

THE WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

REGISTER: William C. McFarland Papers
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William C. McFarland (b. 1838-?) was born in Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, of Scotch-Irish extraction. He was a descendant of the McFarlane Clan of Loch Sloy, Scotland. He was educated in Pennsylvania, and taught in Kentucky from 1859-1861. He then attended Ohio State and Union Law College of Cleveland, Ohio graduating with a degree of A.B. In 1862 McFarland practiced law in Cleveland until 1864, when he joined the Quartermaster's Department of the Union Army at Nashville, Tennessee. He resumed his law practice in Cleveland after the war.

He was elected by the Republican Party as a representative from Cuyahoga County to the Ohio General Assembly in 1871, serving until 1873. In 1875, he formed the law firm Critchfield & McFarland, engaging in corporate and commercial law. It was in business for two years, and following its demise, McFarland traveled to Europe. He wrote many letters during time spent overseas, detailing his experiences and observations to the *Cleveland Herald*. McFarland was a conservative Republican politician. In addition, he was ranked among the most successful lawyers in Cleveland.

The William C. McFarland Papers (1855-1930), consist of anecdotes, articles, essays, newspaper clippings, postcards, and speeches. All the writings were authored by William C. McFarland, unless otherwise noted.

The collection is arranged alphabetically by document type, and then chronologically.

This collection is of value to researchers studying the history of the legal profession in Ohio. Those interested in United States history of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries will find the essays, articles, and speeches to be valuable resources of information, as subjects covered include law, African American history, the Civil War and slavery, politics, agriculture, and philosophy. Correspondence contained in this collection will serve as important genealogical data, as well as sociological and geographic information pertaining to Europe.

Provenance: Jack W. Burtch, Jr., 2001

Number of Containers: 1 Oversize Folders: Oversize Volumes:

Size: 0.2 linear feet / 0.06 linear meters

Restrictions: None.

Container

- 1 Folder 1: Anecdotes, undated.
- Folder 2: Essay, "As a matter of course the old democratic party will be found where it always has been, with its shoulder in the wheel, helping in the case of liberty," undated.
- Folder 3: Essay, "Kentucky as it is," undated.
- Folder 4: Essay, "The Lawyers Vocation," February 2, 1865.
- Folder 5: Essay, "A Manuscript to record and preserve ideas and articles for future reference," *Office Quarter Master*, October 1868.
- Folder 6: Essay, "Negro Poetry, Music & Art," undated.
- Folder 7: Essay, "Question – Resolved that the abolition of slavery should be made an ultimatum in making peace with the rebels," February 9, 1865.
- Folder 8: Essay, wheat, undated.
- Folder 9: Essays, law and lawyers, undated.
- Folder 10: Essays and notes, untitled, undated.
- Folder 11: Newspaper clippings, 1875 and undated.
- Folder 12: Postcards, 1930.
- Folder 13: Speech, "Argument upon the negative of the following question: Resolved that man is governed more by civil than moral laws," April 13, 1863.
- Folder 14: Speech, Civil War and slavery, delivered at Olmsted Falls (published in part in the *Cleveland Herald*, July 5 and July 6, 1869).
- Folder 15: Speech, Cleveland Bar meeting, May 30, 1864.

- Folder 16: Speech, "Golden Rules for the examination of witnesses," David Paul Brown, undated.
- Folder 17: Speech, "Onion Meeting of Newburg," undated.
- Folder 18: Speech, "Reasons why there is a death of intellectual pursuits among men," February 21, 1866.
- Folder 19: Speech, "Since the breaking out of the rebellion," undated.
- Folder 20: Speech, "The spirit of the age," ca. 1866.
- Folder 21: Speech, untitled, undated.
- Folder 22: Speech, "Who was it that killed Lincoln," undated.
- Folder 23: Will, Alexander Wright, 1855.