

Gibson-Getty-McClure Families Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm80022681>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010167>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010
Revised 2023 October

Collection Summary

Title: Gibson-Getty-McClure Families Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1777-1926

Bulk Dates: 1880-1901

ID No.: MSS22681

Creator: Gibson family

Creator: Getty family

Creator: McClure family

Extent: 2,500 items

Extent: 7 containers

Extent: 2.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm80022681>

Summary: Correspondence, diaries, financial papers, military papers, and miscellany relating to various members of these allied families from the area of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Includes correspondence of General George Gibson (d. 1861) and the jurist John Bannister Gibson (1780-1853) and papers, 1777-1854, relating to the Revolutionary War service of their father, Colonel George Gibson (1747-1791); papers of George Washington Getty (1819-1901) and members of his family relating primarily to his Civil War service with the Army of the Potomac in Virginia, to various military campaigns against Native American groups, to the Fitz-John Porter court-martial, and to personal and family affairs; and papers of Charles McClure (1835-1902) and members of his family relating to his military service with the United States Army at Santa Fe, New Mexico, at other posts in the United States and in the Philippine Islands during the Spanish-American War.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Brooke, John Rutter, 1838-1926--Correspondence.

Burnside, Ambrose Everett, 1824-1881--Correspondence.

Eaton, Amos Beebe, 1806-1877--Correspondence.

Getty family--Correspondence.

Getty family.

Getty, George W. George W. Getty papers. 1847-1913.

Gibson family--Correspondence.

Gibson family.

Gibson, Annie Barbara, 1817-1857--Correspondence.

Gibson, Fannie M.--Correspondence.

Gibson, George, 1747-1791.

Gibson, George, 1783-1861--Correspondence.

Gibson, George, 1826-1888--Correspondence.

Gibson, John Bannister, 1780-1853--Correspondence.

Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885--Correspondence.

Jones, Francis B.--Correspondence.

Lamson, Roswell Hawks--Correspondence.

McClure family--Correspondence.

McClure family.

McClure, Charles, 1838-1902. Charles McClure papers. 1849-1926.

McClure, Charles, 1875-1901--Correspondence.

McClure, George--Correspondence.

McClure, Margaretta Gibson, 1814- --Correspondence.

McClure, William--Correspondence.

Pope, John, 1822-1892--Correspondence.
Porter, Fitz-John, 1822-1901.
Rochester, William Beatty, 1826-1909--Correspondence.
Rosecrans, William S. (William Starke), 1819-1898--Correspondence.
Schofield, John McAllister, 1831-1906--Correspondence.
Sheridan, Philip Henry, 1831-1888--Correspondence.
Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.
Stevens, Hazard, 1842-1918--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Army of the Potomac.
United States. Army.

Subjects

Courts-martial and courts of inquiry.
Fortification--New Mexico--Santa Fe.
Fortification--United States.
Indians of North America--Wars.
Military bases--New Mexico--Santa Fe.
Military bases--United States.
Spanish-American War, 1898--Philippines.

Places

Cumberland County (Pa.)--History.
Cumberland County (Pa.)--Social life and customs.
Pennsylvania--Social life and customs.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Acquisition Information

The papers of the Gibson-Getty-McClure families were received by the Library of Congress as a temporary deposit in 1938 from George G. Getty, Maud Getty Walsh, and Mildred N. Getty. The deposit was converted to a gift in 1942. A smaller group of papers relating to George Washington Getty was given to the Library in 1960 by Mildred N. Getty.

Processing History

The papers of Gibson-Getty-McClure Families were arranged and described by Audrey Walker in 1980. The finding aid was revised by Patrick Kerwin in 2003. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Sheet music has been transferred to the Music Division. Serials have been transferred to the Serial & Government Publications Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Gibson-Getty-McClure Families Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Gibson-Getty-McClure families is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Gibson-Getty-McClure families are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Gibson-Getty-McClure Families Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

John Bannister Gibson

Date	Event
1780, Nov. 8	Born, Westover, Pa.
1795	Entered preparatory school, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.
1797	Entered Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.; afterwards studied law with Thomas Duncan
1803	Admitted to Pennsylvania bar
1803-1805	Practiced law successively at Carlisle, Pa., Beaver, Pa., and Hagerstown, Md.
1805	Returned to Carlisle, Pa., to practice law
1810-1812	Democratic representative from Cumberland County to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives
1812	Married Sarah Work Galbraith
1813	Named judge, Court of Common Pleas, Eleventh Judicial District of Pennsylvania
1816	Appointed associate justice, supreme court of Pennsylvania
1827	Appointed, chief justice, supreme court of Pennsylvania
1838	Resigned as chief justice of Pennsylvania before state constitution of 1838 went into effect; immediately reappointed
1851	Appointed associate justice of Pennsylvania supreme court under new constitutional amendment, but physically incapacitated
1853, May 3	Died, Philadelphia, Pa.

George Washington Getty

Date	Event
1819, Oct. 2	Born, Georgetown, Washington, D.C.
1840	Graduated United States Military Academy; commissioned second lieutenant, 4th Artillery; appointed assistant commissary of subsistence
1845	Promoted to first lieutenant; served with Winfield Scott's army in Mexico
1847	Brevetted captain for gallant conduct in action
1848	Married Elizabeth Graham Stevenson
1849-1857	Fought in Seminole Indian campaigns
1853	Promoted to captain, United States Army
1862	Fought in Peninsular Campaign of 1862; temporary rank of lieutenant colonel Promoted to brigadier general of volunteers
1863	Promoted to major, United States Army Assigned command of a division at Suffolk, Va., which prevented approach to Norfolk and Hampton Roads from the south; brevetted lieutenant colonel for gallantry and meritorious service

1864	Appointed acting inspector general of the Army of the Potomac Brevetted colonel for gallantry and meritorious service in the Battle of the Wilderness Brevetted major general of volunteers for gallantry and meritorious service in battles at Winchester and Fisher's Hill
1865	Brevetted brigadier general for gallantry and meritorious service in capture of Petersburg, Va. Brevetted major general for gallantry and meritorious service
1866	Appointed colonel of infantry Mustered out of volunteer service
1871	Transferred to third Artillery; commanded post and artillery school at Fort Monroe, Va., for six years
1878-1879	Member of board which reinvestigated the case of Fitz-John Porter and reversed findings of his 1863 court-martial
1883	Retired from military service
1901, Oct. 1	Died, Forest Glen, Md.

Charles McClure

Date	Event
1838	Born, Carlisle, Pa.
1858-1860	Studied law
1861	Entered United States Army, clerk in Office of Commissary General of Subsistence
1862	Resigned clerk position; enlisted in volunteer army Served as commissary officer and aide-de-camp on the general's staff of the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 1st Corps of the Army of the Potomac, under the command of M. R. Patrick
1862-1866	Captain in volunteer service
1865	Brevetted major, lieutenant colonel of volunteers Appointed inspector of the commissariat of the armies operating against Richmond at the headquarters of Ulysses S. Grant; transferred to regular army at close of war
1866	Promoted to captain and brevetted major for faithful service in the Subsistence Department
1866-1870	Chief commissary, district of New Mexico
1869	Brevetted colonel Married Annie Getty
1870-1897	Paymaster for United States Army at various posts throughout the United States
1880	Promoted major, paymaster, United States Army
1898	Appointed chief paymaster, United States Army of the Philippines
1901	Appointed deputy paymaster-general, United States Army
1902	Retired from military service as lieutenant colonel
1902, Nov. 25	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Gibson-Getty-McClure families span the years 1777-1926, with the bulk of the material concentrated within the years 1880 to 1901. The collection is primarily composed of correspondence supplemented by diaries, financial papers, and miscellany.

The papers focus on the lives of three families from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, each with a tradition of military service on the part of some of its members. The families are interrelated through the marriage of Margaretta Gibson, daughter of John Bannister Gibson, former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, to Charles McClure (1804-1846) and through the marriage of their son, Charles McClure to Annie Getty, daughter of George Washington Getty.

The [Gibson family papers](#), 1777-1854, the smallest segment in the collection, mainly concern the efforts of the heirs of Colonel George Gibson (1747-1791) to secure commutation pay from the state of Virginia for his military service during the Revolutionary War. Correspondence includes letters exchanged between John Bannister Gibson and his brother,

General George Gibson; two letters of John B. Gibson to his wife, Sarah; and letters of his daughter, Annie, including one coauthored with her brother, George, describing the last days and eventual death of their father. The remaining letters and documents in the Gibson family papers relate chiefly to the verification of Colonel George Gibson's military service.

Although [George Washington Getty's papers](#) extend from 1847 to 1913, they contain little information about his life before 1858. Family letters generally discuss financial matters, family news and acquaintances, social events, and items of general interest. Getty's brother, Gardiner T., and his son-in-law, Charles McClure, who managed Getty's business affairs, are the principal correspondents in the early letters, but most of the later letters are from Getty to his wife. Two letters from Getty's son, Wilmot, and a few letters from William McClure, who succeeded his brother as Getty's financial adviser, are also in the family correspondence. The general correspondence consists chiefly of routine military communications and letters concerning Getty's financial affairs, but also includes a letter reporting the capture of Hills Point battery in 1863 and letters written in 1868 concerning Getty's involvement in operations against Native Americans. In addition the Getty papers contain sporadic letters between 1878 and 1882 bearing upon the reinvestigation of the Fitz-John Porter court-martial and correspondence in the 1880s concerning the struggle of senior army officers to gain recognition for their Civil War service.

The papers of [Charles McClure](#), 1849 to 1926, are the most extensive group of papers in the collection. McClure's career in the military carried him to various posts across the country and to the Philippine Islands during the Spanish-American War. Some of his travels and observations are recorded in his two diaries. The first, covering a trip from Santa Fe to forts in the southeastern United States between February 23 and March 29, 1867, contains accounts of army life on the frontier just after the Civil War. The second diary, relating to McClure's service during the Spanish-American War, details circumstances surrounding the execution of his duties as paymaster en route from Chicago to Atlanta and then to San Francisco where he completed financial arrangements for transporting necessary funds to the Philippines. Also included are accounts of his voyage to the islands and descriptions of military action there.

McClure's letters to his relatives discuss family matters and social obligations, comment on military operations, depict life on army posts and in surrounding towns, and in general reflect the impact of a military career on the private life of his family. Letters exchanged between McClure and his mother, Margaretta Gibson McClure, and letters to his wife, Annie Getty McClure, dominate the first part of the family correspondence which also includes letters from his brother, William, his aunts, and a host of cousins. As McClure's children matured, their letters assumed a more proportional share of the correspondence. For the most part, letters in the general correspondence concern the performance of McClure's duties, first as commissary and later as paymaster for the army. Typescripts of letters from Annie McClure to a friend in Georgetown, D.C., in the years 1868-1870 describe the town of Santa Fe and life at a frontier post during the latter half of the nineteenth century.

Correspondents in the Gibson family papers include John Bannister Gibson, his children, Annie, George, and Margaretta, and his brother, George Gibson. Prominent individuals writing in the George Washington Getty papers are mainly military officials and include Ambrose Everett Burnside, Ulysses S. Grant, R. H. Lamson, John Pope, William S. Rosecrans, John McAllister Schofield, Philip Henry Sheridan, William T. Sherman, and Hazard Stevens. John Rutter Brooke, A. B. Eaton, Francis B. Jones, and William Beatty Rochester are among the correspondents in the McClure papers. Family members represented in McClure's papers include Fannie M. Gibson, Charles McClure, Jr. (1875-1901), George McClure, Margaretta Gibson McClure, and William McClure..

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [Gibson Family Papers, 1777-1854](#)
- [George Washington Getty Papers, 1847-1913](#)
- [Charles McClure Papers, 1849-1926](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><u>Gibson Family Papers, 1777-1854</u></p> <p>Family correspondence, general correspondence, and miscellany. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 1-3	<p><u>George Washington Getty Papers, 1847-1913</u></p> <p>Family correspondence, general correspondence, financial papers, and miscellany. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and therein chronologically</p>
BOX 3-7	<p><u>Charles McClure Papers, 1849-1926</u></p> <p>Diaries, family correspondence, general correspondence, financial papers, and miscellany. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and therein chronologically.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Gibson Family Papers, 1777-1854 Family correspondence, general correspondence, and miscellany. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 1	Family correspondence, 1830-1853, undated
BOX 1	General correspondence, 1818-1854, undated
BOX 1	Miscellany
BOX 1	Certificate, fragment, and newspaper, <i>Telegraph</i> , Carlisle, Pa., 1795, Aug. 4 and Nov. 24
BOX 1	Papers relating to claims for commutation pay by heirs of George Gibson (1747-1791), 1777-1854, undated
BOX 1-3	George Washington Getty Papers, 1847-1913 Family correspondence, general correspondence, financial papers, and miscellany. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and therein chronologically
BOX 1	Family correspondence, 1868-1883, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1	General correspondence
BOX 1	1840-1869 (4 folders)
BOX 2	1870-1901, undated (6 folders)
BOX 2	Financial papers
BOX 2	1847-1889 (2 folders)
BOX 3	1892-1901, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	Miscellany, 1861-1913
BOX 3-7	Charles McClure Papers, 1849-1926 Diaries, family correspondence, general correspondence, financial papers, and miscellany. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 3	Diaries
BOX 3	1867, Feb. 23-Mar. 29, Southwest
BOX 3	1898, Apr. 20-Nov. 19, Spanish-American War
BOX 3	Family correspondence
BOX 3	1849-1884 (3 folders)
BOX 4	1885-1899 (8 folders)
BOX 5	1900-1906, undated (3 folders)

Charles McClure Papers, 1849-1926

Container	Contents
BOX 5	General correspondence
BOX 5	1861-1896 (7 folders)
BOX 6	1897-1902, undated (4 folders)
BOX 6	Financial papers
BOX 6	Account book, 1899-1900
BOX 6	General
BOX 6	1866-1900 (5 folders)
BOX 6	1901-1922, undated (3 folders)
BOX 7	Miscellany
BOX 7	Biographical data, Charles McClure (1875-1901), undated
BOX 7	Clippings and printed matter, 1873-1902
BOX 7	Medical records and prescriptions, 1884-1896, undated
BOX 7	Memorabilia and calling cards, 1897-1926, undated
BOX 7	Military papers, 1866-1902
BOX 7	Notes, 1901, undated
BOX 7	Philippines, 1899, undated
BOX 7	Poetry, undated
BOX 7	Writings, "Tom and His Bike" and a partial manuscript on Cuba, undated