

# Susan H. Keller collection on William McWhir

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Repository:</b>	Georgia Historical Society
<b>Creator:</b>	Keller, Susan H.
<b>Title:</b>	Susan H. Keller collection on William McWhir
<b>Dates:</b>	circa 1840-1851
<b>Extent:</b>	0.1 cubic feet (2 folders)
<b>Identification:</b>	MS 1432

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## Biographical/Historical Note

William McWhir (1759-1851) was born on September 9 in County Down, Ireland. he attended the College of Belfast where he studied theology. After receiving his license to the ministry from Belfast Presbytery, he moved to the United States, settling in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1783. For the next ten years McWhir served as the headmaster of the Alexandria Academy. In 1793, he moved to Sunbury, Georgia, where he appointed principal of the Sunbury Academy. Under his leadership over the next thirty years, this academy earned a reputation for academic excellence throughout Georgia and the Southeast. In 1815, McWhir married Mary Baker, the widow of Col. John Baker. After returning to Georgia from a trip to Ireland in 1819, Rev. McWhir retired from the Sunbury Academy but continued to tutor privately. During this time he assumed the position of supply minister throughout the Presbytery of Georgia. When not traveling for the church in Georgia and Florida, he lived at his plantation named Springfield, located near Sunbury. Rev. William McWhir died on January 31, 1851, in Sunbury at the home of Roswell King. He is buried in the Old Sunbury Cemetery.

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## Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of a broadside of William McWhir's obituary and a daguerreotype of McWhir.

The folder containing the daguerreotype is noted as "VM" (visual materials) in the collection inventory.

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## Index Terms

Broadsides (notices)  
Daguerreotypes (photographs)  
Keller, Susan H.  
McWhir, William, Reverend, 1759-1851.  
Obituaries.  
Presbyterian Church--Clergy--Georgia.

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## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

Unknown.

### Preferred Citation

[item identification], Susan H. Keller collection on William McWhir, MS 1432, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

### Acquisition Information

## Restrictions

### Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

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## Separated Material

Artifacts were separated and cataloged with the Georgia Historical Society Artifacts Collection. View digital images of artifacts at the end of this collection inventory or search the Digital Image Catalog for further information.

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## Sponsorship

Encoding funded by a 2012 Documenting Democracy grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

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## Container List

### Box

- 1 Broadsheet, obituary of Rev. William McWhir, Savannah, 1851 February 7

### vm\_folder

- 1 Daguerreotype, Rev. William McWhir, circa 1840s

### Artifacts

A-1432-001 Reverend William McWhir's spectacles [View online](#).