



Legacy Finding Aid for Manuscript and Photograph Collections

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What are Legacy Finding Aids?

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FINDING AID

Title: MS 604 John B. and Mary Foote Henderson Collection, ca.1876-1923

Processor: Faith Hofstader

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John Brooks Henderson (1826-1913) was a brigadier general of Volunteers in Missouri, Senator from Missouri (1862-1869), an ardent Abraham Lincoln Republican, as well as a close friend of the President. Mr. Henderson introduced the 13th Amendment to the Constitution outlawing slavery and supported the 14th and 15th Amendments. Henderson was a delegate to the International Pan-American Conference in Washington (1889) which resulted in the Pan American Union, now Organization of American States. Mr. Henderson was also a regent of the Smithsonian Institution. John Henderson and Mary Foote were married June 25, 1868. They had one son, John B. Henderson, Jr.

Mary Foote Henderson (ca.1841-1931) was a person with many facets, including businesswoman, society celebrity, and author. At the time of her death at age 90 it is reported that Mary had personally known 15 Presidents and 14 First Ladies. Mary Henderson was known for her real estate development in the Meridian Hill area of Washington. The Hendersons employed architect George Totten to build several mansions for rental to embassies. She envisioned all embassies locating in this area. Mary was also influential in convincing Congress to rename 16th Street to "Avenue of the Presidents" in 1913. Local protest resulted in the street name reverting to 16th Street after just one year.

John B. Henderson, Jr. (ca.1868-1923) graduated from Harvard in 1891 and received his degree in law from Columbian University (now George Washington University) in 1893. He was Private Secretary to the Honorable John W. Foster while Foster was diplomatic advisor to the Chinese government from 1896-1897. Henderson authored two books, and was regent of the Smithsonian Institution from 1910-1923. He married Angelica Schuyler Crosby of New York. They had one adopted daughter, Beatrice, who married John Whelan in 1927.

Henderson Castle, the home the Hendersons built, became known as Henderson's Castle, or Boundary Castle. It was one of the show places of Washington designed by Eugene Gardner and built by J. H. Lowe between 1888-1889. The "Castle" was located at 6th Street and Florida Avenue. In 1935 the furnishings of the home were sold at an estate auction. The "Castle" became a boarding house and was razed in 1949. Beekman Place, a townhouse complex, now occupies this site

Scope and Content: The John B. and Mary Foote Henderson Collection, ca.1876-1923 contains photographs, scrapbooks, books by Mary Henderson, architectural drawings, and newspaper clippings. Many photographs are of the interior (furnished) and exterior of the Henderson Castle. Other photographs are of buildings in D.C., people, art, and a few actors. Mary Henderson's book, *The Aristocracy of Health* printed in 1904, is about the effects of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs on the body and suggestions for its remedy. One might consider the book a holistic approach to caring for the body.

This collection is arranged in three series:

SERIES I: PHOTOGRAPHS, PORTRAITS, ALBUM, AND DRAWINGS consists of pictures of Henderson Castle (interior and exterior), D.C. buildings and mansions, people, architect's rendering (drawing), and photos of paintings by Lucien Powell.

SERIES II: SCRAPBOOKS, consists of pictures of Henderson Castle, booklets, pictures of people, and newspaper clippings.

SERIES III: PUBLICATIONS BY MARY FOOTE HENDERSON, consists of *The Aristocracy of Health*, and a copy of *A Few Doggerels for Trixie*.

Within each series the materials are arranged by document type and then chronologically.

Donor: Helen Marie Hawkins, 1992.155. Adolphus W. Hawkins, Helen Hawkins father, purchased contents of the collection in 1935, from the Henderson estate auction.

Size: 3.6 cubic feet (9 containers)

Restrictions: none

Related Materials:

Henderson, Mary. *Remarks about management of Washington in general and Sixteenth Street in particular*. **F203.7 S6H36**

Removed to HSW original art collection:

Rendering of a pagoda style home.

Drawing for a proposed residence on Avenue of the Presidents by George Oakley Totten

Drawing for a house for Hon. J. D. Henderson by Totten and Rogers (architects).

Container List

SERIES I: PHOTOGRAPHS, PORTRAITS, ALBUM, AND DRAWING

Container 1

Folder 1: Photos (3) #1-10X13 Exterior view from 16th Street; #3-10X13 Drawing room at Boundary Castle; #4-10X13 State Dining Room at Boundary Castle; Photo #2 not found.

Folder 2: Photos (3) #5- 10X13 Drawing Room; #6-10X13 Unidentified room; #8- 7X9 Ceiling of a room with a skylight and a man reading (?); Photo #7 not found.

Folder 3: Photos (4) #9- Room with pictures and a domed ceiling; #10 Different view of room in photo #9; #11- Duplicate of photo #10; #12 Panoramic view of room in #9 and #10 showing statuary overhead.

Container 2

Album consisting of photos of the Castle. Photos are numbered 13-34.

Container 3

Folder 4: Photos (5) one of a dining room and the remaining are of an atrium.

Folder 5: Photos (4) one of a house exterior and the other three are rooms.

Folder 6: Photos (4) are of people: John Henderson, Mary Henderson, a young man, and three teens in a tree (poor condition).

Folder 7: Photos (4) are of people: a man and woman in foreground of a landscape, John Harvey Kellogg (autographed), unidentified woman elaborately dressed, unidentified woman sitting on a coach.

Folder 8: Photos (3) of people: autographed picture of John B. Henderson, picture of a crowd at Narragansett Pier, students exercise class with "Beatrice's first school" written on the reverse.

Folder 9: Photos (3) of people: children posing near a driveway, same children posing on a slide, picture of two men in Athens.

Folder 10: Photos (2) of people: an unidentified woman (may be the same woman elaborately dressed in folder 7) and an autographed picture of Agnes Olney. (Portrait of Mrs. Yang moved to Container 4, Folder #11).

Container 4

Folder 11: Mrs. Yang in native clothes. Written in English and Chinese on reverse side.

Folder 12: Photos of homes. A drawing of *House for Hon. J.B. Henderson, Washington, D.C.* by Totten and Rogers removed to HSW original art collection. Also a drawing of a *Proposed Residence-Avenue of the Presidents, Washington, D.C.* by George Oakley Totten, Jr., 808-17th St., Washington, D.C. removed to HSW original art collection. Photocopies of items removed to Art Collection provided in this folder.

Folder 13: Photos of Lucien Powell's art.

Folder 14: Photos of Lucien Powell's art.

Folder 15: Photos of Lucien Powell's art.

SERIES II: SCRAPBOOKS

Container 5

Folder 16: Scrapbook, in original order, contains pictures/clippings of buildings and homes in D.C. and foreign countries. Also included is a Christmas card from Dr. and Mrs. Jingfang. A rendering of a pagoda style building was removed to HSW original art collection.

Folder 17: Child's scrapbook, 1907-ca. 1917, *Holton-Arms School* printed on the front, consists of cards, pictures and cartoons. Some cards have been removed to the postcard and greeting card collection for preservation.

Folder 18: Scrapbook, part 1, 1896-1910. One D.C. scrapbook placed in three folders consists of newspaper clippings dated 1907-1923 containing Mary Henderson's civic activities and booklets. Folder 18 consists of non-newsprint entries (some of which were loose in the scrapbook) and booklets. *Proposed Lincoln Memorial for Meridian Hill* written by Mary Henderson with printed pictures- F.V. Murphy and W.B. Olmsted architects. *The Issues of the Campaign Sound Money, 1896*, by Mary Henderson. Also a booklet with plans for a presidential residence by Mary Henderson.

Folder 19: Scrapbook, part 2, consists of transcripts of some articles.

Folder 20: Scrapbook, part 3, 1907-1923, consists of newspaper clippings

Container 6

Folder 21: Scrapbook, 1876-1879, consists primarily of newspaper clippings of the St. Louis School of Design. Most clippings are from St. Louis, Missouri newspapers. There are also handwritten notations by Mrs. Henderson.

Container 7

Scrapbook, ca. 1993, consists of art clippings and pictures mostly printed in French. Also contained are two permission slips from The Louvre dated 1893, and pictures of John Barrymore, Sara Bernhardt and Mrs. Langley.

Container 8

Guest book, ca. 1903-1906, with a typescript, index, and some photos beside signatures.

SERIES III: PUBLICATIONS BY MARY HENDERSON**Container 9**

Publications by Mary Foote Henderson: *The Aristocracy of Health*, A Study of Physical Culture, Our Favorite Poisons, and a National and International League for the Advancement of Physical Culture, 1904; and a copy of a book for children, *A Few Doggerels for Trixie*, 1918.