

Collection #
M 1429

**MCDONALD, RAY, & FERGUSON FAMILY
COLLECTION, CA. 1825–1995**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	Manuscript Materials: 1 manuscript box, 1 half-size manuscript box Visual Materials: 2 photograph folders, 3 cold storage photograph folders Artifacts: 2 printing plates
COLLECTION DATES:	Ca. 1825–1995
PROVENANCE:	Estate of Andrea and Eleanor Ferguson, Indianapolis, IN; April 2009
RESTRICTIONS:	Items listed as being in cold storage need at least four hours to acclimate, so patrons are advised to call ahead of their visit if they wish to view those items to allow for thawing time.
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REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	John W. Ray Collection, M 0236
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2009.0087
NOTES:	

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

David McDonald was born 8 May 1803 in Bourbon County, Kentucky, to Francis McDonald and Eleanor Hamilton. In 1817, McDonald's family moved to Daviess County, Indiana. On 21 October 1828, he married Mary Miller. At the time, McDonald worked as a schoolteacher in Washington, Indiana. David and Mary had seven children: Mary, David M., Curran E., Ella, Alice, Flora, and Lilla.

In February 1830, McDonald received his license to practice law in the circuit courts. In 1833, he became a member of the Indiana Legislature on behalf of Daviess and Martin Counties. Later, McDonald was elected prosecuting attorney. In December 1838, he was elected Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Indiana and was reelected in December 1845. McDonald moved to Bloomington, Indiana, in September 1841, where he became a professor of law at Indiana University. He eventually moved to Indianapolis and began to practice law there in 1853. President Lincoln commissioned McDonald as Judge of the District Court of the U.S. for the District of Indiana on 13 December 1864.

McDonald also served as president of the Board of Trustees of Indiana Asbury University, now DePauw University, from 1858 to 1861. In 1857, the school offered him the university presidency, but he turned the offer down a year later.

McDonald's wife, Mary, died on 30 April 1861. McDonald died on 25 August 1869 of typhoid dysentery.

John W. Ray was born on 15 August 1828 in Madison, Indiana, to Rev. Edwin Ray and Sarah Ann Nowland. In 1848, he graduated as salutatorian from Indiana Asbury University, now DePauw University. Ray's first wife was Catharine Phipps, daughter of Isaac N. Phipps and Juliann Culley. They were married on 4 February 1851 and had two daughters, Kate and Carrie. Catharine died in 1865. On 5 December 1866, Ray married his second wife, Eleanor McDonald, daughter of David McDonald and Mary Miller. They had two daughters, Elisabeth and Lucia.

On 18 November 1861, Ray was enrolled in the 49th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers and was commissioned a Colonel. However, he resigned the position a year later and was discharged on 17 October 1862. In 1867, John became treasurer for Indiana Asbury University. He maintained this post until 1894.

In 1903, Eleanor died. Ray died on 27 July 1906 in Indianapolis.

George Archer Ferguson was born 13 February 1876 in Auckland, New Zealand, to John Ferguson and Catharine A. Smith. By 1879, the family had moved to Ireland, where John Ferguson was born and some of his family resided. In 1884, Fergusons's family immigrated to the U.S. while Ferguson remained in Ireland with relatives until 1887.

Ferguson graduated from Shortridge High School in Indianapolis. He attended Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana. In his freshman year, Ferguson was class secretary in addition to being a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and a member and the treasurer of the Lyceum Literary Society. He received his Bachelor of Arts in 1898 and his Master of Arts degree in 1904. For eight years, Ferguson taught at Shortridge.

Ferguson married Lucia Holliday Ray, daughter of John W. Ray and Eleanor McDonald on 2 July 1907. They had two daughters, Eleanor A. and Andrea L. By 1910, the family had

moved to Lake Forest, Illinois, where Ferguson taught at Lake Forest Academy. Around 1916, the family moved to Dallas, Texas, where George taught at Terrill School and Lucia taught at St. Mary's College. Finally, the family moved to Marion, Alabama, where Ferguson taught at the Marion Military and Naval College.

From around 1918 to 1919, Ferguson was in ill health. He traveled to Indianapolis for an extended visit and rest. He died at Union Station in Indianapolis on 17 June 1919.

Sources:

Alumna Record, DePauw University. Greencastle, Indiana: DePauw University, 1920.
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Alumni Directory, the University of Chicago, 1861–1910. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1910.

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The Annual Catalogue of Wabash College, 1903–1904. Crawfordsville, Indiana: Wabash College, 1904.

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“Chapter One: The Indiana Asbury Years.” Accessed September 12, 2018.

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“Dies at Union Station.” *Indianapolis News*, June 18, 1919.

Dunn, Jacob Piatt. *Greater Indianapolis: The History, the Industries, the Institutions, and the People of a City of Homes*. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1910.

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Indiana, Birth Certificates, 1907-1940, via Ancestry.com

Indiana, Death Certificates, 1899-2011, via Ancestry.com

Indiana, Select Marriages Index, 1748-1993, via Ancestry.com

“John W. Ray.” Accessed September 12, 2018.

<https://library.depauw.edu/library/archives/ehistory/chapter1/JohnWRay.htm>

New Zealand, Birth Index, 1840-1950, via Ancestry.com

U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995, via Ancestry.com

U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-1990, via Ancestry.com

Web: Indiana, Civil War Soldier Database Index, 1861-1865, via Ancestry.com

1910 and 1900 U.S. Federal Censuses, via Ancestry.com

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains materials related to the McDonald, Ray, and Ferguson families. Items about the McDonald family include engraving plates for Donald Ferguson and Andrea Ferguson, an Eleanor McDonald journal, a Judge David McDonald diary, "Pieces in Poetry" by David McDonald, and a Stella McDonald book of poems.

Ray family materials include correspondence, orders, and invoices for the John W. Ray memoirs, an Elisabeth Ray class notebook, two Elisabeth Ray journals, "The Memoirs of John W. Ray," and Ray family photos.

Items related to the Ferguson family include George Archer Ferguson's literary society and writing journal, George Archer Ferguson's marriage certificate, and photos of George Archer Ferguson and his family. The collection also contains correspondence to and from family members, copies of family memoirs and recollections, family genealogy materials, a collection of saved postage stamps, a wedding list and gift notebook, and unidentified family and house photos.

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Correspondence, orders, and invoices on John W. Ray memoirs, 1952–1969; n.d.

[Eleanor McDonald] journal, ca. 1861

Elisabeth Ray class notebook, n.d.

Elisabeth Ray class notebook, removed materials, 1897, n.d.

Elisabeth Ray journal, January 1882–December 1884

Elisabeth Ray journal, September 1891–December 1893

Family memoirs, 1860, 1882

Genealogy materials, 1987–1990; n.d.

George Archer Ferguson literary society and writing journal, ca. 1894–1895

George Archer Ferguson writing journal, removed materials, n.d.

George Archer Ferguson and Lucia Ray marriage certificate, 2 July 1907

George Archer Ferguson photos, ca. 1876–1907

Judge David McDonald diary from December 1858 to December 1864, transcribed by Elisabeth Ray Huntington, January 1917

Judge David McDonald diary, removed materials, 1869–1930, n.d.

CONTAINER

Artifact: 2009.0087

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Miscellaneous family and house photos, 1964–1985, n.d.	Cold Storage Color Photographs, Folder 2
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Stella McDonald book of poems, ca. 1882	Box 2, Folder 7
Wedding list and gift notebook, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 8