

Physical Description: 1 volume and 95 letters.

Acquisition: Given by Mr. and Mrs. Gene J. Williams, [REDACTED],
Raleigh; accessioned March 16, 1989.

Description: Alexander Hamilton McNeill (1831-1906) was Moore County clerk of court for thirty-two years, and was involved in the administration of CSA government as enlistment officer and tax assessor in the county from 1861 to 1865. (For a brief biographical sketch, see Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas, vol.2, p.599.)

This collection of papers is comprised of 95 letters originating with the CSA Conscript Bureau and its offices, 1863-1865, and a volume of accounts of the Board of Agents for the Volunteer Companies from Moore County, 1861-1863.

The first letter in the group is dated Nov. 1864 and is addressed from the Conscript Office in Raleigh to the Moore County enlistment officer. This letter carries into effect the CSA Adjutant and Inspector General's General Order of August 1864 requiring a fifth of all men employed in mining and nitre work throughout the Confederacy to be conscripted for active military service. In the case of Moore County, these men were N. Cameron, J. McL. Kelly, J. McLeod, D. Muse, and I. Fields. Under the same order the following men were transferred from duties at the CSA Arsenal in Fayetteville: D. A. McKeithan, W. R. Bryant, Dungold (sic) Monroe, Thomas Riddle, Thomas Cole, D. W. Spivey, and J. R. McDonald.

The remaining 94 letters are letters of investigation and arrest issued between the end of December 1863 and the end of February 1865 in an effort to recover 81 CSA soldiers, two sailors, and one blacksmith, who were natives of Moore County or who had gone there to escape detection as deserters or as soldiers absent without leave. Of the letters, 91 were issued by the Bureau of Conscription in Richmond, Va., two from the Conscript Office in Raleigh, and one from the enlistment officer of Robeson County. A list of the 84 men will be found subsequently as a part of this finding aid.

1861-1865

The volume of accounts was kept by McNeill as treasurer to the Board of Agents for the Volunteer Companies from Moore County from 1861 through 1863. The four volunteer companies were:

1. Capt. Jesse L. Bryan's Company of Cavalry.
Accepted into state service and assigned to the 2nd N.C. Cavalry as Company I and joined the regiment in September 1861. First assigned to defenses of the District of the Pamlico under command of Gen. L. O'B. Branch, but subsequently assigned to the Army of Northern Virginia and put into the command of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart.
2. Capt. William P. Martin's Company (Moore County Independants).
Accepted into state service on June 3, 1861, and assigned to the 26th Regiment as Company H; joined the regiment in Aug. 1861. Assigned to coastal defenses in North Carolina, then to French's (ultimately Ransom's) Brigade.
2. Capt. John M. Kelly's Company (Moore County Scotch Riflemen)
Mustered into state service on November 6, 1861, and assigned to the 35th Regiment as Company C. Assigned to coastal defenses of North Carolina, then to French's (ultimately Ransom's) Brigade.
4. Capt. W. M. Swann's Company
Enlisted at Jonesboro in August 1861 and assigned to 30th Regiment as Company H. Assigned to coastal defenses in the District of Cape Fear; subsequently ordered to Virginia in June 1861 and added to Anderson's Brigade.

The accounts relate to the boarding, provisioning and clothing of the volunteers, and economic support for their families during the Civil War. They include such specific information as the name of the soldier, articles of uniform clothing issued to each soldier, amount of the soldier's board bill, and so forth. Payments to the families are sometimes entered under the name of the soldier and sometimes under the name of the soldier's wife. The accounts for purchase of blankets for the soldiers name the Moore County women who made the blankets.

A few pages in the account book relate to the estate of McNeill's father-in-law, A. C. Currie (who had been county clerk for 20 years prior to McNeill's election to that office in 1855).

Pages 166-168 include a list of 96 marriage licenses issued in Moore County between August 1855 and February 1857 for taxes on which McNeill needed to settle with the State Treasurer. (Researchers will, naturally, wish to consult the Moore County Marriage Register for actual proof of marriage since McNeill's list does not indicate whether the grooms to whom he issued licenses actually married during that period or not.)

1861-1865

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Soldiers Against Whom Letters of Investigation and Arrest were Issued

<u>Soldier</u>	<u>Military Unit</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Deserter or AWOL</u>	<u>County other than Moore</u>
Allen, J.C.	3d.Regt., Co.F	1865	D	
Allen, J.P.	37th Regt., Co.G	1865	A	
Allen, M.A.	37th Regt., Co.G	1865	A	
Bailey, Daniel	26th Regt., Co.H	1865	D	
Benbury, W.L.	3d Regt., Co.E	1865	D	
Brady, Bradly	26th Regt., Co.H	1864	A	
Brady, J.W.	13th Regt., Co.A	1864	A	
Brady, L.	20th Regt., Co.I	1865	A	
Brady, L.	2d Cav., Co.I	1865	A	
Britt, D.B.	6th Regt.	1864	A	
Britt, E.	1st Reserves, Co.E	1865	A	
Brown, C.S.	1st Reserves, Co.E	1865	A	
Brown, Robert	5th Cav., Co.K	1864	D	Montgomery
Bryan, B.F.	3d Regt, Co.E	1865	D	
Bullock, J.B.	3d Regt, Co.E	1865	D	
Burns, F.L.	38th Regt, Co.K	1864	A	
Caddell, John C.	Conscript (Blacksmith)	1864	D	Robeson
Cagle, Tyson	5th Cav., Co.K	1864	D	Montgomery
Cale, G.W.	5th Regt.	1864	D	
Cameron, James	8th Regt, Co.E	1864	A	
Caveniss, Isaac	10th Bn (Heavy Arty), Co.A	1865	A	
Collins, S.G.	1st Regt., Co.G	1863	A	Wake, Harne
Deaton, John M.	48th Regt., Co.D	1864, 1865	A	
Denson, C.C.	24th Regt., Co.H	1865	A	
Denson, Wm. S.	26th Regt., Co.H	1865	A	
Dunn, S.	1st Reserves, Co.E	1865	A	
Farris, John	2d Regt., Co.I	1865	A	
Ferguson, D.M.	46th Regt., Co.H	1864	A	
Fields, Richard	26th Regt., Co.H	1865	A	
Fry, W.H.H.	35th Regt., Co.C	1864	A	
Gains, Henry	35th Regt., Co.C	1864	D	
Garner, Eli	10th Bn., Arty, Co.D	1864	D	
Garner, Elias	10th Bn., Arty, Co.D	1864	D	
Hales, Ervin	5th Regt., Co.C	1864	D	
Hogan, D.	6th Regt., Co.C	1865	D	
Hogan, Z.	26th Regt., Co.H	1864, 1865	A	
James, Jas.R.	2d Regt., Co.K	1865	A	
Jones, C.M.	2d Regt., Co.K	1864	D	
Jones, J.R.	2d Regt., Co.K	1864	D	
Jordan, J.	18th Regt., Co.G	1865	A	

1861-1865

Soldiers Against Whom Letters of Investigation and Arrest were Issued (Cont'd)

<u>Soldier</u>	<u>Military Unit</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Deserter or AWOL</u>	<u>Co. other than Moore</u>
Kennedy, David R.	14th Regt., Co.K	1864	A	Montgomery
Lewis, J.H.	48th Regt., Co.D	1864	A	
McCaskill, J.W.	35th Regt., Co.C	1865	A	
McCorkle, R.A.	35th Regt., Co.F	1865	A	
McDonald, M.A.	CSA Navy	1865	D	
McNeill, Daniel	46th Regt., Co.H	1864	A	
McNeill, N.A.	8th Regt., Co.A	1864	A	
McPherson, H.	1st Regt., Co.E	1865	A	
Mashborn, A.J.	30th Regt., Co.H	1865	A	
Moon, Oliver	CSA Navy	1865	D	
Moore, Henry	46th Regt., Co.H	1864	A	
Morfett, Abel	13th Regt., Co.A	1865	A	
Morgan, G.S.	15th Regt., Co.D	1864	A	
Morgan, J.E.	48th Regt., Co.D	1864	A	
Morris, J.	4th Regt., Co.E	1865	A	
Nelson, Jno.	26th Regt., Co.H	1865	A	
Page, G.	4th Regt., Co.E	1865	A	
Parish, John	2d Cav., Co.I	1864	A	
Paschal, D.C.	48th Regt., Co.D	1864, 1865	A	
Ritter, W.R.	2d Cav., Co.I	1865	A	
Rodgers, J.M.	2d Cav., Co.I	1864	A	
Rogers, Eli	2d Cav., Co.I	1865 (three)	A	
Rutledge, W.A.	2d Regt., Co.K	1864	D	
Sanders, Simon	48th Regt., Co.D	1864, 1865	A	
Sewell, Asa	46th Regt., Co.H	1864	A	
Sheffield, I.E.	3d Regt., Co.F	1865	D	
Smith, W.H.	49th Regt., Co.D	1865	A	
Spivey, N.G.	Camp Holmes	1864	D	Caldwell
Stutts, J.H.	48th Regt., Co.D	1864, 1865	A	
Thomas, S.F.	2d Bn., Co.B	1865	A	
Wallace, W.S.	26th Regt., Co.H	1865	A	
Williams, A.F.	10th Bn., Co.D	1864	D	
Williams, G.S.	15th Regt., Co.D	1864	A	
Williams, J.G.	10th Bn., Co.D	1864	D	
Williams, J.W.	10th Bn., Co.D	1864	D	
Williams, John	26th Regt., Co.H	1865	A	
Williams, L	38th Regt., Co.K	1864	A	
Williams, N.C.	38th Regt., Co.H	1864	A	
Williams, W.	13th Regt., Co.A	1864	A	
Williams, W.F.	26th Regt., Co.H	1865	A	

1861-1865

Soldiers Against Whom Letters of Investigation and Arrest were Issued (Cont'd)

<u>Soldier</u>	<u>Military Unit</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Deserter or AWOL</u>	<u>Co. other than Moore</u>
Wilson, Martin	46th Regt., Co.D	1864	A	
Wright, John	11th Regt., Co.C	1865	A	
Wright, Levi	48th Regt., Co.D	1865	A	
Yarboro, J.W.	51st Regt., Co.I	1864	D	
Yow, Isaac	15th Regt., Co.D	1864	A	
Yow, S.J.	15th Regt., Co.D	1864	A	
Yow, W	1st Reserves, Co.E	1864	D	Montgomery

Autograph entries
none

Subject entries

Civil War
Deserters, Military
Public Welfare
Military Supplies
Recruiting and Enlistment
Volunteers
Moore County Scotch Riflemen
Moore County Independents
Military units (Confederate)
CSA Bureau of Mining and Nitre
CSA Bureau of Conscription
CSA Navy
2d Cavalry, Co.I
26th Regt., Co.H
30th Regt., Co.H
35th Regt., Co.C
Confederate States of America
Bryan, Jesse L.
Kelly, John M.
Martin, William P.
Swann, W. M.

Finding Aid completed by George Stevenson, March 28, 1989

WORK SHEET

NUMBER: PC.1761.3-16

NAME OF COLLECTION: ALEXANDER HAMILTON McNEILL PAPERS -- ADDITION

Moore County

DATES: 1773-1920

ACQUISITION INFORMATION: Gift, Louise B. (Mrs. Gene J.) Williams, 1998

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: Approx. 4.7 cu. ft. in 14 fibredex boxes, containing correspondence (both manuscript and typescript), deeds, plats, bills and receipts, advertising circulars and brochures, estates records, guardianship records, wills, legal forms from civil suits.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: Alexander Hamilton McNeill (1831-1906), son of John and Fanny (Muse) McNeill of Moore County, N.C., married in 1852 Margaret J. Currie (1833-1886), daughter to long-time county clerk of court A. C. Currie and his wife Christian. Eight of their nine children survived to adulthood. In 1894 McNeill married as his second wife Emma S. Worthy, by whom there was no issue. McNeill succeeded his father-in-law as clerk of court, and held the position, both in the inferior and the superior court for thirty-two years, broken only in the years immediately following the Civil War when McNeill studied law. As a merchant in the county seat, Carthage, McNeill supplied many of the outlying farmers. His major business ventures, however, were in the fields of gold mining and brownstone quarrying. He was a deacon in the Presbyterian church, a freemason, and a member of the International Order of Odd Fellows.

Personal Correspondence, 1848-1905. The bulk of the personal correspondence dates from 1880 to 1895, and is made up primarily of letters received by McNeill (though there are a few drafts of outgoing letters). Many of the letters are from McNeill's sons, Robert and Charles, his daughters Fannie and Ella, and his second wife, Emma S. Worthy. Fannie and Ella's letters are from the years 1890 and 1891 while they were at the Nash and Kollock School at Hillsborough, N.C., and Peace Institute in Raleigh, and afford some glimpses into the life of schoolgirls at that time. Four of the 1890 letters in the collection relate to the work of the Rev. Henry D. Wood (1848-1915), an African-American agent of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. who was sent to Carthage as head of Dayton Academy, a freedman's school, and who pastored a Presbyterian Church in the town for blacks. Two of the letters were written by Wood, the first (June 11, 1890) on the subject of local controversy concerning land for a burial ground for his church, and the second (Nov. 13, 1890) on the subject of expansion funds for the academy. Letters throughout the period from 1882 to 1902 reflect McNeill's political life as a local Democratic Party leader, and discuss political patronage and appointment to local offices following the elections of 1892 and 1894.

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Moore County

Personal Correspondence, 1848-1905, continued

There are two Civil War period letters in this addition to the McNeill papers, both written by soldiers in Company H, 26th Regiment, North Carolina Troops. The first, dated Jan. 24, 1862, is written to McNeill from Lieutenant Murdoch McLeod (1832-1876) while stationed at Carolina City, N.C., on the subject of Burnside's Expedition to North Carolina. The second, dated May 30, 1865, is from Private Daniel M. Dunlap to his uncle, John Morrison, a Unionist and anti-secessionist, seeking his assistance in gaining release from Point Lookout, Maryland, where Dunlap had been imprisoned since his capture by federal forces on April 2, 1865. Dunlap explains to his uncle that one U.S. loyalist could vouch for 24 Confederate prisoners of war, and asks him, if unable to assist, to secure the help of Provisional Governor William Woods Holden or some other prominent Unionist. Other Civil War related materials in this addition to the papers will be found in the series of personal miscellanea, 1792-1920, at the end of the collection. They include documents concerning death allowances and relief for families of Moore County C.S.A. soldiers, 1864-1865, and an annotated list of books read by Murdoch McLeod while a prisoner of war at Morris Island, S.C., and at Fort Delaware, Delaware, following his capture by federal forces in May, 1864.

Business Correspondence, 1854-1905. Most of this correspondence dates from 1880 to 1900, with the heaviest concentration dating from 1890 to 1895. Much of it relates to McNeill's entry into gold mining in the 1880s and to the purchase of equipment, operation of the mines, and sales of shares in them. Other letters are concerned with his venture into brownstone quarrying in Moore County, in which his principal partners were Lewis Grimm and John Wetmore Hinsdale. Grimm (1850-1894), a native of Indiana and an expert machinist was brought to Moore County from Baltimore to install milling equipment for a local company at Carthage. He settled and married in the area and formed the Grimm Brownstone and Improvement Company, in which venture he was joined by McNeill. The two of them began to acquire lands under which lay deposits of brownstone. McNeill's other principal business partner, Hinsdale (1843-1921), was a Raleigh lawyer specializing in commercial law. McNeill's correspondence with these two, and with other associated local investors, is concerned with acquisition and management of mineral and timber rights and kaolin clays in the lands which they owned or held by lease or option. The effect of the Panic of 1893, especially as felt in a largely rural area, is clearly reflected in these files.

Business/Legal Papers. Bills and Receipts, 1838-1905, include in addition to bills and receipts, promissory notes, accounts, and bank records. Most of the papers date from the 1880s and 1890s. Kelly et al vs. Grimm and McNeill, 1886-1904, includes papers at various stages of suits brought by the Kellys, heirs of Richardson, to recover lands held by Grimm and McNeill either in trust (according to the plaintiffs) or by absolute conveyance (according to the defendants). The lands in dispute form a considerable element in McNeill's ventures in mineral deposits. Richardson and Grimm Matter, 1872-1896, includes papers antecedent to, arising from, and related to, the suit brought by the Kellys against Grimm and McNeill.

1773-1920

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Moore County

Deeds and Land Records, 1773-1908. These papers, which fill five fibredex boxes, include deeds (1787-1908), plats and surveys (1801-1908), and miscellaneous land papers such as mortgages and liens (1820-1905), warrants (1891-1893), record of land sold for taxes (1867-1893), papers concerning mineral and timber rights (1891-1899), and sharecropping and tenant farmers (1859-1894).

Miscellaneous Papers--Advertising Cards, Circulars, and Brochures, 1876-1905. This box contains materials reflecting popular culture of the period. On the one hand the materials contain advertising brochures and circulars from liquor dealers and distilleries, and on the other advertisements for treatment of alcoholism and the opium habit. There are brochures and handbills for bodybuilding, electro-therapeutics, natural foods, patent medicines, and alternative treatment of sexual disorders, as well as advertising matter for health resorts and hotels. Buggies and carriages, clock and watch makers, clothing and piece goods, house furnishings, paints and colors represent domestic life, while business concerns are represented by advertising of banks, building and loan associations, land brokers, mining and milling equipment, office equipment and supplies, and tobacco barns.

Miscellaneous Papers--Moore County Estates, Guardians, Wills, 1843-1903. These include thirty-six files of one or more papers relating to the estates of Moore County decedents ranging in date from 1843 to 1903, six on guardianships between 1860 and 1895, and two wills: John McLeod, 1860, and Pleasant Short, 1895.

Miscellaneous Papers--Personal Miscellanea, 1792-1920. These files include materials that relate personally to McNeill as an individual and as a businessman and to his family. In addition to accounts for the education of his two daughters at the Nash and Kollock School and at Peace Institute, there are materials on the Carthage Male and Female Academy, Claremont College (Hickory, N.C.), Hamilton Seminary (Carthage, N.C.), Iredell High School (Fancy Hill, N.C.), and a commencement program from Wake Forest College for 1899, the year in which McNeill's son, George W., graduated from the law class. Fraternal organizations are represented by materials on the freemasons, International Order of Odd Fellows, and the Junior Order United American Mechanics. The Presbyterian Church in the U.S. is represented by 1866 materials relating to the Presbyterian Church of Carthage, N.C., and a file relating to the 1892 Elders and Deacons Normal Institute for Bible Study at Red Springs, N.C. McNeill's business interests are reflected in files on brownstone, the Cheraw & Coalfields Railroad (1858), the Cagle gold mine in Moore County, millstones, and soapstone. There are four files of political papers dating from 1878 to 1896 relating to campaign literature, campaign tickets, polls, and miscellanea. A file on the Southern Interstate Exposition (1891) held at Raleigh, and a handbill for the 1866 "Havana Lottery of Kentucky" are among the ephemera preserved in these papers.

INVENTORY OF THE ADDITION

- PC.1761.3. Correspondence, Personal, 1848-1905, n.d.
- PC.1761.4. Correspondence, Business, 1854-1893
- PC.1761.5. Correspondence, Business, 1894-1905, n.d.
- PC.1761.6. Business/Legal Papers--Bills and Receipts, 1838-1905
- PC.1761.7. Business/Legal Papers--Kelly et al vs. Grimm and McNeill, 1886-1904
- PC.1761.8. Business/Legal Papers--Richardson and Grimm Matter, 1872-1896

CONTAINER INVENTORY, continued

- PC.1761.9. Deeds and Land Papers, 1773-1908. Deeds, 1787-1908, A-E
PC.1761.10. Deeds and Land Papers, 1773-1908. Deeds, 1787-1908, H-McL
PC.1761.11. Deeds and Land Papers, 1773-1908. Deeds, 1787-1908, McN-Z
PC.1761.12. Deeds and Land Papers, 1773-1908. Plats and Surveys, 1773-1908
PC.1761.13. Deeds and Land Papers, 1773-1908. Misc. Land Papers, 1820-1905
PC.1761.14. Miscellaneous--Advertising Cards, Circulars & Brochures, 1876-1905
PC.1761.15. Miscellaneous--Moore County Estates, Guardians, Wills, 1843-1903
PC.1761.16. Miscellaneous--Personal Miscellanea, 1792-1920