
Guide to the McLane/Harris Family Papers, 1865-1963

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Henry Madden Library
Fresno, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: McLane/Harris Family Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1865-1963

Creator: McLane family
Harris family

Extent: 4.25 linear feet

Repository: Henry Madden Library (California State University, Fresno).
Sanoian Special Collections Library.

Fresno, California

Language: English.

Acquisition

The papers were donated by Barbara Brock, Charles McLane's granddaughter, in 1988.

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Copyright has been transferred to California State University, Fresno.

Preferred Citation

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Biography

Charles Lourie McLane was born on April 4, 1862 in Scotland County, Missouri. In 1885, he graduated from Northern Indiana Normal school. Two years later, he received his B.S. from Valparaiso College. He married his first wife, Frances Diademina (Demma) Best, in December 1891. They had a daughter, Frances Marguerite, born February 2, 1893. His first wife died in 1931 and in 1939 McLane married Elizabeth Price. His career as an educator in Fresno started in 1891 and by 1896, he was principal of Fresno High School. He also served as Superintendent of Fresno City Schools from 1899 to 1913. McLane later went on to serve as the first president of Fresno State Normal School from 1911 to 1927, which eventually became California State University, Fresno. McLane was also the president of the California State Board of Education from 1926 through 1932. He died on August 17, 1949.

F. Marguerite McLane married Ronald Biddle Harris, son of Morris B. Harris, a prominent Fresno resident. Morris B. Harris was born in Illinois in 1866. He attended the University of Indiana at Bloomington until transferring to another university in Springfield, Ohio, where he met and later married Jessie Boggs in 1889. In the same year, they moved to Fresno where he began teaching. He also studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1895. In 1918 he ran unopposed for a seat as state senator. Harris was also on the Fresno County Board of Education and the California Railroad Commission as well as the California Highway Commission for some time.

Scope and Content

The McLane/Harris Family papers measure 4 linear feet and date from 1865 to 1963. The papers are arranged in five series: Artifacts, Harris Family, Charles McLane, Related families and Photographs.

The **Artifacts** consist of Ronald Harris's World War I medals and pins as well as Charles McLane's pocket watch.

The **Harris Family** series (1898-1959) contains the journals of Jessie Harris. The daily entries reflect back on more than four decades. For Morris B. Harris, there are newspaper clippings, an essay about his life that he wrote. There is also an extensive family tree that spans back to the seventeenth century as well as a scrapbook and the travel diaries from Morris and Jessie Harris's adventures in the Far East and the Pacific Islands.

The **Charles McLane** series (1891-1963) consists of Fresno State College programs, newspaper articles and letters. Also included are a McLane High School dedication program and a guide to McLane High School, a diary and his marriage license and certificate. The letter is during World War I from Donald Best to his Aunt Demma and the obituary is for F. Marguerite McLane Harris.

The **Related families** series (1865-1890, 1944) contains documents of families related to the Harris or McLane families by marriage. One family, the Nobles, were friends of the McLanes. The Best family materials contain a marriage license, army papers from the Civil War and the high school diploma of Frances Diademina Best. The "History of the Boggs Family" was written by Nancy Dixon.

The **Photographs** series (1898-1949 and undated) contains more than two hundred photographs. These photographs show mostly family members and friends at parties and other social gatherings, as well as on vacations. Also included are some daguerreotypes and negatives.

Harris Family

Box Box 1	Harris, Jessie Boggs Diaries 1908-1917 1918-1927 1928-1937 1938-1947 1948-1957 1958-1959 Travel journals, 1926-1927
	Harris, Morris B. Biographical information and newspaper clippings, 1917-1941 Certificates, 1917-1937 Correspondence, 1958-1959 and undated Family tree, undated Scrapbook, 1898-1941
Box Box 2	Travel Diaries 1926 (2 folders) 1932 Essay, undated

McLane, Charles

Box Box 2	Biographical information, undated Certificates and awards, 1906-1915 Correspondence, 1913 Daily journal, 1891-1931 Family Scrapbook, 1891
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Letter and obituary, 1919, 1995
Marriage certificate and license, 1891
McLane High School, 1947-1963

Related families

Box Box 2 **Best Family**
 Frances Diademina, 1886
 Joseph, 1865
Boggs Family history, 1887
Noble Family baby book and certificates, 1890, 1944

Photographs

Box Box 2 **Best Family, 1920-1924**
Boggs Family album, undated
Harris Family
 Album, undated
 Miscellaneous
 Scrapbook pages, 1923-1926 (3 folders)
 Undated
 Outdoor outings, undated
 Oversize, undated [shelved in map case___, drawer___]

Box Box 3 **McLane Family**
 Charles L., 1902-1949
 Frances Diademina (Demma), undated
 F. Marguerite, 1923-1925
 Photo albums
 1898-1910
 Undated (2 albums) [1 album shelved in box 5]
 Miscellaneous, undated
Noble Family, undated
Miscellaneous, undated
Unidentified
 Photo album, ca. 1914
 Undated (2 folders) [7 items shelved in box 4]

Artifacts

Box Box 4 **Charles McLane's pocket watch**
Ronald Harris's World War I pen knife and pins

Photographs

Box Box 4 **Unidentified**
Undated
 2 ferrotypes
 2 glass negatives
 2 daguerreotypes
 Miniature photo album

Box Box 5 **McLane Family**
 Photo albums
 Undated