in 1862 due to poor health. Daniel commanded a cavalry unit. After the war he was elected state auditor. He then tried several business ventures, eventually following his brother Edwin to Colorado where he worked for railroads.

Charles was fifteen when he joined the Missouri Home Guard and became a clerk and errand boy. These tasks brought him to the attention of Governor Thomas C. Fletcher who engaged Charles as his private secretary. Fletcher convinced the state legislature to make the position permanent and allocate a salary. In January 1869, when Joseph W. McClurg became governor, he retained Charles in the position of secretary. McClurg left office in January 1871.

In October of that year, Charles married McClurg's daughter, Frances Ann "Fannie" McClurg. Fannie had acted as hostess for her widowed father during his years in the Governor's mansion.

Joseph Washington McClurg was born in Missouri in 1818, but at the death of his parents, he returned to Ohio. He was educated at Oxford, Ohio, then taught school in Louisiana and Mississippi. In 1839, he moved to Texas where he studied law and was clerk of the circuit court in 1840. He returned to Missouri and married Mary C. Johnson in 1841. They were the parents of eight children: William M., Mary Emma, Joseph E., Frances Ann (Fannie), Sarah (Sallie) J., James A., Marshall, and Lily. Joseph W. McClurg was a prominent merchant at Linn Creek, Missouri, prior to the Civil War. He represented Missouri in Congress for three terms, then was drafted into the governorship of Missouri, serving from 1869 to 1871. He was an intensely religious man, as most of his writings reflect. While he was in Washington D.C., rebel raiders destroyed his store in Linn Creek, causing financial reversals from which he never recovered. Upon leaving public office in 1871, he entered into several business ventures with his sons-in-law, including lead prospecting, mining and smelting operations, and the building and operation of the *Emma*, a steamboat. McClurg's daughter Emma married Marshall W. Johnson. Johnson was open to many business ventures proposed by his father-in-law and also entered into partnership with Charles Draper, operating an unsuccessful farm and orchard.

At some time in the early 1880s Johnson and his sons Jodie and Thad homesteaded in the Dakota Territory. Fannie McClurg Draper went with her father, her brother Joe, and her children to homestead near the Johnsons. Charles stayed at Lebanon, Missouri, working as a bank clerk to support the venture. The enterprise failed and all parties returned to Missouri.

Charles continued in banking at Lebanon, where he and Fannie lived out their lives and raised their six children: Mary "Mamie" McClurg, Joseph W., Arthur P., Sarah Kate, Emma, and James C. Arthur followed his father into banking at Lebanon. Joe and Jim worked in mining engineering, prospecting, and smelting, with a short-lived business in Joplin, Missouri. Mamie and Kate graduated from the Knox Conservatory of Music at Galesburg, Illinois. Kate taught music in schools in Oklahoma and Louisiana, then opened a music school in Lebanon. Mamie married Clint Draper, who ran a successful touring minstrel show, the Elk Minstrels. She died of tuberculosis in 1904. Her sister, Emma, later married Clint.

Arthur married Annie Laurie Hilton in 1899 and they had seven children: Mary (Polly), Katherine, who died in infancy, Edwin (Ned), Charles (Chock), John, Lucy, and Elizabeth (Bib). Ned worked for a time in New Orleans for the Rice Growers' Association and was present for the flood of 1927. He later worked for a tree service and traveled throughout the country with his crew before returning to Lebanon and marrying Gladys Leeper, whom he had met in Oklahoma. They had four children: Arthur Gibbs, Joseph Robert, Catherine Anne (Catch), and Lucy Frances. He worked in the Lebanon State Bank with his father.

Charles married Aileen Chrisman and became a lawyer in Houston, Texas. They had two children: Dorothy and Donald. John married Hazel Berg and had three children: Betsy, James, and Ruth. He served in the army in World War II and was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge. After the war, he resumed his life in Lebanon manufacturing staves.

Polly taught in the Lebanon public schools and married George Moore. Lucy married Floyd Davis and they had two children: Arthur Warren and Mary Kay. Bib married David Joslyn and they had five children: David, Diana, Dorothy, Elizabeth, and Carolyn. After David, Sr. died, Bib married Howard Breazeale.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Draper-McClurg Family Papers document the families' involvement in politics, farming and orchards, lead mining and smelting, the Civil War, and frontier life in Missouri, the Dakota Territory, and several western states. They are arranged into four series:

Correspondence, Photographs, Writings, and Subject Files.

The **Correspondence** series comprises the bulk of the collection and is arranged chronologically. Care should be used in determining the writer of the letters. Family names were used over all generations in both families, and many letters are signed with initials. Genealogical charts for both families are included.

Information on politics and business ventures is informally expressed in the correspondence. Subjects include the Draper family mercantile business, a ladies' seminary in Danville, Missouri, the raid by Bill Anderson's men in October 1864, educational techniques, pupils' intelligence levels and home environments, salaries, clothing styles and dressmaking, a St. Louis iron foundry, wages, and the construction of armored boats during the Civil War. Information on the Civil War includes the Missouri Home Guards, the Missouri 33rd Infantry Regiment, skirmishes, and searches for bushwhackers. Daniel and Edwin Draper moved to Colorado following the Civil War and wrote home of Indian skirmishes, railroads, journalism, and living conditions.

Prior to the marriage of Fannie McClurg and Charles C. Draper in 1871 there is little material on the McClurg family. There are a few letters from Mary C. Johnson McClurg concerning daily events at Linn Creek and several letters by Joseph W. McClurg written from California during the 1849-1850 gold rush. During the 1860s, McClurg wrote advice to his children, with occasional items of news from Washington, D.C. After 1871, the McClurg correspondence concerns business ventures in mining and milling, the profitability of various types of ores, and shipping costs.

Marshall W. Johnson and Charles C. Draper were partners with their father-in-law in most of these ventures including a farm and orchard. Correspondence concerns varieties of fruit, hops, livestock, farm buildings, and detailed written specifications for a barn. Letters during the Dakota Territory homesteading venture of 1886-1887 give detailed descriptions of daily living in a sod house. They note plastering, furniture arrangement, heating, weather, travel to town, availability and prices of food and merchandise, neighbors, education of children, water and wells, and health problems and remedies.

The correspondence of Fannie and Charlie Draper's children after 1900 constitutes another portion of the family papers. Their son Joe worked in mining, smelting and milling ventures throughout the West. His letters are insightful and descriptive.

Arthur's son, Ned, wrote home frequently while in New Orleans working for the Rice Growers' Association and while training and working as a tree surgeon throughout the country. In one of his letters from New Orleans, he describes the flood of 1927. In other letters, he discusses his courtships with a couple of women, including Gladys Leeper, who would become his wife.

Another of Arthur's sons, John, was drafted into the army during World War II. The series contains photocopies of letters he sent to his wife and children and a few from his wife. Most of the letters describe his training, hospital conditions at Camp Fanning, Texas, where he was treated for an infection, and his recuperation in England after being wounded in the Battle of the Bulge.

Much of the remaining correspondence in the series centers on Ned and Gladys and their growing family.

The **Photographs** series contains nearly 1000 images of the families dating from the 1840s to 1990s. They are divided into prints and glass plate negatives which the family numbered and described. Two appendices, one each describing prints and negatives, follows this inventory. The negatives have been digitized for preservation purposes and the scans can be found in the collection.

The photographs include portraits of family members, scenes from their farming and orchard businesses, family homes, and vacations at Niangua River, near Linn Creek. The series also includes photographs of Clint Draper and others in minstrel costume and makeup.

Photographs from the Webb family stem from the marriage of Joe Draper to Minna Webb. These images are copies from the microfilm made when the family first loaned the collection to the University. The family did not return the originals to the collection when they donated the rest of the materials.

The **Writings** series contains diaries, essays, biographies, and histories written by family members and others. Joseph W. McClurg wrote religious and philosophical essays that may have been speeches. Philander Draper wrote accounts of farming in Missouri in the early 19th century and maintained a Civil War diary. Charles Draper kept diaries during the Civil War and the early 1870s. Kate Draper wrote short stories and extensive biographical accounts of Joseph W. McClurg and Fannie McClurg Draper.

Arthur Draper wrote a diary during the last three years of his life in which he described in great detail his daily routine, visits by family members, the accidental burning death of his sister, Kate, and other family news. He frequently wrote about visiting his son, John's house and watching boxing matches and Walt Disney productions on their television. He especially liked to give his opinion of the Disney shows in his diary.

In addition to his diary, Arthur wrote several short stories, reminiscences, and essays on universal language and economic and political policy in the hopes of getting them published.

Other notable topics in this series include temperance, the Battle of Pilot Knob, and the family's experience in the Dakota Territory in the 1880s.

This series is arranged alphabetically by author. Writings for which the author is unknown are arranged alphabetically by topic.

Subject Files make up the remainder of the collection. Due to the prominence of both families, their history is closely related to the history of Missouri- Linn Creek, Lebanon, and Louisiana especially. This series contains newspaper clippings and other materials that document the history of these areas, genealogical information, legal and financial papers, and Civil War documents. The series also includes drawings by Arthur Draper; information on the family orchards; playbill covers, advertisements, and a book from Clint Draper's minstrel troupe; and postcards, greeting cards, and a significant number of Valentines from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In addition, the Draper genealogical folder contains Arthur Gibbs Draper's reminiscences of growing up in Lebanon during the 1940s, given in response to his grandson's questions shortly before Arthur's death in 2009. The series is arranged alphabetically by topic.

For more information on Clint Draper and his minstrel troupe, please see the Arthur Clinton Draper Collection (R112) and the Arthur Clinton Draper Photograph Collection (R847).

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