

Series II, John A. McAllister Writings (1840-1875) holds a miscellany of letters, essays, and transcriptions. It is arranged in two series: Letters, and Documents.

The first subseries has just a few letters sent by McAllister. Some are simply notes, while others were clearly kept as archival file copies. The most intensive example of the latter is his letter to Bishop Henry U. Onderdonk (1789-1858) written in 1841. McAllister had attended a talk on Psalm 49 that the bishop presented at Christ Church. Four days later, he wrote that he had consulted a half-dozen Bibles (dating from the fifteenth to the eighteenth century) and found variations on the psalm's text, which he transcribed for the Bishop's use. Signing his letter with the initials "B.F.F." he requested that the bishop reply through *The Banner of the Cross*, an Episcopalian paper published in Philadelphia. After his letter appeared in print, followed by Rev. Onderdonk's own investigative results, McAllister clipped the columns and glued them on his letter, which he annotated "Written by Jno A. McAllister." A similar piece is in the second subseries: it is an editorial that McAllister wrote to the *Public Ledger* in 1840 about the proposed monument to George Washington that was being planned. McAllister suggested that the state legislature should be petitioned to grant a lottery for the monument, and expressed his opinion that the planned site in Washington Square is "exceeding injudicious." He thought that a better site would be the intersection of Broad and Market streets, a more central location, with the added advantage of having higher elevation so the monument could be seen from a greater distance. He annotated the paper to say he had dropped the original in the *Ledger's* box on August 31, 1840.

The remainder is a mix of odd documents, including two genealogical documents, a short abstract of family finances, and a resolution made by the Junior Missionary Society of Philadelphia where McAllister was among the signers.

Series III, McAllister Family Papers (1820-1867) has just a few letters and documents written to or by John A. McAllister's father and brothers. Random in date and content, they are arranged in two subseries: Personal Letters and Documents; and Business Letters.

Among the letters to John McAllister Jr. are two from Robert Bridges Patton (1794-1839), the noted professor of Greek and Latin at Princeton University, who founded the Edgehill Seminary, an academy for boys in Princeton, NJ, which give the terms of providing schooling for John A. McAllister. In one of his two letters from New Orleans, where he was attempting to collect on a debt owed McAllister by Pierre Romain, W.M. Stewart mentioned that he was sorry to "learn by your letter of the death of your little boy," referring to McAllister's son Julius Wallace (1832-1834). There is also a letter to Stewart from McAllister in that folder. Other documents include McAllister's short memoir on Stephen Moylan, a former commission of loans in Philadelphia.

The single item for William McAllister is an empty envelope from Samuel Breck that had once held a Robert Morris autograph. For Thomas McAllister, there is one letter from Frances Bruce