

McLEAN SERMON COLLECTION
1789-1913

Introduction

Calvin Barber McLean was born in Simsbury, Conn., August 21, 1839, son of Allen Neal McLean and Emeline Barber.¹ He was a minister in Philadelphia when he became ill and was ordered by his physicians to leave Pennsylvania. According to notes in the collection, he came to New Boston in Berkshire County, Mass., with his wife (Carolyn Frances Dayton of Sandisfield, Mass.) and two children, and was licensed by the Litchfield North Association of Congregational Ministers September 8, 1876. The newly formed church in New Boston, organized by Pastor E. Bradbury, had sprung from a desire of the people in the eastern part of Sandisfield to have a closer place in which to worship. Their meetings were held in the Town Hall, but after Rev. McLean was ordained in June 1878, committees were formed and money collected to erect a building. Rev. McLean continued to serve the church until May 1, 1880, when he removed to Lynnfield, Mass.

Some years later, Rev. McLean moved to Stamford, Conn. and by 1895 was minister of the Long Ridge (Stamford) Congregational Church. From 1898 to 1900 he was minister of the Salem Congregational Church, and from 1900 to 1902 of the Congregational Church of New Fairfield. Rev. McLean resided for a time in Colchester, coming from there to Cobalt, where, according to his obituary in The Hartford Daily Courant, he died January 12, 1905, of heart disease, at the age of 66. He left a wife and three children. Rev. McLean is buried in Hop Meadow Cemetery, Simsbury, Conn.²

The bulk of this collection consists of sermons collected or written by Rev. Calvin McLean, some with dates and places of delivery. Most of the early sermons (1790's to 1818) were probably written by his grandfather, Rev. Allen McLean, born June 20, 1781. A graduate of Yale in 1805, he became pastor of Simsbury Congregational Church in 1809 and continued there for many years. In 1846 his eyesight began to fail, and in 1848 he became totally blind; but with the help of a colleague pastor, he continued to preach until his death on May 19, 1861, in his 80th year.³ Rev. Allen McLean is buried in Hop Meadow Cemetery, Simsbury, Conn.⁴

Many of the sermons, c. 1846-1870's, may have been written by Ralph H. Maine, whose name appears on several items. This may have been the Ralph Hurlburt Maine, 1816-1886, who is listed in the 1850 Census for Hartford, Conn., as a "Baptist Minister," age 33, born in Connecticut. He is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford, Conn.⁵

The sermons, c. 1876-1904, probably were written by Rev. Calvin McLean. The collection also contains a small amount of materials relating to churches where he was affiliated. A few printed publications and Dean Grace E. MacLean's "Honor System Survey," 1913, are included.

¹Genealogy of the Loomis Family. Female Branches. Vol. I. Pages 598; 602.

²Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions. Simsbury Volume. Page 58.

³Yale Biographies and Annals. Volume 5. Page 783.

⁴Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions. Simsbury Volume. Page 25.

⁵Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions. Hartford Volume. Page 146.

The source of the collection is unknown.

List of Records
(Total: c. 4 1/2 ft.)

1. Sermons, c. 1789-1818. Box 1
Most presumably written by Rev. Allen McLean, grandfather of Rev. Calvin McLean. ("Rev. Allen McLean, Simsbury, Ct." written at top of one sermon.) Dates of delivery were noted on most sermons. The earliest sermons appear to have been written by someone else.
c. 1 ft.

 2. Sermons, c. 1846-1879. Boxes 2-3
May have been written by Ralph H. Maine. The earliest sermon dated "July 15, 1846" is signed "Ralph H. Maine, N. Stonington Ct., Trinity College." The bulk of these sermons were preached from 1875-1879 in No. and So. Colebrook. However one early sermon dated Sept. 22, 1867, notes "Meeting in New Boston."
c. 1 1/2 ft.

 3. Sermons, c. 1876-1904. Boxes 3-5
Probably written by Rev. Calvin McLean. Dates of delivery noted on most sermons which were preached mainly in New Boston, Sandisfield, and Lynnfield, Mass., and Stamford, Salem, New Fairfield, and Haddam, Conn. One sermon dated June 5, 1904, Middle Haddam, has "Rev. Calvin B. McLean" written at top.
c. 2 ft.

 4. Notes, drafts, and materials relating to churches where Rev. Calvin McLean was affiliated, 1893-1904. Box 5
 - a. Long Ridge (Stamford) Congregational Church, 1893-1895.
Faith and Covenant; Constitution, Rules and Regulations; notes. (1 folder)
 - b. Salem Congregational Church, 1899.
Draft agreement between church and Rev. Calvin McLean; meeting notice. (1 folder)
 - c. Notes and drafts of letters written by Rev. Calvin McLean, c. 1899-1902.
(1 folder)
 - d. New Boston, Mass., 25th Anniversary, 1904.
Letter to Rev. C. B. McLean from Mrs. A. L. Strickland, Clerk of the Church; draft of speech given at 25th Anniversary of the church. (1 folder)
- Total: 1 1/2 inches.

5. Miscellaneous materials, 1870-1872; 1913. Box 5
- a. "Farming made Profitable." Manuscript article. n.d. (May have been written by Ralph H. Maine.)
 - b. Accounts and names of persons insured by American Life Insurance Company, Philadelphia, c. 1870-1872. (1 folder)
 - c. College "Honor System Survey," 1913, (Dean Grace E. MacLean, Oxford College for Women, Oxford, Ohio), plus Heidelberg diploma. (1 folder)
- Total: 1/2 inch.

6. Printed pamphlets, programs, and leaflets, c. 1880-1902. Box 5
- a. American Baptist Publication Society. "Children's Day. 1887." (Hymns)
 - b. "American Congregationalism." By Rev. W. A. Stearns.
 - c. The American Missionary Association. Letter from Mrs. J. B. Nelson, Missionary in the South. n.d.
 - d. Brown University Catalogue 1880-81. At top is written: "R. H. Maine, May 16th 1881, from Mr. A. E. Scoville."
 - e. "Chapel Builders. A Service for Sunday-Schools." 1888.
 - f. Children's Day, June 10, 1888. "The Fruitful Vineyard." A Scriptural Responsive Service.
 - g. 150th Anniversary of Litchfield Co. Association, Oct. 29, 1902.
 - h. Order of Public Worship in the Oxford Presbyterian Church. n.d.
 - i. "Ought Congregationalists to be more denominational in Spirit?" By Rev. T. M. Post. n.d.
 - j. The Pilgrim Quarterly. For Sunday School Teachers and Scholars. International Lessons. First Quarter, 1882. Edited by Rev. R. R. Meredith.
 - k. "Remarks at the Burial Service of Dea. Dudley B. McLean," by Rev. Charles Edward Stowe. Jan. 1, 1895.
- Total: 1/2 inch.

Reference Restrictions

None.

Related Materials

For printed sermons of Rev. Allen McLean, see main card catalog.