

WALLACE, ALEXANDER MCGHEE.
Letters between Alexander McGhee and
Frances Garland Singleton Wallace, 1854-1861

Emory University
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-6887
rose.library@emory.edu

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Wallace, Alexander McGhee.
Title: Letters between Alexander McGhee and Frances Garland Singleton Wallace, 1854-1861
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1007
Extent: .25 linear ft. (1 box)
Abstract: Correspondence written between Alexander McGhee Wallace and his wife Frances Garland Singleton Wallace of Atlanta, Georgia from 1854 to 1861.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source

Purchase, 2005.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Letters between Alexander McGhee and Frances Garland Singleton Wallace, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Businessman Alexander McGhee Wallace (1822-1901) was born near Marysville, Tennessee, on March 24, 1822. He received his education in Merivale College and joined his father's

Emory Libraries provides copies of its finding aids for use only in research and private study. Copies supplied may not be copied for others or otherwise distributed without prior consent of the holding repository.

merchandise business following graduation. He moved to Dalton, Georgia, in 1847 with his first wife Octavia Cox Wallace and their three children. After her death in the early 1850s, he met and married Frances Garland Singleton of Dahlonega, Georgia, in 1855. Together they had eight children. They moved in 1855 to Atlanta, Georgia, and Wallace accepted a position as an agent for an insurance company. In 1856 he was elected to the Atlanta City Council and served as the chairman of the Finance Committee. In 1860, Wallace, the son of a Mexican war veteran, was instrumental in the founding of the Atlanta Grays, a group pledged to support the right of succession. He joined the Confederate Army and served as a captain in the 1st Regiment of the Georgia Regulars, eventually rising to the rank of colonel of the 36th Georgia Infantry Regiment in 1863. He was wounded at Missionary Ridge during the Battle of Chattanooga.

After returning from the war, Wallace became the superintendent of the National Express Company. In 1865, he worked with others to organize a Georgia State Lottery to support education for children in the city, and he became one of the directors of the lottery. In 1885, he was appointed as the surveyor of collections for the Port of Atlanta. He and Frances were charter members Central Presbyterian Church. He was buried in Oakland Cemetery.

Frances Garland Singleton Wallace (1834-1907) was born on a plantation near Athens, Georgia, on February 8, 1834, the daughter of J.J. Singleton, a doctor, and Mary Ann Terrell. Fannie graduated from the Southern Female College in LaGrange, Georgia. She died December 17, 1907.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of correspondence written between Alexander McGhee Wallace and his wife Frances Garland Singleton Wallace from 1854 to 1861. The letters discuss the courtship between Alexander and Frances and the difficulties of separation as Alexander travels for business through North Georgia and Tennessee. Alex describes communication and transportation difficulties and hints at his business interests in copper mining, occasionally asking for Frances' advice. Frances' correspondence is much more extensive, dating from 1854-1861. Her letters mostly describe family affairs and local news in Atlanta, Georgia. There is only limited mention of the Civil War and mostly consists of descriptions of sick or wounded family members serving as Confederate soldiers.

Container List

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Alexander McGhee Wallace to Frances Garland Singleton Wallace, 1855, 1857
1	2	Frances Garland Singleton Wallace to Alexander McGhee Wallace, 1854-March 1855
1	2	Frances Garland Singleton Wallace to Alexander McGhee Wallace, April 1855-1861
1	4	Wallace relative to Alexander McGhee Wallace, undated
