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## Cluskey, Michael Walsh, 1833?-1873 (MSS 23)

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*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 23 CLUSKEY, Michael Walsh, 1833?-1873**

1 box. 18 folders. 355 items. 1853-1871. Originals.

2011.2.58

**BIOGRAPHY**

Michael E. Cluskey (1830-1873), editor and author, was born in Savannah, Georgia. His parents were of Irish origin, and his father was a noted surveyor and architect. At the age of twenty-one, Michael became postmaster to the National House of Representatives. He served in that capacity until 1859, and was one of the best known and most popular men in Washington, D. C. In 1859, he became editor of the *Memphis Avalanche*. At the onset of the Civil War, Cluskey joined the Second Tennessee Regiment of the Confederate States of America. He served in Virginia; participated in the Battle of Shiloh; and was wounded severely at Atlanta. Later, he was elected to the Confederate Congress, a position that he held until its dissolution.

When the war was over, he returned to Memphis and resumed editorial charge of the *Memphis Avalanche*, but poor health soon compelled him to relinquish his position with the paper. He moved to Louisville, Kentucky, about the time that the *Louisville Daily Ledger* was established. Cluskey soon became its editor. He was a very talented writer; wielded considerable influence as a politician; was Secretary of the Democratic National Committee during the Buchanan campaign; and numbered among his friends and admirers some of the most distinguished men of his party. While working in Washington, he gathered a vast store of information which resulted in his publications *Cluskey's Political Text-book*, 1857, and  
 11/1/01

*Democratic Speaker's Hand Book*, 1868. Cluskey was married in Louisville to Mrs. W. R. Jacob (nee Hall), of Shelby County, Kentucky. His wife had a young daughter when they married, but there were no children born to their union.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

Armstrong, J. M. *The Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky...*, 1878.  
 The Collection.

## **THE COLLECTION**

This collection contains correspondence and legal papers of C. B. Cluskey (1807-1871), father of Michael W. Cluskey. He was a surveyor and architect, and the papers pertain to the construction of a customs house in Galveston, Texas.

The major part of the collection centers on Michael W. Cluskey and relates to newspaper and political affairs. The correspondence includes a few family letters, but is composed chiefly of business associates' letters from 1854 to 1871. There are a few of Cluskey's journalistic writings, 1857-1870, and some of his railroad passes, 1867-1869, also.

## **SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Cluskey, C. B. and Michael W.</b>	<b>1853-1871</b>	<b>355 items</b>
Folder 1	Descriptive Inventory and data		3 items
Folder 2	Family letters and writings	post-1856-1871	43 items
	2a – Family letters	1869-1871	13 items
	2b – Railroad passes, etc.	1867-1869	17 items
Folder 3	Receipts (chiefly for rent and board)	1855-1871	19 items
	3a – Miscellaneous items	n.d.	3 items
Folder 4	C. B. Cluskey – Correspondence about construction of Galveston, Texas Custom House	1856-1861; n.d.	18 items
Folder 5	Michael Cluskey – Letters and papers concerning publishing and selling of his books	1857-1869?	40 items
Folder 6	Michael Cluskey – Letters and writings	1853-1870	10 items
Folder 7	William B. Bate – Letters from	1868-1871	14 items
Folder 8	D. M. Leatherman – Letters from	1868-1870	5 items
Folder 9	George H. Pendleton – Letters from	1868-1869	8 items
Folder 10	J. P. Pryor – Letters from	1871; n.d.	19 items

Folder 11	W. H. Rhea – Letters from	1868-1870	7 items
Folder 12	John H. Savage – Letters from	1868-1870	8 items
Folder 13	Wintersmith, Richard C. – Letters from	1868-1869	5 items
Folder 14	Cluskey – Letters to	1843; 1854-1866	29 items
Folder 15	Cluskey – Letters to	Jan. 31, 1868- Dec. 31, 1868	30 items
Folder 16	Cluskey – Letters to	Jan. 14, 1868- Dec. 31, 1869; n.d.	29 items
Folder 17	Cluskey – Letters to	Jan. 3, 1870- Dec. 20?, 1870;n.d.	47 items
Folder 18	Cluskey – Letters to	Jan. 23, 1871- Sept. 12, 1817	21 items

### **BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS CLUSKEY, Michael Walsh, 1833?-1873 1853-1871  
23

Correspondence and writings of Michael Walsh Cluskey, who was postmaster of National House of Representatives, 1851-1859; editor of *Memphis Avalanche* and *Louisville Daily Ledger*; and a Confederate soldier. The materials mainly relate to politics, published books, and newspaper work.

1 box. 18 folders. 355 items.  
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### **SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

African Americans – Attitude towards, 1868 B1,F11,14,15  
 African Americans – Attitude towards – Alabama, 1868 B1,F15  
 African Americans – Attitude towards – Tennessee, 1868 B1,F11  
 Aliens – Political participation, post 1853 B1,F16  
 American Party (Know Nothing Party), 1857 B1,F6  
 Bate, William Brimage, 1826-1905 B1,F7  
 Bate, William Brimage, 1826-1905 – Comments about, 1868, 1870 B1,F9,12  
 Boardinghouses – Prices, 1867-1868 B1,F3

Brooks, Preston Smith, 1819-1857 – Comments about B1,F12  
 Brown, John Young, 1835-1904 B1,F15  
 Buckner, Simon Bolivar, 1823-1914 – Comments about, 1868-1869 B1,F13  
 Burwell, William M. B1,F2,17,18  
 Carlyle, Thomas, 1795-1881 – Comments about, 1871? B1,F10  
 Catholics – Political participation, post 1853 B1,F6  
 Children – Death, 1865 B1,F14  
 Cluskey, C. B., 1807?-1871 B1,F2,4  
*Cluskey's Political Text-book*, 1857 B1,F5  
 Confederate States of America – Attitude towards, 1871? B1,F10  
 Confederate States of America – Occupations, 1865 B1,F14  
 Confederate States of America – Soldiers from – Tennessee B1,F6  
 Cotton farmers – Alabama, 1865 B1,F14  
 Customs service, 1856-1861 B1,F4  
 Death – Children, 1865 B1,F14  
 Democratic National Convention, 1868 B1,F9  
 Democratic Party – National conventions, 1868 B1,F9  
 Democratic Party – Northern faction B1,F15  
*Democratic Speaker's Hand Book*, 1868-1869? B1,F5  
 Dueling, post-1856 B1,F2  
 Editors and editing – Newspapers, 1857-1871  
 Ethics – Judges, 1865 B1,F15  
 Faro – Gambling – California, 1869 B1,F16  
 Fort Sill – Oklahoma Territory – Indians, 1870 B1,F17  
 Freedmen – Attitude towards, 1865 B1,F14  
 Galveston, Texas – Custom houses, 1857-1861 B1,F4,18  
 Gambling B1,F15-17  
 Gambling – Faro – California, 1869 B1,F16  
 Gordon, John Brown, 1832-1904 – Comments about, 1871 B1,F7  
 Grant, Ulysses Simpson, 1822-1885 – Comments about, 1871 B1,F7,10,14  
 Hancock, Winfield Scott, 1824-1886 B1,F10  
 Harris, Thomas Alexander, 1826-1895 – Relating to, 1868 B1,F15  
 Hot Springs, Arkansas – Comments about, 1869 B1,F8  
 Immigration and emigration – To the United States, post-1853 B1,F6  
 Indian Territory – Oklahoma – Fort Sill, 1870 B1,F17  
 Indians – Texas, 1870 B1,F17  
 Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875 – Comments about, 1869-1870 B1,F7,12  
 Johnston, Josiah Stoddard, 1833-1913 B1,F5  
 Johnston, Josiah Stoddard, 1833-1913 – Comments about, 1870 B1,F7  
 Journalism  
 Journalists, 1857-1871  
 Leatherman, D. M. B1,F8,18  
 Letterheads – Newspapers  
 Lotteries – Arkansas, 1869 B1,F16  
 Lotteries – California, 1868, 1869 B1,F15,16

Louisville – Newspapers, proposed, 1870 B1,F17  
*Louisville Daily Ledger*, 1871 B1,F10,18  
*The Memphis Avalanche*, 1860-1868; 1870 B1,F2,6,14,16  
 Memphis, Tennessee – African Americans – Attitude towards, 1868 B1,F11  
 Memphis, Tennessee – Republican Party – Radicals, 1868 B1,F15  
 Memphis, Tennessee – Travel and description, 1868 B1,F5  
 Mobile, Alabama – Politics, 1857 B1,F14  
 New Orleans, Louisiana – Newspapers, 1870 B1,F17,18  
 New Orleans, Louisiana – Reconstruction (Post Civil War Period) B1,F14  
 Newcomb, H. D. B1,F17  
 Newspapers, 1857-1871 B1,F6,15-17  
 Newspapers – Letterheads  
 Newspapers – Louisiana, 1870 B1,F17  
 Newspapers – Tennessee B1,F16  
*Patriot* – Newspaper, proposed – Louisville B1,F17  
 Pendleton, George Hunt, 1825-1889 B1,F9  
 Pendleton, George Hunt, 1825-1889 – Comments about, 1868 B1,F7,13,15  
 Politics, 1856-1871 B1,F2,7,10-17  
 Politics – Alabama, 1857 B1,F14  
 Politics – Democratic National Convention, 1868 B1,F9  
 Politics – Tennessee, 1868-1869 B1,F7,8,12,15  
 Postal service, 1857-1859 B1,F14  
 Postal service – California, 1859 B1,F14  
 Postal service – Utah, 1859 B1,F14  
 Prices – Boardinghouses, 1867-1868 B1,F3  
 Prostitution, 1865 B1,F14  
 Pryor, J. P. B1,F10  
 Pryor, Roger Atkinson, 1828-1919 B1,F14  
 Real property – Georgia, 1866 B1,F14  
 Railroads – Passes, 1867-1869 B1,F12  
 Reconstruction (Post Civil War Period), 1868; n.d. B1,F6,12,14,15  
 Reconstruction (Post Civil War Period) – Alabama, 1865; 1868 B1,F14,15  
 Reconstruction (Post Civil War Period) – Georgia, 1866; 1868, 1869 B1,F5,14,16  
 Reconstruction (Post Civil War Period) – Louisiana, 1865 B1,F14  
 Reconstruction (Post Civil War Period) – South Carolina, 1868 B1,F7  
 Reconstruction (Post Civil War Period) – Tennessee, 1868 B1,F7  
 Republican Party – Radicals – Tennessee, 1868 B1,F15  
 Rhea, Weston H., 1834-1890 B1,F11  
 Rhea, Weston H., 1834-1890 – Comments about, 1868-1869 B1,F13  
 San Antonio, Texas – Newspapers, 1868 B1,F15  
 San Antonio, Texas – Travel and description, 1868 B1,F15  
 San Francisco, California B1,F12  
 Savage, John Huston, 1815-1904 – Comments about, 1869 B1,F7  
 Scott, Edgar S. B1,F5  
 Smith, William Nathan Harrell, 1812-1889 – Relating to, 1860 B1,F14

Speed, John White, 1812-1887      B1,F17  
 Stevenson, John White, 1812-1886      B1,F17  
 Storms - Atlantic Coast, 1869      B1,F16  
 Taylor, Miles, 1805-1873 – Comments about, post 1865      B1,F6  
 Tennessee – Soldiers from – Confederate States of America      B1,F6  
 Tilton, Theodore, 1835-1907 – Comments about, 1871?      B1,F10  
 Veterans – Confederate, 1870      B1,F17  
 Voorhees, Daniel Wolsey, 1827-1897      B1,F18  
 Watterson, Henry, 1840-1921      B1,F15  
 Wintersmith, Richard Curd, 1822-1902      B1,F14  
 Wintersmith, Richard Curd, 1822-1902 – Comments about, 1868, 1870      B1,F7,9,11,14  
 Writings – Journalistic, 1857-1870      B1,F6  
 Yancey, William Lowndes, 1814-1863 – Comments about, 1868      B1,F15

### **SEE CARDS**

#### Jobs

See:

Occupations; professions

#### Political activity

See:

Political participation

Jeffrey 11/07/2011