



**Clelia Peronneau Mathewes McGowan Family Papers, 1835-2003
(bulk 1884-ca. 1950)
0368.00**

Description: 3 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical note: Clelia Peronneau Mathewes McGowan was a South Carolina politician, social activist, and writer who spent most of her life in Abbeville and Charleston. She was born in Columbia in 1865 to William Raven Mathewes and Eliza Peronneau Mathewes. In 1883 she sailed to Sweden to live for a year with the family of her mother's former governess, Mrs. Rosalie Roos Olivecrona, who was formerly a teacher at Limestone College (Gaffney, S.C.). This experience fortified a relationship with the Olivecrona family that would last into the 1960s. Clelia married William Campbell McGowan, a successful Abbeville lawyer, in 1885 and the couple had four children: Samuel, William Campbell, Jr., Rosalie Olivecrona, and Mary Miles. After her husband's death Clelia returned to Charleston where she became a distinguished civic leader. She served on the South Carolina Board of Education for seven years, and, after a successful bid for city council in 1923, she became the first woman elected to public office in Charleston. She spent the rest of her days in Charleston writing poetry and serving on various organizational boards, such as the Committee on Better Race Relations, the Charleston Free Library, the Garden Club, and the Poetry Society.

Scope and Content: Clelia P.M. McGowan's papers consist of autobiographical writings, clippings, family correspondence, ephemera, genealogical notes, photographs, poetry, and information regarding her civic and political activities. Materials relating to the connection between Eliza Peronneau Mathewes and her daughter Clelia, and the Swedish family of Rosalie Roos Olivecrona comprise a separate section of the collection. These materials include clippings, correspondence, genealogical notes and photographs of the Olivecrona family, and Clelia's journals kept during her trip to Sweden in 1883-1884. Autobiographical writings include information on antebellum times, plantation life of the Peronneau family at Dungannon, and the burning of Columbia (S.C.) by Gen. Sherman.

Several other members of Clelia's family are represented in this collection, including poetry by her mother, Eliza Peronneau Mathewes, and juvenile writings by her daughters, Mary Miles McGowan and Rosalie Olivecrona McGowan Matthew. A small amount of materials representing the McGowan family, such as obituaries of her husband, William Campbell McGowan, Sr., and correspondence of Confederate general and South Carolina Supreme Court Justice Samuel McGowan are also included. In addition, the allied families of Mathewes, Matthew, Peronneau, and Wardlaw are briefly represented through correspondence, financial records, and photographs.

Preferred citation: Clelia Peronneau Mathewes McGowan family papers, 1835-2003 (bulk 1884-ca. 1950). (368.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Note: William McGowan Matthew; gift; 2003.

Search terms:

McGowan, Clelia Peronneau Mathewes, 1865-1956.
McGowan, Mary Miles, 1894-1908.
McGowan, Samuel, 1819-1897.
McGowan, William Campbell, 1888-1955.
McGowan, William Campbell, 1858-1898.
Matthew, Rosalie Olivecrona McGowan, 1891-1989.
Mathewes, Eliza Peronneau, 1835-1923.
Olivecrona, Rosalie Roos.
McGowan family.
Mathewes family.
Matthews family.
Olivecrona family.
Peronneau family.
Wardell family.
City council members -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Plantation life -- South Carolina -- 19th century.
Sweden -- Description and travel.
Women civic leaders -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Women poets, American -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Abbeville (S.C.)
Charleston (S.C.) -- Politics and government -- 20th century.
Columbia (S.C.) -- History -- Burning, 1865.
Dungannon Plantation (Charleston County, S.C.)
Clippings.
Letters (correspondence)
Poems.
Politicians.

Series Outline:

0368.01: Clelia P. M. McGowan Papers, 1835-2003 (bulk 1884-ca. 1950)
0368.02: Swedish Materials, 1857-1982
0368.03: Papers of Individual Family Members
0368.04: Papers Of Allied Families

Detailed Collection Inventory:

0368.01: CLELIA P. M. MCGOWAN PAPERS, 1835-2003 (BULK 1884-CA. 1950)

0368.01 (A) 01: Autobiographical Writings, 1927-1949

BOX 1

0368.01 (A) 01 (d) 01: Draft 1, 1927 (Preface-Chapter 15)

BOX 2

0368.01 (A) 01 (d) 01: Draft 1, 1927 (Chapters 16-17)

0368.01 (A) 01 (d) 02: Revised Draft, 1945

0368.01 (A) 01 (d) 03: Revised Draft, 1949

0368.01 (A) 01 (e) 01: Excerpt of Draft 1, 1927

0368.01 (A) 01 (n) 01: Notes for Autobiography, 1927

0368.01 (B) 01: Biographical Materials, 1927-2003

0368.01 (B) 01 (a) 01: Louise Allen Article, 2003

0368.01 (B) 01 (a) 02: Louise Allen Research, 2003

0368.01 (B) 01 (g) 01: Guion Griffis Johnson Article and Notes, 1928

0368.01 (B) 01 (j) 01: Joan Marie Johnson Thesis, 2003

0368.01 (B) 01 (p) 01: Ruth Gilliam Powell Thesis, 1927

0368.01 (C) 01: Civic and Political Activities, 1923-2002

0368.01 (C) 01 (c) 01: Charleston Free Library, 1956

0368.01 (C) 01 (c) 02: Charleston City Council, 1923-2002

0368.01 (C) 01 (g) 01: Gateway Walk, 1929-1995

0368.01 (C) 01 (p) 01: Poetry Society, 1923-1992

0368.01 (C) 01 (r) 01: Race Relations (Shaw Center), ca 1945-1984

0368.01 (C) 02: Clippings, early 20th century

0368.01 (C) 03: Correspondence, 1834-1966

0368.01 (C) 03 (g) 01: General family correspondence, 1835-June 1912

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0368.01 (C) 03 (g) 01: General family correspondence, July 1912-June 1963

0368.01 (C) 03 (m) 01: Letters to C.P.M.M. from W. C. McGowan, Jr., 1909-1919

0368.01 (C) 03 (m) 02: Letters to C.P.M.M. from W. C. McGowan, Sr., 1884-October 1885

BOX 4

0368.01 (C) 03 (m) 02: Letters to C.P.M.M. from W. C. McGowan, Sr., October 1885-1898

0368.01 (E) 01: Ephemera, late 19th-early 20th century

0368.01 (F) 01: Family History Notes and Research

0368.01 (G) 01: Genealogical Charts and Notes

0368.01 (O) 01: Obituaries of Clelia Peronneau Mathewes McGowan, 1956

0368.01 (P) 01: Phonograph Recording: 16-inch transcription disk containing "Big Little American Story," re: C.P.M.M., on the Morton Downey radio show, 15 April 1946. Original disk donated to the John Rivers Communications Museum (College of Charleston). Cassette copy only included here.

0368.01 (P) 02: Photographs

0368.01 (P) 03: Poetry, late 19th-mid 20th century

0368.01 (P) 03 (c): Poetry (published and unpublished) by Clelia Peronneau Mathewes McGowan

0368.01 (P) 03 (i) 01: Ms index to published poems of Eliza P. Mathewes and Clelia P. M. McGowan

0368.01 (P) 03 (p) 01: Printed poetry (including Plantation Memories by Clelia Peronneau Mathewes McGowan)

0368.01 (P) 03 (u) 01: Poetry by unidentified author, believed to be by either Eliza P. Mathewes or Clelia P. M. McGowan

0368.01 (P) 04: Prose, by either Eliza Peronneau Mathewes or Clelia Peronneau Mathewes McGowan, late 19th-mid 20th century

0368.01 (P) 05: Prayers, 19th century

0368.01 (T) 01: Tributes, 1946-1993

0368.01 (T) 01 (b) 01: Big Little American Award, 1946

0368.01 (T) 01 (s) 01: South Carolina Hall of Fame Nomination, 1962

0368.02: SWEDISH MATERIALS, 1857-1982

BOX 5

0368.02 (C) 01: Clippings, 1930-1982

0368.02 (C) 02: Correspondence, 1857-1968

0368.02 (C) 02 (e) 01: Correspondence primarily between Eliza Peronneau Mathewes and Rosalie Roos Olivecrona, 1857-1919 (Note: The Olivecrona family returned Eliza's letters to Rosalie to the McGowan family in the mid-20th century)

0368.02 (C) 02 (c) 01: Letters from Clelia Peronneau Mathewes in Sweden to family members and to William C. McGowan, 1883-1884

0368.02 (C) 02 (o) 01: Letters from Olivecrona family to Clelia Peronneau Mathewes and Rosalie Olivecrona McGowan Matthew, 1960-1968

0368.02 (G) 01: Genealogical Notes

0368.02 (P) 02: Photographs of Olivecrona Family (including 1868 photo album, ca. 1865-1947)

BOX 6

0368.02 (R) 01: Research Notes: re Letters

0368.02 (S) 01: Secondary Materials, 1959 and 1981

0368.02 (S) 01 (a) 01: Carl L. Anderson article with notes and correspondence, 1981

0368.02 (S) 01 (o) 01: Nils William Olsson article, 1959

0368.02 (T) 01: Travel Journals of Clelia Peronneau Mathewes McGowan, 1883-1884

BOX 7

0368.03: PAPERS OF INDIVIDUAL FAMILY MEMBERS

0368.03.01: Eliza Peronneau Mathewes (1835-1923)

0368.03.01 (J) 01: Journal excerpt, February 1862

0368.03.01 (P) 01: Poetry, late 19th-early 20th century

0368.03.01 (P) 02: Poem to Longfellow with correspondence, 1879-1991

0368.03.01 (S) 01: Schoolwork, 1852

0368.03.02: Mary Miles McGowan (1894-1908)

0368.03.02 (O) 01: Obituary, 1908

0368.03.02 (S) 01: Schoolwork believed to be Mary Miles McGowan's, ca 1905

0368.03.02 (S) 02: Original Stories, ca. 1905-1907

0368.03.02 (S) 02 (l) 01: "Long Trouble," ca 1905

0368.03.02 (S) 02 (t) 01: "A Tour Through Europe Book I, 1906-1907" with corrections

0368.03.03: Rosalie Olivecrona McGowan Matthew (1891-1989)

0368.03.03 (C) 01: Commonplace book entitled "Letters to Lady B," early 20th century

0368.03.03 (P) 01: Poetry, early 20th century

0368.03.03 (S) 01: Story: "Daily Doings During Delightful Drive Dating Sept. 15-17, 1908"

0368.03.04: Samuel McGowan (1819-1897): Correspondence, 1858-1892

0368.03.05: William C. McGowan, Jr. (1888-1955): Army commission (1917), memorial (1956), and photographs (ca. 1916)

0368.03.06: William C. McGowan, Sr. (1858-1898)

0368.03.06 (O) 01: Obituary, 1898

0368.03.06 (O) 02: Oration (photocopy): "Washington the Great: Celebration of the Sixteenth Anniversary of the Greenville Guards, with the Oration of Captain W. C. McGowan of Abbeville, S.C." (1893)

0368.04: PAPERS OF ALLIED FAMILIES

0368.04.01: Anonymous: undated manuscript sermon (?)

0368.04.02: Mathewes Family Materials, 1802-1904

0368.04.02 (C) 01: Correspondence, 1807-1896

0368.04.02 (F) 01: Financial records, 1811-1904

0368.04.02 (L) 01: Legal documents, 1802-1845

0368.04.03: Matthew Family Photographs, early 20th century

0368.04.04: Peronneau Family Legal Documents, 1687-1806

0368.04.05: Wardlaw Family Correspondence, 1841-1844

Original finding aid produced in August 2004