



Archival and Manuscript Collections Finding Aid

ACCESSION No.: HRHS-79

COLLECTION TITLE: McClure Press Collection

DATES: 1936-1982 [1936-1938, 1943-1944, 1971-1982]

SIZE: 5 (five) folders

DONOR: Eunice McAvoy, 3/19/2003

PROCESSED: Processed 04/15/2014 by K. Craun and R. Wright

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

McClure Press was located for many years in Verona, VA and published many significant books of the era. This collection contains correspondence between McClure Press and John W. Wayland concerning two of his books, *Historic Homes of Northern Virginia* and *Augusta Biographies*. There is also correspondence between McClure Press and Howard McKnight Wilson concerning his books *The Lexington Presbytery* and *The Tinkling Spring, Headwater of Freedom*; and between the company and Pat Conroy regarding his book *The Boo*.

Dr. Wayland was one of the first faculty members at the State Normal School in Harrisonburg, Virginia which later became Madison College and is presently James Madison University. He taught there until 1931 and also taught at various times at Bridgewater College, University of Virginia and University of Tennessee. He taught History and Social Science and was head of the department while at the State Normal School.

During his lifetime, Dr. Wayland published about thirty books including *A History of Rockingham County*, *How to Teach American History* and *A History of Virginia for Boys and Girls*. Besides authorship of books, he wrote the lyrics to the song "Old Virginia", set to music by Will H. Ruebush."

(From http://www.rockingham.k12.va.us/jwes/John_Wayland.html)

Howard McKnight Wilson, born June 8, 1900 was the author of several history books and articles; he is best known for *Tinkling Spring: Headwater of Freedom*, an extensive history that details the settlement of colonial Augusta County. Wilson also single-handedly ensured the preservation of the area's Presbyterian heritage by traveling from church to church, loading up old records in a fireproof safe, transporting them to Richmond to be microfilmed and then returning them to their church home. Wilson also

is considered the father of the Augusta County Historical Society.” (From News Leader article 1/17/2014 *Historical society nears 50th anniversary*)

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Collection consists of correspondence, financial papers and other miscellaneous papers documenting the activities of the McClure Press in Verona, Va. Significant items include correspondence between John W. Wayland and the company concerning two of his books, *Historic Homes of Northern Virginia* and *Augusta Biographies*; correspondence between Howard McKnight Wilson and the company concerning his books, *The Lexington Presbytery* and *Tinkling Spring, Headwater of Freedom*; and a letter written by South Carolina author, Pat Conroy, regarding his book, *The Boo*.

COLLECTION INVENTORY:

Folder 1: McClure Press Correspondence, 1971-1982

Folder 2: McClure Press Financials, 1971-1982

Folder 3: McClure Press Miscellaneous

Folder 4: John W. Wayland Correspondence

Part 1: re: *Historic Homes of Northern Virginia*, 1936-1938

Part 2: re: *Augusta Biographies*, 1943-1944

Folder 5: Howard McKnight Wilson Correspondence

re: *Lexington Presbytery Heritage* and *Tinkling Springs*, 1973-1975

ARRANGEMENT:

Folder 1: McClure Press Correspondence

Folder 2: McClure Press Financials

Folder 3: McClure Press Miscellaneous

Folder 4: *Historic Homes of Northern Virginia* and *Augusta Biographies* correspondence with John Wayland.

Folder 5: *Lexington Presbytery Heritage* correspondence with Howard McKnight Wilson.