



The Historical  
Society of  
Pennsylvania

Collection 1786

McCall family  
Papers

1764-1891

5 boxes, 3 volumes, 2.6 lin. feet

**Contact:** The Historical Society of Pennsylvania  
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**Processed by:** Scott Zeigler

**Processing Completed:** January 2009

**Restrictions:** None

**Related Collections at** Cadwalader family papers (Collection 1454)

**HSP:** George Archibald McCall papers (Collection  
1635)

Samuel McCall journal (Am .9218)

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**Abstract**

The McCalls were a merchant family of Philadelphia, Virginia, and Maryland, who imported and traded mostly tobacco and sugar from the West Indies. The collection consists of business and family correspondence, shipping records, clippings, and three business ledgers.

George McCall (b. 1683) immigrated to Philadelphia from Scotland in 1701 and established a prosperous trade business with his brother Samuel (1681-1759), a merchant in Glasgow, Scotland. Samuel's son Archibald McCall (1734-1814) was a successful merchant in Tappahannock, Essex County, Virginia before the Revolution. Due to his continued allegiance to the British, however, Archibald, along with other loyal McCalls, lost their business interests in North America and entered the sugar trade in the West Indies. Archibald's son, George Archibald McCall (1802-1868), was the original commander of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps during the Civil War. He also served in the Mexican-American War and in various Indian wars.

This collection includes correspondence between Archibald and his brother Samuel pertaining mostly to their trade business. Other business letters contain information on accounts, inventories, and bills. George A. McCall's correspondences with his sisters reveal details about his adventures while traveling from Pennsylvania to Panama, as well as his travels in Europe. There are also Civil War-era letters from George to his wife, Elizabeth, in which he related his life as a soldier; her letters during the same time depict life at home.

The collection also contains miscellaneous papers and clippings, most of which pertain to George A. McCall, as well as an unidentified commonplace book dating from about 1787. Additionally, there are also two business ledgers and one bill book that belonged to Archibald McCall.

Please note that although Box 4 claims to hold "Gen. John Cadwalader items," it does not contain any of his materials. Instead researchers will find two folders of miscellaneous papers; scientific notes; and a commonplace book that contains poetry, an unfinished novel, and translations from French of "The Code of Humanity."

## **Subjects**

Civil war, 1861-1865

Mexican-American War, 1846-1848

McCall, Archibald, 1767-1843

McCall, Elizabeth McCurtie

McCall, George, 1698-1740

McCall, George A. (George Archibald), 1802-1868

McCall, George A. (George Archibald), 1802-1868--Military service.

## **Related Collections**

At HSP:

Cadwalader family papers (Collection 1454)

George Archibald McCall papers (Collection 1635)

Samuel McCall journal (Am .9218)

## **Restrictions**

The collection is open for research.

## **Acquisition information**

Gift of Frances M. Bradford.

## **Preferred citation**

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], McCall Family Papers (Collection 1786), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

## Box and folder listing

Box or volume number	Brief description	Approximate date range	Extent
Box 1	Edward McCall Letters: 1821-1873 Samuel McCall to Archibald McCall, 1810-1818; 1825 Miscellaneous McCall Letters, 1789-1865; n.d.	1789-1873	4 Folders
Box 2	Archibald McCall Shipping Accounts, Ship "Mercury"	1810-1816	4 Folders
Box 3	George A. McCall Letters to his Wife, 1825-1862; 1852; 1861-1862	1825-1862	6 Folders
Box 4	Insurance Book, 1809-1811; Commonplace Book; Gen. John Cadwalader Items; Clippings, ca. 1826-ca.1876	1811-1876	5 Folders
Box 5	Elizabeth McCall to her husband George A. McCall, 1861-1863	1861-1863	5 Folders
Vol. 1	Archibald McCall Ledger	1798-1803	1 Volume
Vol. 2	Archibald McCall Ledger	1810-1816	1 Volume
Vol. 3	Archibald McCall Bill Book	1807-1813	1 Volume