Archibald C. McKinley was born in Lexington, Georgia in 1842. During the Civil War, he served as a Confederate officer. After the war, he moved to Milledgeville, Georgia where he worked on a farm and met his wife, Sarah Spalding, granddaughter of Thomas Spalding who had built his plantation empire on Sapelo Island, Georgia. In 1869, he and his family moved to Sapelo Island to raise cotton, sugar cane, and other crops. McKinley died in 1917.

The collection contains a typed transcription of Archibald C. McKinley's diary by Robert L. Humphries in 1986. Humphries was able to complete this transcription from a photocopy of the original diary which is held by McKinley's ancestors. The diary covers McKinley's daily farming life on Sapelo Island, Georgia from 1869 to 1901 as well as the effects of Reconstruction after the Civil War. Humphries transcription was published in 1991.

This collection is processed at the Basic Level (or collection level). There is no detailed inventory for this collection as it is not fully processed. To request that this collection be added to our priority list of collections to be fully processed as staffing and funding allow, please contact the Library and Archives staff.

The collection is open for research.
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