

MAYOR SAMUEL SYLVANUS McNINCH, MECKLENBURG DECLARATION DAY CELEBRATION COLLECTION, 1906

[1 box]

ABSTRACT

Samuel Sylvanus McNinch was born in February 1867, in Chester, South Carolina. His family moved to Charlotte when he was very young. McNinch became Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court at sixteen, followed by Manager of Springs and Burwell, partner of what became S.S. McNinch and Co. in 1896, and eventually bought out the Charlotte Brick Works in 1904. In addition, he served as a member of the Charlotte Board of Aldermen, a Trustee of Carnegie Library, and Trustee of the Florence Crittenden Home. Samuel McNinch served as Mayor of Charlotte from 1905-1907. Mayor McNinch died in 1929.

This collection contains a scrapbook that concerns the celebration of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Day on May 20, 1906, during McNinch's tenure as Mayor of Charlotte. The "Meck Dec," was allegedly a document written and signed by 28 citizens of Mecklenburg County, advocating for independence from Britain. This claim has long been disputed, with no definitive evidence either way. Supporters of the Meck Dec continue to celebrate the 20th of May each year.

ACCESS

This collection is currently being processed. Please contact the Carolina Room at (704) 416-0150 or email us at ncrstaff@cmlibrary.org regarding research within this collection.

PREFERRED CITATION

Cite as: Mayor Samuel Sylvanus McNinch, Mecklenburg Declaration Day Celebration Collection, 1906, Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

ACQUISITION

Presented by Ann McNinch, November 2014.

REFERENCES

Prominent People of North Carolina: Brief Biographies of Leading People for Ready Reference Purposes. <http://tinyurl.com/pehl8nq>

RELATED MATERIALS

Henderson, Archibald. *Cradle of Liberty; Historical Essays Concerning the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, May 20, 1775.*

Charlotte, NC: Mecklenburg Historical Association, 1955 (CALL NUMBER: NCR 975.61 M43d H496a)

Hoyt, William Henry. *The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence; a Study of Evidence Showing that the Alleged Early Declaration of Independence by Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, on May 20, 1775, is Spurious.* New York: Putnam's Sons, c. 1907 (CALL NUMBER: NCR 975.61 M43d H869)

Graham, George W. *The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, May 20, 1775; and Lives of Its Signers.* New York: Neale, c. 1905 (CALL NUMBER: NCR 975.61 M43d G73m)

McNinch Family. (CALL NUMBER: NCR VERTICAL FILES)

Mec Dec, 2004 [DVD]. (CALL NUMBER: NCR DVD973.313)

Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. (CALL NUMBER: NCR VERTICAL FILES)

Moore, James Hall. *Defense of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence; An Exhaustive Review of and Answer to All the Attacks on the Declaration.* Raleigh, NC: Edwards & Broughton Printing Co., c. 1908 (CALL NUMBER: NCR 973.313)

Syfert, Scott. *The First American Declaration of Independence?: The Disputed History of the Mecklenburg Declaration of May 20, 1775.* Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2014 (CALL NUMBER: NCR 975.61 M43d S982f)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of a scrapbook of materials primarily relating to the 1906 Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence celebration. Some items are personal

documents of Samuel McNinch. The scrapbook contains correspondence, photographs, newspaper articles, and artifacts.

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY

CONTENT	BOX	FOLDER
Scrapbook, 1906	1	