



Legacy Finding Aid for Manuscript and Photograph Collections

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The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., is a community-supported educational and research organization that collects, interprets, and shares the history of our nation’s capital. Founded in 1894, it serves a diverse audience through its collections, public programs, exhibits, and publications.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FINDING AID

Title: MS 444 John Clagett Proctor and Maud Proctor Callis Papers, 1890s-1959

Processor: Marianne Gill

Date: August 2004

John Clagett Proctor (1867-1956) was born in Washington, D.C., on November 15, 1867, the youngest of seven children of John C. Proctor, Sr. and Mary Ann Davidson. Growing up on New York Avenue and Florida Avenue, John witnessed the explosive growth of Washington's inner city after the Civil War. His father's occupation as a newspaper printer, correspondent, and city editor of local newspapers and his membership in many civic organizations helped form Proctor's background for civic interests. John Proctor, Jr. also became a printer and began his career at the National Museum (now the Smithsonian) in 1883. In 1906, the printing operation was transferred to the Government Printing Office (GPO) and he continued as a printer until his retirement from that agency in 1931.

John Jr. married Maud Crown on February 28, 1887 at the bride's parents' home on Meridian Hill. Their two children were born there. Francis Edward Proctor was born July 31, 1888 and Maud Sedalia, October 1889. John, following in his father's footsteps by studying law at the National University of Law (now The George Washington University), earned his degrees in 1893 and 1894. He was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia June 30, 1894, but never practiced law.

By 1902, John was much in demand as a speaker at celebrations commemorating historic events. He also prepared many pamphlets and booklets dealing with historic sites. In 1910, he was appointed to serve on the Permanent Committee on Marking Points of Historic Interest. He also served as chairman of the Historic Sites Committee for the inaugurations of Presidents Coolidge (1925) and Harry Truman (1949). He composed many poems commemorating special occasions or honoring unique people.

In 1924, John first published an article for the *Evening Star* and then began publishing a weekly column for the *Sunday Star* on the history of Washington, D.C. and the surrounding area. In 1930, he conducted a series of talks at radio station WMAL on local history. That same year, Lewis Publishing Company selected Proctor as the editor-in-chief of a five-volume series of books entitled *Washington, Past and Present*. Proctor recruited experts in various fields to write the chapters. The fifth volume, a series of biographical sketches of prominent Washingtonians, was published in 1932. In 1949, Proctor published a 500-page collection of his *Sunday Star* articles under the title *Proctor's Washington and Environs; Written for the Sunday Star, 1928-1949*. He continued to contribute historical articles to the magazine section of the *Star* for three more years. These articles also contain illustrations that he collected from various sources. Proctor suffered a broken hip in 1953 and spent three years in ill health until his death on April 19, 1956. He is buried in Rock Creek Cemetery.

His daughter Maud shared the interests of her father and grandfather in local history, biography, and genealogy. She became a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1922 and submitted an article for the DAR magazine entitled "Washington City Was Born in the Golden Age of Plantation Life." Maud married Louis E. Callis in Frederick, Maryland, July 7, 1938. One of her most enduring legacies was her work in preserving the District's boundary stones. Her father was with her in 1941 to mark the 150th anniversary of the laying of the first cornerstone at Jones Point, Alexandria, Virginia. His account of the ceremony is reprinted in one of the articles of *Proctor's Washington*. Maud died of a heart attack January 1959 in a hotel room in Egypt, while on an 80-day world cruise.

John C. Proctor, Jr. and Maud Proctor Callis belonged to many organizations in Washington, including the Columbia Historical Society (now the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.), the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia, the Masons, Order of the Eastern Star, Society of Natives of the District of Columbia, Daughters of the American Revolution, *Evening Star* Club, Brightwood Citizens' Association, and the Columbia Typographical Union.

Scope and Content: The John Clagett Proctor and Maud Proctor Callis Papers, 1890s-1959, consist of materials gathered by John Proctor, Jr., and his daughter Maud Proctor Callis in the course of their local history and genealogical research. The span dates of the collection relate to original material. The collection also includes photocopies of earlier materials gathered by John Proctor and Maud Callis. Materials in the collection include newspaper clippings, notes and drafts for Proctor's many published articles, correspondence from readers, photographs, family documents, tour scripts and scrapbooks. Maud Proctor Callis made provisions for the Columbia Historical Society (now the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.) to receive the entire collection of books, photographs, documents, and other material she and her father had accumulated over the years. In many instances, Maud interlaced her notes with her father's, and they have been left as received. Some of their materials have been placed in more appropriate HSW collection files.

The collection is arranged in five series:

SERIES I: JOHN PROCTOR PAPERS is arranged in two sub-series:

Sub-series A: Subject Files consists of John Proctor's notes, correspondence, drafts, photographs, and ephemera on various local history topics. They are arranged alphabetically as he originally organized them. Folder titles and descriptions in brackets identify materials in folders that were not specifically titled or identified by Proctor. Proctor's folder description generally provided only a subject title. Types of materials vary per subject. Personal diaries are filed with Maud's in Series III.

Sub-series B: Personal and Family Files consists of his correspondence, photographs, business papers, memorabilia and poems. The series is arranged by document type and then chronologically.

SERIES II: MAUD PROCTOR CALLIS PAPERS is arranged in two sub-series:

Sub-series A: Personal and Family Files consists of personal and family history materials, along with notes of the tours and lectures she conducted for the DAR and local Washington, D.C. interest groups. Daily journals are filed in Series III.

Sub-series B: Subject Files consists primarily of Maud Proctor's notes and newspaper clippings on various local history topics. They are arranged alphabetically by subject.

SERIES III: DAILY JOURNALS OF JOHN CLAGETT PROCTOR AND MAUD PROCTOR CALLIS, 1902-1947, consists primarily of handwritten or newspaper clipping entries. Also included in this series is an 1884 scrapbook of newspaper clippings. The series is arranged chronologically.

SERIES V: SUNDAY STAR NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, 1928-1952, consists of copies of John C. Proctor's articles on local history that appeared in the *Star*. A card index to this collection and reference copies are available in the library's reading room.

Donors: John Clagett Proctor and Maud Proctor Callis (materials later accessioned as 1990.026 and 1990.027); David Rubicam, 2001.181 (Proctor scrapbook in container 5)

Size: 12.65 cubic feet (12 containers and one oversize folder)

Restrictions: None

Preferred Citation: [Identified item], *John Clagett Proctor and Maud Proctor Callis Papers*. The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Related Materials:

Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia Records (MS 422)

Society of Natives of the District of Columbia. Records (MS 598)

Order of the Eastern Star Records (MS 200)

Container List

SERIES I: JOHN C. PROCTOR PAPERS

Sub-series A: Subject Files

Container 1

Folder 1: Actors – Correspondence [1901-1943]

Folder 2: Actors - Personal notes

Folder 3: Aeronautics – Aviation

Folder 4: Anacostia

Folder 5: Analostan Island

Folder 6: Andre, Major John

Folder 7: Architecture: "Bronze door on Capitol/Old Brick Capitol"

Folder 8: Arsenal [old Federal Penitentiary - Ft. McNair]

Folder 9: Authors - Frank Carpenter

Folder 10: Automobiles [includes gasoline ration card]

Folder 11: [Balch, Dr. Stephen B.]

Folder 12: [Bancroft House - Historic Site Committee photographs]

Folder 13: Band – Marine

Folder 14: Banking

Folder 15: Baseball

Folder 16: [Benning, William]

Folder 17: Bicycles and tricycles

Folder 18: Bladensburg, Maryland

Folder 19: Blair family and house

Folder 20: Boats

Folder 21: Braddock's Rock [1948 Navy Department Annex photograph and map]

Folder 22: Brentwood - Camp Meigs

Folder 23: Bridges

Folder 24: Brightwood

Folder 25: Buildings

Folder 26: Bunker Hill [Speech, 17 June 1929]

Folder 27: Buzzards Point

Folder 28: Canals

Folder 29: Capitol Hill: Building and Statues [Capitol building and neighborhood]

Folder 30: Carroll, Daniel

Folder 31: Catholic University

Folder 32: Cemeteries

Folder 33: [Census-notes for 1790-1930 census, plus notes on original patentees]

Folder 34: Centennials

Folder 35: Chevy Chase, Maryland

Folder 36: Churches

Folder 37: Churches

Folder 38: City Planning

Folder 39: Civil Defense

Folder 40: Conococheague, Virginia

Folder 41: [Corcoran, William. W.]

Folder 42: [Cox, Richard E.]

Folder 43: [DeBodisco, Alexander]

Folder 44: Deeds [notes on deeds; no original documents]

Folder 45: D.C. Board of Commissioners - Melvin Hazen

Folder 46: Downing, A. J. and Smithsonian Institute

Folder 47: Drug Stores (Doctors)

Folder 48: Dueling

Folder 49: Dwellings [notes on Arlington, Townsend, Van Pattens, Abingdon, Carly]

Folder 50: Dwellings - Decatur House

Folder 51: Ellicott City, Howard County, Maryland [contains 1930 snapshots (3) and negatives (11)]

Folder 52: Estates-Maryland [Oxon Hill, Riversdale - Calvert Mansion]

Folder 53: Fish Hatcheries

Folder 54: Flags - District of Columbia

Folder 55: Flags - United States

Folder 56: Foggy Bottom, First Ward, West End

Folder 57: Fraternal Organizations - Odd Fellows

Folder 58: Fritchie, Barbara

Folder 59: Georgetown

Folder 60: Ghosts

Container 2

Folder 61: [Hamilton, Alexander]

Folder 62: Historic Buildings - Chautauqua Amphitheater

Folder 63: Historic Buildings [notes on Oak View, Marshall Hall, Pierce Mill]

Folder 64: [Historic Buildings - F. S. Key Home]

Folder 65: [Historic Buildings - Van Ness Mansion]

Folder 66: Historic Markers

Folder 67: Historic Sites - "John Dickson Home" [including notes on other DC sites]

Folder 68: Historic Sites - Committee on Marking Points of Historic Interest [Includes 2 photographs of Committee at March 4, 1913 inauguration; See also Folder 17 Bancroft House]

Folder 69: Historic Sites - Virginia (Fort Belvoir)

Folder 70: Horse Racing

Folder 71: [Hospitals]

Folder 72: Hotels and Taverns

Folder 73: Housing

Folder 74: Hyattsville, Maryland

Folder 75: Inventors

Folder 76: Jefferson, Thomas

Folder 77: Judges

Folder 78: Judicial Proceedings - Star Route Trail

Folder 79: Kalorama

Folder 80: [Lafayette Square]

Folder 81: [Lane, Harriet]

Folder 82: LeDroit Park

Folder 83: L'Enfant, Pierre

Folder 84: Libraries

Folder 85: Lincoln, Abraham

Folder 86: Littleworth, Maryland - Friendship

Folder 87: Lockwood, Belva

Folder 88: Markets - DC

Folder 89: [May, Dr. Frederick. includes photo of unveiling of tablet on "Friendship House," 23 October 1929]

Folder 90: Memorial Rites and Ceremonies - Ft. Stevens. Correspondence, 1901-1919

Folder 91: Memorial Rites and Ceremonies - Ft. Stevens. Correspondence 1920-1956

Folder 92: Memorial Rites and Ceremonies - Ft. Stevens. [Notes and clippings]

Folder 93: Memorial Rites and Ceremonies - Fort Stevens. Programs, 1901-1955; Photographs (7), 1928-1946.

Folder 94: Memorial Rites and Ceremonies - Ft. Stevens Ribbons, 1901-1920

Folder 95: Memorial Rites and Ceremonies - GAR [Grand Army of the Republic], 1915-1956

Folder 96: Mills, Robert

Folder 97: Military Organizations [Washington Light Infantry, Corcoran Cadets, Sons of American Revolution]

Folder 98: Montgomery County, Maryland [and Prince Georges County, MD]

Folder 99: Mt. Pleasant, Washington, D.C. [includes Meridian Hill]

Folder 100: Music

Folder 101: [National University, now The George Washington University]

Folder 102: Native Americans

Folder 103: Navies

Folder 104: Newspapers [Press Club]

Container 3

Folder 105: [Notes – miscellaneous]

Folder 106: [Noyes family - notes, correspondence and clippings]

Folder 107: Organizations – Clubs [Board of Trade, Patuxent Planters Club, Sons of Union Veterans, YMCA, Presidents Club Regatta, Temperance, Sons of Jonadab]

Folder 108: [Organizations-Columbia Historical Society, 1944-1955, including correspondence, clippings, notes and meetings notices]

Folder 109: Organizations-Order of Elk, 1925-1932 [about 10 pages, including notes and correspondence]

Folder 110: [Organizations-Sons of American Revolution, 1911-1953, including newsletters and Proctor's membership certificate]

Folder 111: Organizations-Washington Club, 1941-1950 [notes and bulletins]

Folder 112: [Payne, John Howard]

Folder 113: Peter Family

Folder 114: Police

Folder 115: Political Organizations

Folder 116: Political Parties

Folder 117: Politics and Government [DC]

Folder 118: Port Tobacco, Maryland

Folder 119: Post Office -Washington, DC

Folder 120: Potomac River

Folder 121: Presidential Inaugurations

Folder 122: Printing Industry

Folder 123: Proctor, John C. "boyhood home - Cow town"

Folder 124: Railroads

Folder 125: Red Cross

Folder 126: Redwood, Washington, D.C.

Folder 127: Reformatories

Folder 128: Revolutionary Graves -Washington, DC

Folder 129: Rivers [river fronts]

Folder 130: Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C.

Folder 131: Rockville, Maryland

Folder 132: Rope Walk, Washington, D.C.

Folder 133: [Saint Mary's County, Maryland - photocopy of record book of St. Andrew Episcopal Church, 1842-1848]

Folder 134: Sandy Spring, Maryland

Folder 135: Schade, Louis

Folder 136: Schools - Early teachers [includes E. T. Tippet]

Folder 137: Schools – [correspondence and programs, 1905-1945]

Folder 138: [Schools – notes]

Folder 139: [Schools - notes]

Folder 140: Silver Spring, Maryland

Folder 141: Soldiers Home

Folder 142: [Southworth, Mrs. E.D.E.N.]

Folder 143: Statehood – Fairfax, Virginia resolves

Folder 144: Stoddert, Benjamin

Folder 145: Streets, 1929-1955 [correspondence from readers]

Folder 146: [Streets- notes]

Folder 147: Streets: "15th and New York Ave."

Folder 148: Streets: "7th, 9th, 14th at F, and Ford's Theater"

Container 4

Folder 149: Takoma Park, Maryland

Folder 150: Tenleytown, D.C.

- Folder 151:** Theaters
- Folder 152:** Thornton, Mrs., diary [notes and a newspaper clipping]
- Folder 153:** Transportation
- Folder 154:** Trees
- Folder 155:** University and colleges: "Army War College"
- Folder 156:** Virginia - Alexandria (also known as Johnson City)
- Folder 157:** Wars
- Folder 158:** Washington, George
- Folder 159:** Washington, D.C. History
- Folder 160:** Washington, D.C. -Southwest
- Folder 161:** Washington, D.C. -Mills, Robert
- Folder 162:** Weems, Parson
- Folder 163:** [Whitehaven]
- Folder 164:** Women and Washington

Sub-series B: Personal and Family Files

- Folder 165:** John Clagett Proctor biographical information
- Folder 166:** Proctor family history, including Abner Proctor's 1892 patent for a puzzle
- Folder 167:** John Clagett Proctor photographic portraits
- Folder 168:** Proctor family photographs
- Folder 169:** Proctor photographs, 1933-1946
- Folder 170:** Proctor photographs, undated and unidentified
- Folder 171:** Proctor photographs, undated and unidentified
- Folder 172:** Proctor negatives, undated (some are for photographs noted above)

Folder 173: Photograph of July 11, 1779 letter of Samuel Davidson - Guttenburg, Sweden. (Glass plate negative stored separately)

Folder 174: Correspondence and memorabilia of National University (Now The George Washington University), 1891-1939

Folder 175: Correspondence –Memorabilia from National Museum (now Smithsonian Museum),

Folder 176: Correspondence, 1895-1958. Miscellaneous letters from readers and notes

Folder 177: Family business papers, 1888-1949

Folder 178: Memorabilia, including gas coupons, membership cards 1909-1958, vehicle licenses

Container 5

Folder 179: Correspondence – Rock Creek Cemetery, 1911-1956

Folder 180: European trip, 1932

Folder 181: South American trip, 1934

Folder 182: *Proctor's Washington* notes and incomplete index

Folder 183: Lewis Publishing Company, correspondence 1926-1931

Folder 184: "Washington History," correspondence 1947-1958

Folder 185: Radio Talk, 1930

Folder 186: Proctor Poems

Folder 187: Proctor Poems

Folder 188: Proctor Poems

Folder 189: Col. John Proctor and Abner Proctor file, including birth, marriage and death records (from scrapbook)

Folder 190: John Clagett Proctor, Sr., file, containing records and family photographs pasted in scrapbook

Folder 191: John Clagett Proctor, Jr., includes photographs of Proctor working in National Museum (from scrapbook)

- Folder 192:** Francis B. Proctor (from scrapbook)
- Folder 193:** Maude Proctor Callis (from scrapbook)
- Folder 194:** William H. Proctor (from scrapbook)
- Folder 195:** Charles W. Proctor (from scrapbook)
- Folder 196:** Smith family (paternal ancestry; from scrapbook)

SERIES II: MAUDE PROCTOR CALLIS PAPERS

Sub-series A: Personal Papers

- Folder 197:** Papers relating to government service, 1917-1950
- Folder 198:** Memorabilia, including photographs and correspondence from Louis Callis, and a water color painting of people standing at the shore of a river or other body of water, by a bridge or dock.
- Folder 199:** Scrapbook -family history
- Folder 200:** Scrapbook - family history (contains 1918 correspondence between former husband Pvt. F. Meese and Maud Meese with embroidered postcard from France.)
- Folder 201:** Genealogy – father's family
- Folder 202:** Genealogy – mother's family
- Folder 203:** Genealogy - David son family (maternal ancestry of John C. Proctor)
- Folder 204:** Genealogy - David son family, including photographs of Miller family
- Folder 205:** Genealogy - Hines family (book by John C. Proctor)
- Folder 206:** Christian Hines index and draft of "Early Recollections of Washington."
- Container 6**
- Folder 207:** Correspondence regarding Garfield bullet, which was donated to the Columbia Historical Society along with autopsy documents.
- Folder 208:** Correspondence, 1941-1958
- Folder 209:** Correspondence - DAR & Sons of American Revolution, including 1 photo

Folder 210: Articles and drafts - Potomac River

Folder 211: Articles and drafts – miscellaneous

Folder 212: Articles and drafts - Rock Creek Cemetery (photos of markers)

Folder 213: Notebook on lecture activities, 1946-1952

Folder 214: Notebook on lecture activities, 1946-1952, including thank you letters from Hardy Elementary School students, 1946.

Sub-series B: Subject Files

Folder 215: Capitol

Folder 216: Cornerstones

Folder 217: Cornerstones

Folder 218: Chronicles, 1916-1952

Folder 219: D.C. Commissioners

Folder 220: Georgetown

Folder 221: City residents abstracted from *Georgetown Ledger*, 1790,1,2,3.

Folder 222: City residents abstracted from *Impartial Observer*, 1795

Folder 223: City residents abstracted from *Columbian Chronicle*, 1793-4

Folder 224: City residents abstracted from *Times-Potomack Packet*, 1790

Folder 225: City residents abstracted from *National Intelligencer* 1805-1817

Folder 226: City residents abstracted from *National Intelligencer* 1818-1820

Container 7

Folder 227: Federal City, Historic Houses - Abington to Hamburg

Folder 228: Federal City, Historic Houses to Van Ness Mansion

Folder 229: Indians - Algonquins to DC Natives

Folder 230: Indians - Eastern Shore Natives to Yams

Folder 231: Journalism

Folder 232: Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties – tour scripts

Folder 233: Montgomery County – clippings and notes

Folder 234: Montgomery County - clippings and notes

Folder 235: Montgomery County - clippings and notes

Folder 236: "Old Presbyterian Burying Ground"

Folder 237: Prince Georges County – clippings and notes

Folder 238: Prince Georges County – clippings and notes

Folder 239: Virginia - Alexandria - clippings and notes

Folder 240: Virginia - Fairfax, Arlington and Mount Vernon - clippings and notes

Folder 241: Families - Ball through Young

Container 8

SERIES III: DAILY JOURNALS OF JOHN CLAGETT PROCTOR AND MAUD PROCTOR CALLIS, 1902-1947

Folder 242: Diaries, 1903-1930

Folder 243: Diaries, 1931-1932

Folder 244: Diaries, 1933-1934

Folder 245: Diary, 1935

Folder 246: Diaries, 1938-1939

Folder 247: Diaries, 1940-1941

Folder 248: Diaries, 1942-1943

Folder 249: Diary, 1944

Folder 250: Diaries, 1945-1946 (The year 1945 entries are written in a 1939 *Evening Star* Diary Book; the 1946 entries are written in Woodward & Lothrop book dated 1880-1930)

Folder 251: Diary, 1947

Container 9 Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, 1884

**SERIES IV: *SUNDAY STAR* NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, 1928-1952
(Preservation copies only; see staff for card index and reference copies.)**

Container 10

Folder 252: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1928

Folder 253: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1929

Folder 254: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1930

Folder 255: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1931

Folder 256: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1932

Folder 257: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1933

Folder 258: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1934

Folder 259: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1935

Folder 260: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1936

Folder 261: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1937

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Folder 262: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1938

Folder 263: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1939

Folder 264: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1940

Folder 265: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1941

Folder 266: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1942

Folder 267: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1943

Folder 268: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1944

Folder 269: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1945

Folder 270: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1946

Folder 271: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1947

Container 12

Folder 272: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1948

Folder 273: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1949

Folder 274: *Sunday Star* newspaper articles, 1950-1952

Folder 275 (oversize) National University Certificates (3), Federal Lodge Certificate of Samuel Davidson, Myron M. Parker Mason Lodge Certificate, Last printing job of John C. Proctor (Mount Vernon Parkway).