

**TATTNALL COUNTY ARCHIVES
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

MS 003

H.H. Elders Papers

Repository: Tattnall County Archives
Creator: Herschel Hopkins Elders (1874-1958)
Title: H.H. Elders Papers
Date Span of Material: 1910-1926
Quantity: .33 linear feet (1 box)
Archivist of Collection: Janisse Ray
Collection Completed: Feb. 2020
Collection Number: MS003

Source: This material was found at the Archives when the reorganization team took over. The source of this material is not known.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Herschel Hopkins Elders was a legendary Tattnall lawyer. He was born Aug. 22, 1874, to Mary Smith Burkhalter Elders and Aaron Melton Elders. He graduated from Peabody Normal College in Nashville and attended Mercer in Macon. He became a well-respected lawyer, becoming known for his entertaining and often brilliant court representations, but not always liked. Late one night someone shot Elders through a courthouse window and put a hole in his hat.

He was elected to the Georgia State Senate, and he became one of the two authors of the Elders-Carswell School Law of 1918. The most famous part of the law provided free books for students ages 6 through 18 years of age.

Elders married Viola Sikes and they had six children: Grace, Gladys, Ted, Terrell, Telford, and Tennyson, who served as Mayor of Reidsville from 1977 to 1983.

H.H. Elders was a member of Reidsville Methodist Church. As of 2020, his historic home still stands on Highway 280 East, near the church.

The Alumni Directory of Peabody College (published 1910) lists the following on page 216: "ELDERS, HERSCHEL H., Superintendent City Schools, Calhoun, La.; read law, and admitted to bar, 03; Solicitor of City Court and Prosecuting Attorney for his county, 03; also Clerk County Commissioners, four years; Mayor of Reidsville, 06-08; engaged in active law practice the last six years; Chairman Democratic Executive Committee of County; active in state and county politics.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains books from the library of H.H. Elders. From the books, it is apparent that Elders enjoyed fiction. That he named a son Tennyson is likely also indicative of his love of literature.

INDEX TERMS

Personal library
Historic library books
Lawyer
History of Tattnall County, Georgia
Elinor Glyn, author
Richard Harding Davis, author
Bill Nye, author
Peabody College
Tacitus, Writings of

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation note –

H.H. Elders papers, ms003, Tattnall County Archives, Reidsville, Georgia

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS AND FOLDER LISTINGS

Box 1

Series 1 Volumes

This series contains volumes labeled as belonging to H.H. Elders, to wit:

Book missing title page, probably *Germania and Agricola*, on the life and writings of Tacitus, in Latin (signed Herschel H. Elders, Birdford, Ga., Feb. 8, 1896. This book contains two pages of handwritten notes translating Latin phrases into English, namely: He is beside himself. He is at the point of death. From day to day. A consul to fill out an unexpired term.)

Alumni Directory of Peabody College: 1877-1909, Nashville, Tennessee (signed H.H. Elders, Reidsville, Ga. 2/18/1910. Page where his name appears is turned down. Many other entries are checked, probably acquaintances.)

Bill Nye's Sparks, by Edgar Wilson Nye (Bill Nye), 1891 (with the initials "HHE" on the frontispiece.)

The West from a Car Window, by Richard Harding Davis, 1892 (signed Herschel H. Elders, Reidsville, Ga., Dec. 8, 1904, with \$1.25 listed as the price.)

The Seventh Commandment, by Elinor Glyn, 1902 (signed H.H. Elders, Reidsville, Ga., April 17, 1926, with 35 cents listed as the price.)

His Hour, by Elinor Glyn, 1910 (signed H.H. Elders, Reidsville, Ga., April 17, 1926, with 35 cents listed as the price.)

The Reason Why, by Elinor Glyn, 1911 (signed H.H. Elders, Reidsville, Ga., April 17, 1926, with 35 cents listed as the price.)

The Point of View, by Elinor Glyn, 1913 (signed H.H. Elders, Reidsville, Ga., April 17, 1926, with 35 cents listed as the price.)

The Man and the Moment, by Elinor Glyn, 1914 (signed H.H. Elders, Reidsville, Ga., April 17, 1926, with 35 cents listed as the price.)