

Alexander Jeffrey McKelway 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/mm82032235>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011116>

Prepared by Aureliu Woolsey

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2011
Revised 2023 June

Collection Summary

Title: Alexander Jeffrey McKelway Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1814-1942

Bulk Dates: 1900-1918

ID No.: MSS32235

Creator: McKelway, Alexander Jeffrey, 1866-1918

Extent: 5,600 items

Extent: 9 containers

Extent: 3.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82032235>

Summary: Clergyman, reformer, and Southern secretary of the National Child Labor Committee. Correspondence, telegrams, speeches, articles, notes and drafts of a biography of St. Clair McKelway, longtime editor of the *Brooklyn Eagle* and uncle of Alexander, family papers, financial material, printed matter, a scrapbook, and other papers relating mainly to child labor legislation and to the McKelway family.

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

Catt, Carrie Chapman, 1859-1947--Correspondence.

Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.

Hapgood, Norman, 1868-1937--Correspondence.

Keenan, Henry F. (Henry Francis), 1850- --Correspondence.

Kelley, Florence, 1859-1932--Correspondence.

McKelway family--Correspondence.

McKelway family.

McKelway, Alexander Jeffrey, 1866-1918.

McKelway, Benjamin Mosby, 1895-1976--Correspondence.

McKelway, St. Clair, 1845-1915.

Pinchot, Amos, 1873-1944--Correspondence.

Pinchot, Gifford, 1865-1946--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.

Smith, Hoke, 1855-1931.

Tumulty, Joseph P. (Joseph Patrick), 1879-1954--Correspondence.

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.

Organizations

Georgia Historical Association.

National Child Labor Committee (U.S.)

Subjects

Child labor--Southern States.

Child labor--United States.

Prohibition--United States.

Women--Suffrage--United States.

Places

United States--Politics and government--1865-1933.

United States--Social conditions--1865-1918.

Titles

Harper's weekly.

Occupations

Clergy.

Reformers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Alexander Jeffrey McKelway, clergyman, reformer and Southern secretary of the National Child Labor Committee, were deposited in the Library of Congress by his widow, Lavinia Rutherford McKelway, in 1931 and converted to a gift in 1947.

Processing History

The McKelway collection was processed in 1963. The finding aid was revised in 2011. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Additional Guides

An index to the Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson letters within the general correspondence and indexes to parts of the speech, article, and book file are available for use in the Manuscript Reading Room. All are available in a [PDF](#) document.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Alexander Jeffrey McKelway is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Alexander Jeffrey McKelway 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, Alexander Jeffrey McKelway Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1866, 6 Oct.	Born, Salisburyville, Pa.
circa 1870	Moved to Charlotte County, Va.
1886	Graduated, Hampden-Sydney College, Hampden-Sydney, Va.
1891	Graduated, Union Theological Seminary Ordained by the Albemarle Presbytery in North Carolina Married Lavinia Rutherford Smith
1892	Became minister of First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, N.C.

1898-1905	Editor, <i>North Carolina Presbyterian</i> (later <i>Presbyterian Standard</i>)
1902	Became active in support of child welfare legislation
1903	Became editor of <i>Charlotte News</i> , Charlotte, N.C.
1904	Became Southern secretary of the National Child Labor Committee
1907-1911	Lived in Atlanta, Ga.
1911	Moved to Washington, D.C.
1918, 16 Apr.	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Alexander Jeffrey McKelway (1866-1918) span the years 1814-1942, with the bulk of the material concentrated from 1900 to 1918. The collection includes correspondence, telegrams, speeches, articles, notes and drafts of a biography of St. Clair McKelway, longtime editor of the *Brooklyn Eagle* and uncle of Alexander, financial papers, printed matter, and a scrapbook of obituary notices and condolence letters.

The papers relate primarily to child labor reform, particularly McKelway's role as Southern secretary of the National Child Labor Committee. Other topics include women's suffrage, prohibition, national political affairs, the Hoke Smith-Georgia Historical Association correspondence of 1917, and McKelway family matters. Correspondents include Carrie Chapman Catt, Josephus Daniels, Norman Hapgood as editor of *Harper's Weekly*, Florence Kelley, Henry F. Keenan, Amos Pinchot, Gifford Pinchot, Theodore Roosevelt, Joseph P. Tumulty, and Woodrow Wilson. In the family correspondence are boyhood letters of Benjamin Mosby McKelway, editor of the *Washington Star*, and other papers pertaining to the life of St. Clair McKelway.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is organized by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	General correspondence <i>See Appendix A for index of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson letters (in PDF of appendices)</i>
BOX 1	1898, Jan.-1917, June
BOX 2	1917, July-1918, Apr.
BOX 2	Personal and family correspondence
BOX 2	1814, 1860-1916, Nov.
BOX 3	1916, Dec.-1942
BOX 3	Speech, article, and book file, 1893, 1904-1919, undated
BOX 3	Child labor <i>See Appendix B for list of titles (in PDF of appendices)</i>
BOX 3	Nos. 1-49
BOX 4	Nos. 50-143
BOX 5	Kelway, Kate Comfort
BOX 5	Prohibition <i>See Appendix C for list of titles (in PDF of appendices)</i>
BOX 5	Miscellaneous <i>See Appendix D for list of titles (in PDF of appendices)</i>
BOX 6	"Life of St. Clair McKelway"
BOX 6	Editorial bibliography
BOX 6	Editorials (typescripts)
BOX 7	Research notes
BOX 7	Source material
BOX 7	Drafts
BOX 8	"St. Clair McKelway, Newspaper Man"
BOX 8	Final draft
BOX 8	Miscellaneous
BOX 8	Miscellany
BOX 8	Genealogical material
BOX 8	Listing of Alexander Jeffrey McKelway papers by Mrs. McKelway
BOX 8	Newspaper clippings
BOX 8	Notes and receipts
BOX 9	Scrapbook of obituaries and condolences, 1918-1922