Finding aid for the John McLaren Collection 1866-1965

Finding aid prepared by Thomas J. Carey
San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA, 94102
(415) 557-4567
info@sfpl.org
August 2009
Title: John McLaren Collection
Date (inclusive): 1866-1965
Collection Identifier: SFH 22
Creator: McLaren, John, 1846-1943
Physical Description: 11 boxes(7.75 cubic feet)
Contributing Institution: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 557-4567
info@sfpl.org
Abstract: Diaries, daybooks, writings, correspondence, newscuttings, scrapbooks, photographs, books, and artifacts created and/or collected by McLaren and his granddaughter, Martha "Matie" McLaren Daniels. The collection documents McLaren's gardening, landscape design, and landscape architecture work for private estates; his travels within the United States and to foreign countries; and to a lesser extent, his work as Assistant Superintendent of Golden Gate Park and then Superintendent of Parks for the City and County of San Francisco. Materials originally collected by McLaren have been added to, rearranged, and annotated by his granddaughter--possibly in preparation of a biography--and a small number of her writings are included.
Physical Location: Collection is stored onsite.
Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English.
Access
The collection is open for research, with photographs available for viewing during Photo Desk hours: Tuesday: 1-5; Thursday: 1-5; Saturday: 10-12, 1-5.
Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items.
Preferred Citation
[identification of item], John McLaren Collection (SFH 22), San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.
Provenance
The John McLaren Collection was donated to the San Francisco Public Library by Ralph C. Daniels ca. April 1970. Five medals were returned to Valerie Daniels by Gladys Hansen of the San Francisco Public Library in July 1974.
Conservation Note
During processing, the entire collection was re-foldered and re-housed in acid-free folders and boxes, and metal paper clips and most staples were removed. Individual leaves of Jane McLaren's "Notes of a Trip to Europe" (folder 1/14) were flattened and stabilized with Japanese paper, and a preservation photocopy included in that folder. Some volumes from McLaren's library had spine repairs and other treatments, and some volumes were isolated due to water and mold damage.
Processing Information note
Processed by Tom Carey in 2009.
Materials Transferred
Photographs have been transferred to the San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection. Books from McLaren's library have been transferred to the San Francisco History Center's book collection; they are represented in the SFPL online catalog with a call number of SFH 22 and are found in Boxes 10 and 11.
Biographical/Historical note
John McLaren was born December 20, 1846 in Craigford, Stirlingshire, Scotland. At age five, he was enrolled in the local grammar school; he did not go on to high school. About 1857, his family moved to a farm in Muirside, property that remained in the family until 1935. McLaren's first job was at nearby Bannockburn House, working for the master gardener there starting about 1860. In March 1864, he left to work for three years at a larger estate, Blair Drummond House, near Stirling. Following this, he found employment at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, enrolling in the botany classes there during at least one winter and spring. He also found work at other estates: Mavisbank; Dupplin Castle, near Perth; and Gosford, in the Lothians, which was planted on what had been sand dunes.
McLaren met his future wife, Jane Mill, while studying at the Royal Botanic Garden. While in Edinburgh he was recruited by George Howard to create a garden for his six-thousand acre estate "El Cerrito" in San Mateo, California. McLaren sailed for
San Francisco in January 1873, and in February McLaren began work for Howard, continuing as head gardener until 1887. During this time he also landscaped properties owned by Stanford, Mills, Ralston and other wealthy San Francisco peninsula capitalists. Jane Mill followed McLaren to California, and they were married July 31, 1876 in San Francisco. Their son, Donald, was born in 1879. He followed in his father's footsteps, managing MacRorie-McLaren Company (1910- ), landscape engineers and nursery in San Mateo. Donald died in 1925, and Jane died October 4, 1926 in San Francisco.

The Board of Park Commissioners appointed McLaren Assistant Superintendent of Golden Gate Park in 1887, and three years later he was appointed Superintendent of Parks, a position he held until his death January 12, 1943 at age 97. He was awarded the George Robert White Medal of Honor from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society (1924), elected Associate of Honour by the Royal Horticultural Society (1930), and honored by the American Institute of Park Executives (1939).

San Francisco's McLaren Park was named in his honor in 1927. While best known for his work transforming sand dunes into Golden Gate Park, McLaren also supervised the landscaping of Lincoln, Harding, and Sharp Parks, and the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition, in San Francisco, and Lithia Park in Ashland, Oregon. For a more complete biography, the best one-volume work is Tom Girvan Aikman's Boss Gardener: The Life and Times of John McLaren (San Francisco: Don't Call It Frisco Press, 1988.)

Scope and Contents
Diaries, daybooks, writings, correspondence, newscuttings, scrapbooks, photographs, books, and artifacts created and/or collected by McLaren and his granddaughter, Martha "Matie" McLaren Daniels. The collection documents McLaren's gardening, landscape design, and landscape architecture work for private estates; his travels within the United States and to foreign countries; and to a lesser extent, his work as Assistant Superintendent of Golden Gate Park and then Superintendent of Parks for the City and County of San Francisco.

Half of the collection relates to McLaren's career before his tenure with the City of San Francisco. The earliest material included is McLaren's daybook of work done at Mavisbank, Scotland, 1866-1871. His personal library of gardening and landscape architecture includes imprints dating from 1803 to 1934; some volumes appear to have been collected before he came to the United States.

Materials originally collected by McLaren have been added to, rearranged, and annotated by his granddaughter--possibly in preparation of a biography--and a small number of her writings are included. Some material in the collection--proclamations, memorials, clippings-- was collected posthumously by Daniels. Writings about McLaren, collected by him or by his granddaughter, are also found in the collection. Considering McLaren's lengthy tenure as Parks Superintendent, there are large gaps in coverage of his professional life.

Arrangement
The collection is organized into eight series: Series 1: Diaries, Day Books and Writings by McLaren; Series 2: Correspondence; Series 3: Writings about McLaren; Series 4: Awards and Certificates; Series 5: News Clippings and Scrapbooks; Series 6: Photographs; Series 7: Realia; and Series 8: Library. Within series, folders are generally arranged chronologically. Within folders, items are arranged chronologically.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Daniels, Martha McLaren
El Cerrito (Estate : San Mateo, Calif.)
Howard, George H., 1827-1878
McLaren family
Golden Gate Park (San Francisco, Calif.)
Horticulturists--California--Biography
Landscape architects--California--Biography
| Box 1, Folder 2          | Diary of My Journey from Liverpool to San Francisco, [1872-1873] |
| Box 1, Folder 3          | Daily Journal, 1874                                        |
| Box 1, Folder 4          | Diary [and] [Trip from Scotland to the U.S., from Dundee to Lahore], 1876 |
| Box 1, Folder 5          | Daily Journal, 1877                                        |
| Box 1, Folder 6          | Daily Journal, 1878                                        |
| Box 1, Folder 7          | Cash book / journal, 1878-1879                             |
| Box 1, Folder 8          | Daily Journal, 1879- [1880]                                |
| Box 1, Folder 9          | Daily Journal, 1881                                        |
| Box 1, Folder 10         | Daily Journal, 1882                                        |
| Box 1, Folder 11         | Daily Journal, 1884                                        |
| Box 1, Folder 12         | Diary, 1885                                                |
| Box 1, Folder 13         | Daily Journal, 1886                                        |
| Box 1, Folder 14         | Notes of a Trip to Europe, 1892?                           |
|                          | General Physical Description note: Forty-two pages written by McLaren's wife, Jane, describing a tour taken by herself, John and son Donald (June-August 1892) of parks in the United States and Europe. Includes observations on the plantings of various parks, estates and open spaces. Includes photocopy. |
|                          | creator: McLaren, Jane Mills                               |
| Box 1, Folder 15         | Diary, 1912                                                |
| Box 1, Folder 16         | Trip to Sisson's, [c. 1915?]                               |
| Box 1, Folder 17         | Notes on a trip to Killin with Mr. Dow, undated            |
|                          | Physical Description: 3.0 leaves                           |
| Box 1, Folder 18         | Impressions of Superintendent McLaren's visit to parks of eastern states after adjournment of Park Superintendents Convention held in St. Louis, on September ninth, tenth and eleventh, [1917] |
| Box 2, Folder 1          | John McLaren: manuscripts and typescripts,                 |
|                          | Scope and Contents                                         |
|                          | Includes manuscripts of chapters for his *Gardening in California, Landscape and Flower* (1908), as well as notes on the reclamation of sand dunes. |
| Box 2, Folder 2          | Essays and lectures collected by John McLaren,             |
|                          | Scope and Contents                                         |
|                          | Includes a lecture given by Alice Brown Chittenden, flower painter and colleague of botanist Alice Eastwood; and an essay on Golden Gate Park (though attributed to Eastwood by McLaren's grand-daughter, it is not in Eastwood's hand). |
Artificial Distribution: ms., undated
  Physical Description: 7.0 leaves
  General note
  Signed, 'A. B. C.' – [Alice Brown Chittenden?]

Some Observation and a Little Theory from the West End: ms., undated
  Physical Description: 3.0 leaves
  General note
  [by Alice Eastwood?]

These gates were to have been known...: ts., undated, c. 1902
  Physical Description: 3.0 leaves
  General note
  Notes for a speech given by a sculptor, New York City.

Series 2 Correspondence, 1888-1941

Arrangement
Correspondence is arranged chronologically, though the folder listing is alphabetical by correspondent.

Scope and Contents
One folder of incoming correspondence reflects McLaren's activities as Superintendent of Parks in San Francisco (ten letters have McLaren's replies) and as advisor to various individuals and organizations elsewhere in California. Correspondents of note include horticulturist Kate O. Sessions, writer Ednah R. Aiken, Stanford University trustee and Bohemian Club president Vanderlynn Stow, and Harry Lauder, Scotland's famed entertainer. There is one folder of correspondence of McLaren's granddaughter, Martha Jane "Matie" Daniels.
Dow, Jas. J. (Bohemian Grove), October 2, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Drieger, W. J., January 12
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Drieger, W. J., January 18
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Eaton, Howard (Eaton's Ranch, Wolf, Wyoming), March 25, 1918
Physical Description: 2.0 leaves

Eaton, Howard, [1918?]
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Finlayson, Thomas (to Mrs. Jane McLaren), October 2, 1920
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Friedman, Florence (Vis. Valley Comm. Center) (+reply), February 26, 1941
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Gadbois, J. P. (Departement des Parcs, Montreal), May 7, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Garoutte, Eudora (California State Library), February 1, 1909
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Goodspeed, T. H. (UC Berkeley), March 19, 1940
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Hallweger, George (Camp Curry), September 5, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Herbert L. Schmitz Co., May 22, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Hickey, Joseph R. (S.F. Liberty Loan Committee), October 6, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Hill & Whyte, Solicitors, April 6, 1900
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Hill & Whyte, Solicitors, December 31, 1901
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Hoffmann, F. J. (California Redwood Park Commission), November 13, 1917
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

House of Friendship, San Francisco, October 8, [1918]
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Jung, C., July 3, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf
Koster, F[rederick] J. (S. F. Chamber of Commerce), February 21, 1918
   Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Kusche, J[ohn] A[ugust], February 18, 1918
   Physical Description: 4.0 leaves

Lauder, Harry, November 25, 1941
   Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Lighting Service Committee, City and Co. of S.F., August 30, 1918
   Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Lyser, Abigail S., February 21, 1918
   Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Magrane, A[ndrew] F., October 21, 1918
   Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Mayor's Office, San Francisco, April 24, 1918
   Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

McBryde, Warren H., September 6, 1934
   Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

   Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

McSheehy, James B. (S.F. Board of Supervisors), April 18, 1918
   Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Meyer, Henry G. (Daniel Meyer), January 19, 1905
   Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Morrison's Academy, Crieff, undated
   Physical Description: 2.0 leaves

Murdo MacKenzie (St. Andrew's Society), November 8, 1930
   Physical Description: 3.0 leaves

Newman, O. W. (State Commission of Horticulture), June 21, 1918
   Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Phelan, James D., 1927
   Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Presidio of San Francisco, January 10, 1918
   Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Reeve, C[harles] C., December 6, 1918
   Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

S. P. Townsend & Co., November 4, 1918
   Physical Description: 1.0 leaf
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Sender/Recipient</th>
<th>Physical Description</th>
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<td>San Francisco Riding School</td>
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<td>San Francisco Riding School</td>
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<td>Sanjines, C.</td>
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<td>May 31, 1918</td>
<td>Sargent, B. V. (Automobile Owners' Rental Assn.)</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
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<td>February 19, 1918</td>
<td>Scheepers, John</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22, 1918</td>
<td>Schramm, W. M. (to Mayor James Rolph)</td>
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<td>July 22, 1918</td>
<td>Schwartzlose, Noah</td>
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<td>January 18, 1918</td>
<td>Scott, Francis Seymour</td>
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<td>Scotti, Francois</td>
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<td>Sessions, Kate O.</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
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<td>Sessions, Kate O.</td>
<td>3.0 leaves</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Shearer, Frank (Park Department, Los Angeles)</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19, 1918</td>
<td>Shebley, W. H. (Fish and Game Commission)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 20, 1918</td>
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<td>January 17, 1918</td>
<td>Shebley, W. H. (Fish and Game Commission)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1, 1918</td>
<td>Shebley, W. H. (Fish and Game Commission)</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16, 1940</td>
<td>Sherman School, San Francisco (+ reply)</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 26, 1918</td>
<td>Sierra Auto Supply Company</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
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</tbody>
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Silveria, J. F. (+ reply), April 9, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Simon, H. M. (Fillmore Club), February 16, 1918
Sinsheimer, May (S.F. War Camp Community Service), September 23, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Skutt, Gilbert L. (Park Dept., Los Angeles) (+ reply), April 18, 1940
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Sleesman, C. C. (Board of Health, Bayonne, NJ), February 23, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Slosson, Dorothy (Sunset Branch, SFPL), April 15, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Smart, Gordon S. (San Francisco Model Yacht Club), February 21, 1918
Society of American Florists, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Spring Valley School, San Francisco (+ reply), May 15, 1940
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Sproul, Robert G. (to John L. McNab), February 6, 1940
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Stocking, Leonard (Agnews State Hospital), December 11, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Stow, Nellie, [1895?]
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Stow, V., March 21, 1895
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Stow, Vanderlynn (Stanford University), January 14, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Stow, Vanderlynn (to Edgar W. Stow), November 16, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Stow, Vanderlynn (+ reply), September 10, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Stow, Vanderlynn (Stanford University), April 25, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Stow, Vanderlynn (Stanford University), January 3, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Stow, Vanderlynn (Stanford University), May 13, 1918
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Physical Description</th>
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<td>October 5, 1918</td>
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<td>Stow, Vanderlynn</td>
<td>February 6, 1918</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sutliffe, Mrs. E. C. [Mary]</td>
<td>[1918?]</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sutro, Rose</td>
<td>October 25, 1938</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
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<td>Tetrazzini, Luisa</td>
<td>March 22, 1914</td>
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<td>Tevis, H. L.</td>
<td>August 10, 1918</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tevis, H. L.</td>
<td>October 3, 1918</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
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<td>Thane, A. C., Mrs.</td>
<td>June 3, 1918</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tibbitts, H. C. (Greenwich St. Improvement Assoc.)</td>
<td>February 12, 1918</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tobin, John P., Reverend</td>
<td>(St. Cecelia's Church)</td>
<td>2.0 leaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobin, John P., Reverend</td>
<td>March 3, 1918</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turner, Frank I. (Exposition Preservation League)</td>
<td>June 25, 1918</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turner, George C. (Boys and Girls Aid Society of CA)</td>
<td>August 28, 1918</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vanderbilt, Newell F. (+ reply)</td>
<td>March 18, 1941</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walsingham, F. G. (Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo)</td>
<td>May 7, 1918</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Williams, R. H. (to E. O. McCormick)</td>
<td>April 13, 1918</td>
<td>2.0 leaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson, W. F. (Hotel Ramona)</td>
<td>November 17, 1918</td>
<td>1.0 leaf</td>
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</tbody>
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Wirth, Theodore (+ reply), December 18, 1939  
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Wismer, Einar, May 14, 1918  
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Woolsey, Elia L., July 6, 1918  
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Wragge, Clement L., May 28, 1918  
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Box 2, Folder 4  
John McLaren correspondence sent, 1894-1940  
Hill and [Whyte], Solicitors, April 15, 1894  
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Dibble, Oliver, undated  
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

[Mill family? "I am grateful to you..."], undated  
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Wismer, Hother, December 20, 1939  
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Spencer, Mrs. Eldridge T., April 12, 1940  
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Box 2, Folder 5  
Postcards, 1907-1908  
General note  
Fourteen postcards, Including eight addressed to Andrew and Bessie McNair, from John Reid, Annie Reid, Jeanie Reid, and Jessie---.

Box 2, Folder 6  
Matie McLaren Daniels correspondence, 1923-1965  
Series 3  Writings about John McLaren, 1921-1941

Box 2, Folder 7  
Parks & Recreation, Vol. XXIV, No. 8, John McLaren Issue, April 1941  
Margaret Geddes, John McLaren: A Sketch,  
Physical Description: 2.0 photocopies

Box 2, Folder 7  
John L. McNab, John McLaren... Tribute Delivered Extemporaneously Before the St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco on December 6, 1939,  
Uncle John McLaren by Frank J. Taylor, St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco, 1939  
Poetry,  
Physical Description: 12.0 leaves

Box 2, Folder 8  
Matie McLaren Daniels writings,  
Before 1887 in San Francisco...ts, undated  
Physical Description: 14.0 leaves

On the Howard Estate 1872-1887: ts, undated  
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Park Lodge, Golden Gate Park: ts, undated  
Physical Description: 3.0 leaves
The Blacksmith: ms, undated
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

My Christmas Tree (The Olympian), December 1921
Physical Description: 1.0 leaf

Series 4 Awards and Certificates, 1904-1943

Box 3, Folder 1
Souvenir to John McLaren: [presented by] the Citizens of the State of California, Represented by His Excellency... San Francisco, June 2, 1904
Physical Description: 1.0 oversize items

Box 2, Folder 10
Certificate of appointment, San Francisco Division, State Council of Defense of California, November 11, 1918
Certificate, Royal Horticultural Society, 1930
Proclamation, John McLaren Day by Office of the Mayor, San Francisco, 1963
Testimonial book, To John McLaren, Our Honorary Member... American Institute of Park Executives, Philadelphia, 1939
Award letter, George Robert White Medal of Honor, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, 1924
In Memoriam: John McLaren (Senate Resolution, California Legislature, Fifty-fifth Session) 1943

Series 5 News Clippings and Scrapbooks, 1887-1943

Scope and Contents
Scrapbooks of news clippings relating to Golden Gate Park (circa 1887-1910) appear to have been compiled by John McLaren, with scrapbooks focusing on McLaren's career (1935-1943) continued by his granddaughter. Daniels appears to have disassembled some of her grandfather's scrapbooks to create new ones, with the intent of writing a biography. As a result, some clippings and photographs collected by McLaren and by his granddaughter have been comingled. Her notes can be found on various items, and there are portions of drafts of the biography.

Box 2, Folder 13
Book I of newspaper clippings about Golden Gate Park, 1894-
Box 2, Folder 14
Book II of newspaper clippings about Golden Gate Park, 1887-
Box 2, Folder 15
Newspaper clippings relating to John McLaren and Golden Gate Park
Box 2, Folder 16
Scrapbook [created by Matie McLaren Daniels?], 1935-1943
Box 3, Folder 2
Scrapbook created by Matie McLaren Daniels,

General note
Includes her nine-page typescript "Recollection of an Era: John McLaren and the Construction of Golden Gate Park."
Series 6 Photographs, c.1860-1940

Scope and Contents
Photographs include 19th century McLaren family portraits taken in Scotland, an album of Gabriel Moulin photographs of Golden Gate Park, photographs of other San Francisco parks and completed landscaping projects, and two views of the Howard estate. Three albums of photographs of Golden Gate Park were worked into the San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection; as the albums were not identified "McLaren," their provenance has been lost, as has the provenance of four folders of loose photographs depicting early Golden Gate Park. Also, one folder of photographs of locations outside of San Francisco was incorporated into the San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection's "California Places" section. Cartes-de-visite of the McLaren family (circa 1860-1873) were probably removed from the album in Box 5.

Existence and Location of Copies note
Digital reproductions of 35 photographs in Box 7 are available for viewing through the San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection database by doing a subject search on John McLaren Collection, or by clicking "view online item" links in this guide.

Box 4, Folder 1

Cartes-de-visite, McLaren family, circa 1860-1873


Woman's portrait, McLaren Family Album]. Photographer: G. Smart, Stirling.


Woman with child standing on chair. Photographer unknown.


Two men behind and two women, McLaren Family Album]. Photographer unknown.

Woman standing, McLaren Family Album]. Photographer: George F. Roger, Dundee.


Box 4, Folder 2

[Structure on grounds of El Cerrito, estate of W. D. M. Howard, San Mateo], undated

Box 4, Folder 3

View of Uyeno; Wisteria; Maple Garden at Takinogawa near Tokyo [3 prints] undated

Box 4, Folder 4

St. Andrew's Society of S. F., Oct. 8, 1940

Box 4, Folder 5

Presenting the [Colors] to Returned Regiment from Boer War [2 prints]

[Bust of John McLaren. Baccari, photographer]

Box 4, Folder 6

[The Howard Estate, El Cerrito, San Mateo], circa 1880

Box 4, Folder 7

[McLaren Family Photograph Album] [52 prints]

Physical Description: 1.0 album

Box 5

[Golden Gate Park]. [44 prints]

Physical Description: 1.0 box
creator: Moulin, Gabriel, 1872-1945

Box 6

[Golden Gate Park]. [44 prints]

Physical Description: 1.0 box
creator: Moulin, Gabriel, 1872-1945

Box 7, Folder 1

Districts. Haight-Ashbury
Buena Vista Hill, [after 1910]  
Hospitals. San Francisco General (old)  
  Garden at San Francisco City and County Hospital, undated  
Box 7, Folder 3  
Hotels. Fairmont (interiors)  
  Flower show at the Fairmont Hotel, [1912]  
Box 7, Folder 4  
Parks. Alamo Square  
Box 7, Folder 5  
Parks. Balboa  
Box 7, Folder 6  
Parks. Columbia Square  
Box 7, Folder 7  
Parks. Dolores  
Box 7, Folder 8  
Parks. Duboce  
Box 7, Folder 9  
Parks. Franklin Square  
Box 7, Folder 10  
Parks. Garfield Square  
Box 7, Folder 11  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. Aerial Views  
  Aerial view of Music Concourse in Golden Gate Park, undated  
Box 7, Folder 12  
Box 7, Folder 13  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. De Young Museum (early)  
Box 7, Folder 14  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. Horse Stalls  
  Bougainvillea on horse stall in Golden Gate Park, undated  
Box 7, Folder 15  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. Kezar Stadium (site)  
Box 7, Folder 16  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. Lakes. Middle  
  Middle Lake in Golden Gate Park, [after 1910]  
  Middle Lake in Golden Gate Park, undated  
  Middle Lake in Golden Gate Park, [after 1910]  
  Middle Lake in Golden Gate Park, [after 1910]  
Box 7, Folder 17  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. Lakes. Spreckels  
  Ducks and model yachts on Spreckels Lake in Golden Gate Park, undated  
Box 7, Folder 18  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. Lakes. Unknown  
  A lake view in Golden Gate Park, undated  
  Pond with bamboo growing on the margin, undated  
  Unidentified lake in Golden Gate Park, undated  
  Unidentified lake in Golden Gate Park, undated  
Box 7, Folder 19  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. May Day  
  Children at a May Day celebration in Golden Gate Park, undated  
Box 7, Folder 20  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. Monuments. Ball Player  
Box 7, Folder 21  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. Monuments. Francis Scott Key  
Box 7, Folder 22  
Box 7, Folder 23  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. Monuments. Grant  
  Ulysses S. Grant monument in Golden Gate Park, undated  
Box 7, Folder 24  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. Monuments. McKinley  
  William McKinley monument, Dec. 7, 1929  
Box 7, Folder 25  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. Music Concourse  
  Concert under way at the music concourse in Golden Gate Park, undated  
Box 7, Folder 26  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. General Views  
  Field in Golden Gate Park, [after 1910]  
  Golden Gate Park, Dec. 7, 1929  
Box 7, Folder 27  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. Nurseries  
Box 7, Folder 28  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. Polo Field  
  Polo game being played at Golden Gate Park, undated  
Box 7, Folder 29  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. Pumping Station  
Box 7, Folder 30  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. Rhododendrons  
  Rhododendrons in Golden Gate Park, undated  
  Rhododendrons in Golden Gate Park, May 23, 1929  
Box 7, Folder 31  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. South Drive  
Box 7, Folder 32  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. Strawberry Hill  
  Strawberry Hill in Golden Gate Park, undated  
  Strawberry Lake in Golden Gate Park, undated  
Box 7, Folder 33  
Parks. Golden Gate Park. Trees, Shrubs  
  An unidentified shrub in Golden Gate Park, undated
Series 6 Photographs, c.1860-1940

Eucalyptus in Golden Gate Park, undated
Trees, shrubs and flowers off a path in Golden Gate Park, [after 1910]
An unidentified shrub in Golden Gate Park, undated
An unidentified shrub in Golden Gate Park, undated
Trees in Golden Gate Park, 1936

Box 7, Folder 34
Parks. Harding
Box 7, Folder 35
Parks. Holly Park
Box 7, Folder 36
Parks. Jefferson Square
Box 7, Folder 37
Parks. Lafayette Square
Box 7, Folder 38
Parks. Lobos
Box 7, Folder 39
Parks. Precita Park
Box 7, Folder 40
Parks. Washington Square
Box 7, Folder 41
Streets. Dolores
Dolores Street, [after 1010]
Box 7, Folder 42
Streets. Folsom
Park at the end of Folsom Street, undated
Box 7, Folder 43
Streets. Hayes
Hayes Street, near Pierce, [after 1910]
Box 7, Folder 44
Streets. Park Presidio Blvd.
Park Presidio Boulevard, [after 1910]

Series 7 Realia, 1905-1923

Physical Description: 7.0 items in two boxes.
Scope and Contents
A few personal effects of McLaren's comprise a small box of artifacts and one oversize box of silver plate.

Box 8
Copper printing plate, engraved Mrs. John McLaren,
Box 8
John McLaren's eyeglasses (one pair with lenses, one without),
Box 8
Baby bootie,
Box 8
Sporran,
Box 9
Box 9
Shreve & Co. silver plate, 17", inscribed: Jane / Christmas 1905 / John,
Box 9
Derby Co. silver cup, 13", inscribed: Presented to John McLaren at the California Fall Flower Show, San Francisco, Oct. 26, 1923 / Awarded by California Association of Nurserymen for Exceptional Contributions to Horticulture , October 26, 1923

Boxes 10-11
Series 8 Library, 1803-1934

Physical Description: 17.0 items in two boxes.
Scope and Contents
McLaren's library of gardening and landscape architecture includes imprints dating from 1803 to 1934; some volumes appear to have been collected before he came to the United States.

An anthography of the eucalypts. Russell Grimwade. Sydney: Angus & Robertson Ltd., 1920
Dreamthorp, with selections from 'Last leaves'. Alexander Smith and Hugh Walker. London: H. Milford, Oxford University Press, 1934
General note
Front free endpaper inscribed: To John McLaren LL.D., from the Hawthorn Clan David Anderson.

General note
Front free endpaper inscribed: To John McLaren Christmas 1895 from Jas. McNab.
Farming for pleasure and profit. Third section. Tree-planting for ornamentation or profit, suitable to every soil and situation. Arthur Roland. London: Chapman and Hall, 1879

General note

Forest culture and eucalyptus trees. Ellwood Cooper and Ferdinand von Mueller. San Francisco: Cubery & Company, 1876

General note
Front free endpaper inscribed: John McLaren San Mateo.

The forester; or, A practical treatise on the planting, rearing, and general management of forest-trees. James Brown. Edinburgh: W. Blackwood, 1871

General note
Front free endpaper inscribed: John McLaren from W. H. Howard San Mateo.

The fruit garden; a treatise intended to explain and illustrate the physiology of fruit trees, the theory and practice of all operations connected with the propagation, transplanting, pruning and training of orchard and garden trees, as standards, dwarfs, pyramids, espaliers, etc ... the laying out and arranging of different kinds of gardens ... illustrated with upwards of 150 figures ... Patrick Barry. Rochester, N.Y.: s.n., 1863

General note
Front free endpaper inscribed: William A. Bowld January 1874.


General note

Practical hints upon landscape gardening: with some remarks on domestic architecture as connected with scenery. William Sawrey Gilpin. London: T. Cadell, 1835

General note

Practical landscape gardening: with reference to the improvement of rural residences, giving the general principles of the art; with full directions for planting shade trees, shrubbery and flowers, and laying out grounds. G. M. Kern. Cincinnati: Moore, Wilstach, Keys & Co., 1855


General note

A treatise on forming, improving, and managing country residences; and on the choice of situations appropriate to every class of purchasers ... Vol. 1. John Claudius Loudon. London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, and Orme, 1806

General note
Front free endpaper inscribed: John McLaren.
Observations on the theory and practice of landscape gardening. Including some remarks on Grecian and Gothic architecture, collected from various manuscripts, in the possession of the different noblemen and gentlemen, for whose use they were originally written; the whole tending to establish fixed principles in the respective arts. Humphry Repton. London: printed by T. Bensley for J. Taylor, 1803

The following titles await possible conservation treatments, and these volumes are not represented in the SFPL online catalog:


General note
Frontispiece reverse inscribed: John McLaren to Daniel McRorie Christmas 1909.

The fruits and fruit trees of America or, The culture propagation, and management, in the garden and orchard, of fruit trees generally; with descriptions of all the finest varieties of fruit, native and foreign, cultivated in this country. Andrew Jackson Downing. New York: J. Wiley, 1860


General note
Front free endpaper inscribed: John McLaren Blair Drummond 1866.

Annual report of the Board of Commissioners of the Central Park [1863]. New York (N.Y.). Board of Commissioners of the Central Park [New York: s.n.], Wm. C. Bryant & Co., 1863

General note
This issue is Sixth Annual Report, January 1863.