

THE McDOWELL-MILLER-WARNER PAPERS

#2969-a

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COMPILED BY

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Scope and Contents

McDowell-Miller-Warner Papers, 1700-1876, consist of ca. 600 items, largely correspondence between Sally Campbell Preston (McDowell) Miller and the Rev. John Miller during the period, 1854-1856, of their courtship and marriage. Also included are a number of deeds and other legal documents from the Baltimore, Maryland, area, 1700-1869, many referring to the Warner family; a few McDowell family letters from the 1830's and 1840's; daguerreotypes and photographs; a Civil War memoir, unfinished, by Charles S. Venable, later a professor at the University of Virginia; a memoir of Mary Cantey (McDowell) Venable by her son Frank P. Venable; and other papers.

The principal value of the collection is probably for Civil War research using Professor Venable's manuscript and his war letters contained in the memoir of Mrs. Mary Cantey Venable. The courtship letters, other letters, legal documents, and memoir of Mrs. Mary Cantey Venable would be of some value to a biographer or family historian. The courtship letters deal only occasionally with current events or daily life; the tone is affectionate but very proper, with much discussion of religious and philosophical questions.

Biographical Sketch

Sally McDowell was a daughter of James McDowell, governor of Virginia, 1843-1846, and a niece by marriage of U. S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri. She married Governor

Francis Thomas of Maryland, but divorced him in 1846; married the Rev. Miller in 1856; and died in 1874. The Rev. Miller was pastor of a large church in Philadelphia prior to their marriage, and traveled widely through the northeastern and central states to preach.

One of Sally McDowell's sisters was Mary Cantey McDowell, who in 1856 married Charles S. Venable, later a University of Virginia professor who served as an aide-de-camp to General Robert E. Lee during the Civil War.

Organization

The letters have been arranged in strict chronological order beginning with Box 1. While the courtship letters make up by far the largest portion, other letters are found in virtually every folder: family letters, a few business letters, letters from friends, and letters on church affairs. Other papers have been placed after the correspondence.

Provenance

This collection was deposited in the University of Virginia library by Mr. C. Venable Minor, 102 Bollingbrook Road, Key West, Charlottesville, Virginia, on 13 February 1975. ²¹⁹⁰³

Restrictions None as of 11/25/88

The collection is opened only to those researchers who have obtained the depositor's permission during his lifetime, or his sons' permission after his death. After their deaths,

the papers are to be open for research. There is to be no photocopying of materials. Publication is permitted only with the specific written permission of the depositor or his heirs.

THE MCDOWELL-MILLER-WARNER PAPERSBox 1

1831-1855 April Papers, 8 folders

Box 2

1855 May-Oct. Papers, 6 folders

Box 3

1855 Nov.-1856 May Papers, 7 folders

Box 4

1856 June-1876 Papers, 7 folders

Box 5

n. d. Papers

1780-1823 Ledger Book marked "Illustrative Cases
in Real Property," actually contains
transcripts of letters between Carrington
and Fisher family members

n. d. Outline of The Two Virtues, book by
Rev. Miller

1700-1869 Deeds, conveyances, and a warrant, mainly
Warner family

ca. 1840-1860 Poems

n. d. Civil War Notes

1889, Sept. 28 "Personal Reminiscences of the Confederate
War," manuscript written by Charles S.
Venable, later Prof of Mathematics at
U. Va. [unfinished]

Box 5 (cont'd.)

1917

Memoir of Mary Canteay (McDowell)
Venable

n. d.

Old Etching, [Rev. Miller?]

n. d.
(ca. 1900)

Valentine, no address or signature

n. d.

Envelopes