



Edward McCrady, Jr. papers, 1860-1909
SCHS 452.00

Creator: McCrady, Edward, 1833-1903.

Description: 2.75 linear ft.

Biographical/historical note: Charleston, S.C. attorney, historian, and state representative. After the Civil War McCrady was involved in the defense of the stockholders of the South Carolina banks. He also collected Confederate records of the state of South Carolina and passed an act in the state legislature establishing a Confederate bureau for the collection of war records. His wife, Mary Fraser Davie, was the granddaughter of the Revolutionary general William R. Davie.

Scope and content: Collection chiefly consists of legal records, correspondence, historical research, and writings of Edward McCrady, Jr. Legal records pertain to clients and cases handled by McCrady and his law firm (McCrady, Sons & Bacot, and later McCradys & Bacot). A number of cases concern post-war claims against the State Bank of South Carolina (chartered 1801), particularly bonds issued by the Bank in aid of the Blue Ridge Railroad Company. Case records of Samuel Lord (receiver of the State Bank after the Civil War) include a memorial detailing the history of the records and assets of the Bank during and after the war, describing how cashier Benjamin M. Lee, fleeing Camden (S.C.) in February 1865, was captured by Gen. Sherman's soldiers, who "plundered and carried off" bonds and other securities in his possession. A letter (Feb. 1896) from Edward McCrady, Jr. to Captain George W. Cone at Camp Oak (South Dakota), asks if he recalls whether any bank bonds were "captured by your party," if any were destroyed, and if he knows what became of the bonds, offering to "negotiate for their recovery."

Other case and client records pertain to F. H. Dickinson of Barnwell County; Hyatt, McBurney & Co., and John R. Stanford of Pomona Hall, Clarkesville (Ga.); George Garvin; Fenimore C. Marsh of Ohio; Robert D. Mure; Charles Kerrison; Robert Quash Pinckney; Elizabeth Louisa Cuthbert Porteous; Elizabeth McKelvey Couturier; Charles Seele; James Simons, Sr.; William Henry Trescot; and the Valley River Mining Company (N.C.). One case concerns claims for compensation for rent of wharves, warehouses and offices in Charleston (S.C.) which were confiscated for the use of the U.S. Army Quartermaster Dept. during and after the Civil War. Several cases relate to the Davie family and the estate of William R. Davie (1756-1820) and his plantation Landsford in Chester County. Of note is a group of financial, legal, and property records pertaining to several freedmen and their properties on Johns Island (S.C.), principally divisions of the Capes Plantation. This group includes bank books of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Co., conveyances, and some related correspondence and notes. Persons named include Cyrus Rivers, Cyrus Simons, Abram Jones, Robert Gadsden, Lewis Miller, July Cokescum, Taffie Singleton, and Phoebe Ann Drayton. Also of note is a judge's order (1878)

giving notice of amnesty to anyone who "at any time acted with the outlaw Lewis R. Redmond" in Pickens County (S.C.).

McCrary's personal correspondence includes a letter (17 April 1900) from Charles U. Shepard concerning the "Pinehurst tea experimentation." Writings of Edward McCrary, Jr. consist of notes, letters to the editor, speeches, essays, and part of a manuscript of a book about the U.S. Constitution and the Supreme Court. Other topics of writings include dueling, lynching, slavery, and divorce. Historical research material pertains to the records of the Confederate States Army, and includes printed special orders issued by the C.S. Adjutant and Inspector General in 1861 and 1862.

Provenance: 2009.01.

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Search terms:

Davie, William Richardson, 1756-1820 -- Estate.
Lord, Samuel, 1830-1899.
Redmond, Lewis Richard, 1854-1906.
Simons, James, 1813-1879.
Stanford, John R., d. 1867.
Trescot, William Henry, 1822-1898.
Davie family.
Blue Ridge Railroad Company (South Carolina)
Confederate States of America. Army -- Records and correspondence.
Freedman's Savings and Trust Company.
State Bank (S.C.)
Valley River Mining Company (N.C.)
United States. Supreme Court -- History.
Banks and banking -- South Carolina.
Bondholders -- South Carolina.
Constitutional history -- United States.
Freedmen -- South Carolina -- Johns Island.
Outlaws -- South Carolina.
Sherman's March through the Carolinas.
Capes Plantation (Johns Island, S.C.)
Landsford Plantation (Chester County, S.C.)
Pinehurst (Dorchester County, S.C.)
Pomona Hall (Clarkesville, Ga.)
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Claims.
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Destruction and pillage.

Container/folder list:

BOX 1

- 01 Personal correspondence, 1868-1893 (for details, see notes on collection below)
- 02 Personal correspondence, 1894-1902
- 03 Miscellaneous personal and family material
- 04 Miscellaneous professional papers
- 05 Edward McCrady, Sr. estate records and obituaries
- 06 Law firm correspondence, 1866-1879
- 07 Law firm correspondence, 1880s
- 08 Law firm correspondence, 1890s
- 09 Law firm correspondence, 1900-1909, and undated letters
- 10 Law firm financial records
- 11 Law firm records: miscellaneous property records
- 12 Law firm records: miscellaneous case records, legal notes, etc.
- 13 Law firm records: papers relating to the S.C. state debt

BOX 2

- 01 Case and client records: Blue Ridge Railroad Company bankruptcy records, 1874
- 02 Case records: re bonds of the Blue Ridge RR Co., correspondence, 1871-1896
- 03 Case records: re bonds of the Blue Ridge RR Co., petitions, legislative records, etc.
- 04 Case records: William R. Davie legal records
- 05 Case records: William R. Davie legal records, correspondence, 1879-1891
- 06 Case records: cases relating to William R. Davie, McCrady v. Jones, etc.
- 07 Case records: cases relating to William R. Davie, McCrady v. Robertson
- 08 Case records: F.H. Dickinson legal records, 1895-1899
- 09 Case records: Fairly v. Costa records, 1894
- 10 Case records: Fairly v. Costa
- 11 Case records: George Garvin v. State Bank, 1877-1894
- 12 Case records: Hyatt, McBurney & Co. v. Stanford et al., correspondence, 1864-1877

BOX 3

- 01 Case records: Hyatt, McBurney & Co. v. Stanford et al.
- 02 Case records: John's Island freedmen's records, miscellaneous items
- 03 Case records: John's Island freedmen's records, bank books, 1870-1885
- 04 Case records: John's Island freedmen's records, receipts, 1874-1883
- 05 Case records: John's Island freedmen's records, tax receipts, 1874-1885
- 06 Case records: John's Island freedmen's records, Abram (or Abraham) Jones papers
- 07 Case records: John's Island freedmen's records, Cyrus Rivers papers
- 08 Case records: John's Island freedmen's records, Cyrus Simons papers
- 09 Case records: Samuel Lord legal papers, 1880-1899
- 10 Case records: Samuel Lord legal papers, correspondence
- 11 Case records: Samuel Lord legal papers, S.C., ex rel. Samuel Lord, v. W.T.C. Bates
- 12 Case and client records: McKelvey indenture, 1863
- 13 Case records: Marsh, King and Adger claims, 1884-1902
- 14 Case records: Fenimore C. Marsh v. State Bank, 1876-1895
- 15 Case records: David Moffett v. C.M. Brown, 1876

BOX 4

- 01 Case records: Mure, Middleton et al. v. Charles Kerrison et al., 1894-1899
- 02 Case records: North v. Jervey, 1900-1901
- 03 Case and client records: Robert Quash Pinckney property records, 1872-1878
- 04 Case and client records: Porteous estate records, 1891
- 05 Case and client records: Lewis R. Redmond notice, 1878
- 06 Case and client records: Charles Seele legal and property records, 1880
- 07 Case and client records: Charles Seele legal and property records, plat
- 08 Case records: South Carolina v. James Simons, 1860
- 09 Case and client records: William H. Trescot legal papers, 1874-1894
- 10 Case and client records: Valley River Mining Company records, 1860-1896
- 11 Historical research material: notes on Confederate casualties
- 12 Historical research material: C.S. Adjutant and Inspector General (AIG) special orders, 1861

BOX 5

- 01 Historical research material: C.S. AIG special orders, 1862
- 02 Historical research material: Confederate Army organization charts, etc.
- 03 Historical research material: U.S. troops called up in April 1861
- 04 Miscellaneous items relating to the Confederate States of America
- 05 Manuscript writings of Edward McCrady, Jr.: letter to the editor about the census, 1884
- 06 Writings: letter to the editor about U.S. slavery and emancipation, [1885]
- 07 Writings: letter to the editor about dueling, [1882]
- 08 Writings: speech, 1884, on compulsory military service
- 09 Writings: speech, 1886, at the Military Academy in Charleston; speech, n.d., on divorce
- 10 Writings: speech, n.d., about Hill's Light Division, C.S.A.
- 11 Writings: speech, n.d., about lynching

BOX 6

- 01 Writings: manuscript fragment, chapter one of a book on the Constitution and Supreme Court
- 02 Writings: book, chapter two
- 03 Writings: book, chapter two, continued
- 04 Writings: book, chapter three
- 05 Writings: book, chapter four
- 06 Writings: book, chapter four, continued

BOX 7

- 01 Manuscript writings: essay on the Diocesan Convention, n.d.
- 02 Writings: miscellaneous writings and fragments
- 03 Writings: miscellaneous notes and research
- 04 Notes and papers relating to railroads
- 05 "Memoir of Gen. William Butler" by A.P. Butler, n.d.
- 06 Miscellaneous printed material
- 07 Printed fragments of Edward McCrady's Historical Sketch of South Carolina
- 08 Miscellaneous items relating to McCrady's History of South Carolina, etc.
- 09 Reviews and notices of McCrady's South Carolina in the Revolution, etc.

10 Miscellaneous pamphlets (non-South Carolina related)

Notes on the collection:

BOX 1

1-2 Personal correspondence, 1868-1902: includes a letter, May 1, 1886, to Edward McCrady, Jr., from [R. Stott?] of the Publication Office, War Records, 1861-1865 (U.S. War Department) in Washington, D.C. regarding some pamphlets McCrady sent to him and some Confederate records requested by McCrady; a letter, Dec. 11, 1899, from J.H. Pratt in Chapel Hill, N.C. regarding the use of “infused talc” in the manufacture of fire brick; and a letter, April 17, 1900, from Charles U. Shepard concerning the “Pinehurst tea experimentation near Summerville, S.C.”

BOX 2

02 Case records: re bonds of the Blue Ridge RR Co., correspondence, 1871-1896: includes petitions to the U.S. Congress, a report (1895) regarding Blue Ridge RR Company bonds, correspondence, etc. A letter from Edward McCrady, Jr. to Captain George W. Cone at Camp Oak, South Dakota, asks if Cone remembers whether in the assets of the State Bank of South Carolina “captured by your party” during the war, if there were state bonds, and whether any of these bonds were destroyed. McCrady also asks if Cone can “aid us in ascertaining what became of them?” and states that “If they are still in existence we should be glad to negotiate for their recovery.”

03 Case records: re bonds of the Blue Ridge RR Co., petitions, legislative records, etc.: includes a petition, Benjamin S. Pressley of Charleston, S.C., receiver, to the U.S. Senate. Petition states that in February 1865, the State Bank owned 100 coupon bonds (for one thousand dollars each), numbered 801 to 900, issued by South Carolina in aid of the Blue Ridge Railroad Company. These bonds were in the possession of cashier Benjamin M. Lee who was at or near Lynch’s Creek, S.C. when made prisoner by U.S. forces under the command of Gen. Sherman. The bonds were stolen by Lee’s captors. Some of the bonds (numbers 812, 821, 836, and 837) were later forwarded to the petitioner, then to the U.S. Treasury. As receiver of the Bank, now insolvent, Pressley is charged with endeavoring to collect all property and assets of the Bank. Petitioner also asks that said bonds be delivered to the receiver of the State Bank of South Carolina.

4-7 Case records: William R. Davie legal records: includes correspondence, legal documents, and other papers relating to several lawsuits concerning William R. Davie of Chester, S.C. Also includes an abstract of title to Landsford Plantation in Chester County, and related plats. Related cases include Sarah Jones v. Henry C. Thomas, Edward McCrady v. Jones & Robertson, Mary F. McCrady v. Allen Jones, Thomas C. Robertson, William R. Davie, et al., and Edward McCrady v. Thomas C. Robertson.

08 Case records: F.H. Dickinson legal records, 1895-1899: includes correspondence and legal papers regarding lawsuits involving F.H. Dickinson of Barnwell County. Chief correspondent is attorney Joseph J. Brown at Barnwell, S.C.

9-10 Case records: Fairly v. Costa records, 1894: John S. Fairly v. Edna H. Costa, and Lillian L. Costa of New York. The case concerns mortgaged property in South Carolina.

11 Case records: George Garvin v. State Bank, 1877-1894: involves Garvin's claims against the bank for bonds "issued in aid of the Blue Ridge Railroad Company."

12 Case records: Hyatt, McBurney & Co. v. Stanford et al.: includes correspondence, 1864-1877, beginning with a letter, Nov. 19, 1864, from John R. Stanford in Clarkesville, Georgia, to the firm of Hyatt, McBurney & Company informing the company that he has sold his "home plantation, Mills &c. to Mr. Thomas M. Bradford of Milledgeville." The next letter, March 10, 1866, is from T. M. Bradford in Clarkesville to Hyatt, McBurney & Co. regarding a mortgage debt to them he has acquired as part of the purchase of Stanford's property in 1864. Bradford's letter of Sept. 4, 1867, states that he expected to get funds from a Northern investor in a "cotton factory in operation at my mills." A letter of Feb. 27, 1868 from Bradford mentions the death of Major John R. Stanford, and his estate, and the possibility of some of his property being purchased by the "Masons" in order to establish an orphanage and school. A letter from C.H. Sutton in Clarkesville states that the "case of Mrs. Stanford v. Bradford" was settled, and gives specific points on the settlement. Another lawsuit followed: Hyatt, McBurney & Co. v. Stanford et al. The papers mention Cornelia I. StL. Stanford, and [Col.] John R. Stanford, who died "in the Fall of 1867." Other items include an affidavit (Nov. 1865) attesting that there are gold deposits on Bradford's "Mountain Mills place." A title deed (Nov. 1877) conveys membership of property in Habersham County, Ga., called Pomona Hall, "the former residence of John R. Stanford, deceased" sold by William McBurney and Thomas R. McGaham of Charleston, S.C., to Jeremy F. Gilmer of Chatham County, Ga. Includes an advertising handbill for properties near Clarkesville, Ga., including "Pomona Hall." The place includes a house, mills, a tan yard, orchard, and gold deposits. (These case records are continued in Box 3.)

BOX 3

2-8 Case records: John's Island freedmen's records: a collection of financial, legal, and property records pertaining to a number of freedmen and their properties on John's Island, S.C. Includes "Freedman's Savings and Trust Company" bank books; receipts; mortgages; conveyances; deeds; and some related correspondence and notes. Principal persons named include Cyrus Rivers, Cyrus Simons, Abram (or Abraham) Jones, Robert Gadsden, Lewis Miller, July Cokescum, Taffie (or Taffy) Singleton, Charles Drayton, Phoebe Ann Drayton, Nathaniel Barnwell Rivers, James Murray, and Watty Spring. The principal property involved is the Capes Plantation, and tracts apparently created from it including Bay Hill Plantation and Oakvale, conveyed to freedmen.

9-11 Case records: Samuel Lord legal papers, 1880-1899: Edward McCrady was attorney for Samuel Lord as receiver of the State Bank of South Carolina. Most of these records pertain to a case arising from the funding of "lost bonds" and other securities issued by the bank. Includes a memorial by Lord giving the history of the records and assets of the bank during and after the war. These were moved to Camden, S.C. in 1863 (during the bombardment of Charleston). Upon the approach of Gen. Sherman's army to Camden, one of the men in charge of the "bonds, notes, certificates of stock," cashier Benjamin M. Lee, was sent "into the country." Lee was captured on Feb. 27, 1865, and in his presence his captors broke into the boxes he carried, and the

contents “were plundered and carried off by his captors.” Most of the bonds, except those “numbered 812, 821, 836 and 837” were not turned over to the U.S. government as captured property, but were “stolen by the said troops and illegally appropriated for their own use.” Only the aforesaid numbered bonds (812, 821, 836, and 837) were later found in the possession of the U.S. Treasury in 1882, but 39 others were “at sundry times and in various ways” recovered and funded, but that those securities illegally appropriated by the U.S. troops “have not been presented or found in the 28 years since they were plundered and stolen by the Federal troops and appropriated to illegitimate purposes or lost or destroyed.” There is a closely related case, namely the State of South Carolina, Ex Relatione, Samuel Lord v. W.T.C. Bates, Treasurer of the State of South Carolina (1895-1900).

12 Case and client records: McKelvey indenture, 1863: concerns a marriage settlement between Elizabeth Sumter McKelvey of St. Stephens Parish, S.C., and Peter J. Couturier, her fiancé. Settlement involves Wilton Plantation, a house and lot in Pineville, S.C., and 17 slaves (named in document), as well as bonds and other assets. Indenture conveys Wilton Plantation and other properties to Philip Stanley Kirk in trust for the “sole and separate use” of E.S. McKelvey until her marriage, and thereafter for the married couple.

13 Case records: Marsh, King and Adger claims, 1884-1902: mostly correspondence concerning claims against the U.S. government made by Robert Adger, the estate of Mitchell King, and James Marsh. These parties were seeking to recover rent for their property (wharves, warehouses, and offices in Charleston) which was confiscated and used by the U.S. Army Quartermaster Department during and after the war.

14 Case records: Fenimore C. Marsh v. State Bank, 1876-1895: correspondence and legal papers concern a claim by F.C. Marsh, a citizen of Ohio, against the President, Directors and Company of the State Bank of South Carolina, Edward Sebring, William C. Bee, et al.

15 Case records: David Moffett v. C.M. Brown, 1876: concerns a foreclosure on property in Chester District, S.C., namely 400 acres on the waters of Rocky Creek.

BOX 4

01 Case records: Mure, Middleton et al. v. Charles Kerrison et al., 1894-1899: Robert D. Mure, William I. Middleton et al. v. Charles Kerrison et al. Charles Kerrison was sued as the “sole surviving director and trustee of the State Bank of South Carolina.”

02 Case records: North v. Jervy, 1900-1901: Emily North v. Maria F. Jervy. Case concerns land in Colleton County, S.C. including land “known as the Holly Grove or Stanyarn tract,” Richmond Hill, etc.

03 Case and client records: Robert Quash Pinckney property records, 1872-1878: includes a bond, title, a conveyance, and a mortgage concerning Holly Grove Plantation, property on the east side of the Pee Dee River, and a property in Christ Church Parish, S.C. called Millin Ferry.

04 Case and client records: Porteous estate records, 1891: concern claims on the property of Elizabeth Louisa Cuthbert Porteous in St. Helena Parish known as Old House, which was sold

under the direct tax acts, and whether her estate executor or her devisees are entitled to compensation for it. She died in June 1891. Includes a copy of her marriage settlement of 1844 and her will (1891).

05 Case and client records: Lewis R. Redmond notice, 1878: an order issued by T. [J.] Mackey of the 8th Judicial Circuit, gives notice of amnesty to anyone who “at any time acted with the outlaw Lewis R. Redmond” in Pickens County, S.C.

6-7 Case and client records: Charles Seele legal and property records, 1880: includes a mortgage of Isaac Ancrum to Charles Seele on a part of “Myrtle Bryan Plantation” on John’s Island (Charleston County, S.C.); a plat of lands on John’s Island showing the “Village Field Tract” and other properties; and an abstract of title to two tracts on John’s Island, the first a portion of “Yellow House Tract” and the second located “north of Apaloola Creek.”

08 Case records: South Carolina v. James Simons, 1860: State of South Carolina, Ex Relatione Major Edward McCrady v. Brig. Gen. James Simons. Four booklets of notes pertain to McCrady’s claim (according to the militia laws of the state) to the rank of Lt. Colonel of the Regiment of Rifles (aka The Battalion of Rifles). McCrady had been “duly elected and commissioned Major” of the unit in February 1855.

09 Case and client records: William H. Trescot legal papers, 1874-1894: some correspondence concerns the estate of “Dr. Trescot.” Other papers relate to the legal affairs of William Henry Trescot, including many letters from Trescot to Edward McCrady, who was the trustee of Trescot’s marriage settlement. (Trescot married Eliza N. Cuthbert).

10 Case and client records: Valley River Mining Company records, 1860-1896: records concern property in North Carolina (in the Murphy area) owned by the Valley River Mining Company. Includes promissory notes (1860) issued in Murphy, N.C., (Cherokee County), Daniel F. Ramseur to Rush Vanleer; an indenture between Rush Vanleer and Daniel F. Ramseur, deeding Ramseur’s lands in Cherokee County to Vanleer; a quitclaim (1885) of James W. Cooper pertaining to an assignment made to him by Rush Vanleer; and a letter (1873) from McCrady & Son to Benjamin F. Evans, president of the Valley River Mining Co. giving a legal opinion on some company property.

BOX 5

04 Miscellaneous items relating to the Confederate States of America: include a color image of a Confederate flag; a poem for Confederate Memorial Day; and an envelope made of wallpaper.

06 Writings: letter to the editor, [1885], about U.S. slavery, emancipation, and the War Between the States, excerpt:

“Considering that the records of Congress and the country generally are now open—not to say to Confederates—but to the world, is it not time in the twentieth year after the end of the war, to cease declaring that the war was for the emancipation of the Southern slaves. That story did very well to tell the negroes when they were freed. But is it not safer, truer, and better policy to recollect and to admit that Mr. Lincoln was right and expressed the [best] sentiment of the North,

that sentiment which enabled him to carry on the war successfully, when he said, in August 22, 1862: "My paramount object is to save the Union, and not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it..."