P. Phillips Family Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2011

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http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011144

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm79036087

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Collection Summary

Title: P. Phillips Family Papers
Span Dates: 1832-1914
ID No.: MSS36087
Creator: Phillips, P (Philip), 1807-1884
Extent: 7,000 items ; 22 containers ; 8.8 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Lawyer, state legislator, and United States representative from South Carolina. Correspondence, letter books, legal record books, journals, dockets, notebooks, and an unpublished autobiography of P. Phillips, relating chiefly to the law practice of P. Phillips and his son, W. Hallet Phillips, both of whom practiced before the Supreme Court. Contains the writings of P. Phillips's wife, Eugenia, including her journal written while interned during the Civil War, and of her parents, Jacob Clavius Levy and Fanny Yates Levy.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Campbell, James B., 1808-1883--Correspondence.
Dargan, Edmund Strother, 1805-1879--Correspondence.
Forsyth, John, 1780-1841--Correspondence.
Guthrie, George Wilkins, 1848-1917--Correspondence.
Harlan, John Marshall, 1833-1911--Correspondence.
King, William R. (William Rufus), 1786-1853--Correspondence.
Lamar, L. Q. C. (Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus), 1825-1893--Correspondence.
Levy, Fanny Yates, 1787-1891 or 1892. Fanny Yates Levy papers.
Levy, Jacob Clavius, 1788-1875. Jacob Clavius Levy papers.
Ludeling, John Theodore, 1827-1891--Correspondence.
McCormick, Medill, 1877-1925--Correspondence.
Mordecai, M. C. (Moses Cohen), 1804-1888--Correspondence.
Olney, Richard, 1835-1917--Correspondence.
Phillips family.
Phillips, Eugenia Levy. Eugenia Levy Phillips journal. 1861-1862.
Phillips, P. (Philip), 1807-1884.
Phillips, W. Hallett (William Hallet), 1853-1897. W. Hallett Phillips papers.
Smith, Hoke, 1855-1931--Correspondence.
Stanton, Edwin McMasters, 1814-1869--Correspondence.
Stickney, A. B. (Alpheus Beede), 1840-1916--Correspondence.
Yerger, William, 1816-1872--Correspondence.

Organizations
United States and Mexican Claims Commission.
United States. Kansas-Nebraska Act.
United States. Supreme Court.

Subjects
Courts--United States.
Hopi Indians.
Indians of North America--Arizona.
Justice, Administration of.
Lynching--Louisiana--Hahnville.
Missouri compromise.

National parks and reserves.
Practice of law--Washington (D.C.)
Slave trade--United States.

Places
California--History.
Cuba--History--Revolution, 1895-1898.
Key West (Fla.)--History.
Mexico--Claims vs. United States.
United States--Claims vs. Mexico.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Prisoners and prisons.
Yellowstone National Park.

Occupations
Lawyers.
Legislators--South Carolina.
Representatives, U.S. Congress--South Carolina.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of P. Phillips, lawyer, state legislator, and United States representative from South Carolina; his son, W. Hallett Phillips, lawyer; and other members of the Levy and Phillips families were obtained by gift, deposit, and purchase between 1900 and 1917 from P. Lee Phillips of Washington, D.C. In 1945 the remaining deposits were converted to a gift.

Processing History

The papers of the P. Phillips family were described and arranged in 1962. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the P. Phillips family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the P. Phillips family are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, P. Phillips Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

P. Phillips

Date	*Event*
1807, Dec. 13	Born, Charleston, S.C.
1828	Admitted to bar
1832	Delegate to South Carolina State Constitutional Convention (nullification)
1833-1835	Member, South Carolina house of representatives

1836	Married Eugenia Yates Levy (died 1913)
1836-1853	Practiced law in Mobile, Ala.
1837	President, Alabama Democratic state convention
1844	Member, Alabama house of representatives
1850	Admitted to United States Supreme Court
1851	Member, Alabama house of representatives
1853-1855	Member, United States House of Representatives, 33rd Congress
1856	Began law practice in Washington, D. C.
1861	Wife, Eugenia Levy Phillips, interned for Confederate sympathies Family sent south to Crany Island via Fort Monroe as suspected spies for Confederate States of America. Began New Orleans, La., bar practice
1862	Wife, Eugenia Levy Phillips, confined to Ship Island as rebel spy and finally released by Benjamin Butler as prisoner of war after three months
1862-1866	Began law practice in La Grange, Ga., and New Orleans, La.
1867	Removed to Washington, D. C., and resumed United States Supreme Court practice
1884, Jan. 14	Died, Washington, D. C.

W. Hallett Phillips

Date	***Event***
1853	Born, Washington, D. C.
1871	Graduated, Columbia College, Washington, D. C.
1885-1897	Special agent to investigate conditions in Yellowstone National Park
1887	Admitted to Supreme Court
1897	Drowned in Washington, D. C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the P. Phillips family span the period 1832 1914. The papers include the writings of Eugenia Levy Phillips and her parents, Jacob Clavius Levy and Fanny Yates Levy, but the bulk of the material relates to the law practice of her husband, P. Phillips (1807-1884), and his son, W. Hallett Phillips, prominent lawyers before the United States Supreme Court. Material concerning their practice is found primarily in the letterbooks, in the dockets, and in the legal record books. The collection is organized in eight series: Journal; General Correspondence, Letterbooks; Subject File; Autobiography, Speeches, and Writings; Legal File; Financial Papers; and Miscellany.

Although Eugenia Levy Phillips was an ardent Southerner, as shown in her journal written during her internment, P. Phillips apparently played an inactive role in the Civil War. There is a gap in the otherwise inclusive series of letterbooks for the period 1862 to 1867, but the period is scanned in his autobiography. Both P. Phillips and his son were champions of the disadvantaged. The elder Phillips was interested in California and the United States and Mexican Claims Commission, Key West and the slave trade, judicial reform, and in securing the repeal of the Missouri Compromise with the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

There is little biographical material on W. Hallett Phillips, but something of his character can be gleaned from his notebooks, translations and miscellaneous writings. His idealism is shown in material on the preservation of Yellowstone National Park, support of the Cuban revolution, investigation of a lynching at Hahnville, Louisiana, and the defense of the rights of the Moki (Hopi) Indians of Arizona.

Correspondence is generally on legal matters and includes James B. Campbell, Edmund Strother Dargan, John Forsyth, George Wilkins Guthrie, John Marshall Harlan, William R. King, Medill McCormick, Moses Cohen Mordecai, Richard Olney, Hoke Smith, Edwin McMasters Stanton, A. B. Stickney, and William Yerger.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eight series:

- Journal, 1861-1862
- General Correspondence, 1832-1914
- Letterbooks, 1856-1897
- Subject File, 1885-1897
- Autobiography, Speeches, and Writings, 1849-1884
- Legal File, 1838-1897
- Financial Papers, 1839-1890
- Miscellany, 1850-1888

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1	**Journal, 1861-1862** Holograph transcript and typed transcript of the journal of Eugenia Levy Phillips.
BOX 1	**General Correspondence, 1832-1914** Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 2-10	**Letterbooks, 1856-1897** Washington, D. C. law office letterbooks of Philip Phillips; Phillips, Maury, & Phillips; W. Hallett Phillips; and Phillips & Phillips. There is some overlapping between volumes and a gap in the records of Philip Phillips for the period 1862-1867. Arranged by name of firm and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 11-12	**Subject File, 1885-1897** Correspondence, reports, and printed matter. Arranged by subject or type of material.
BOX 13-14	**Autobiography, Speeches, and Writings, 1849-1884** Autobiography, printed speeches and statements, and "In Memoriam," of P. Phillips, and miscellaneous writings and translations of W. Hallett Phillips. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 15-17	**Legal File, 1838-1897** Deeds, will, Supreme Court brief, dockets, legal notebooks, and record books of Philip Phillips; Phillips, Maury, & Phillips; and W. Hallett Phillips. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 18-19	**Financial Papers, 1839-1890** Ledger, account books, receipt books, cancelled checks, and fee memorandum. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 20-22	**Miscellany, 1850-1888** Commonplace books, receipt books, scrapbooks and notebooks, a copy of "Vindiciae Judaeorum," a book of quotations, notes and invitations, memorabilia, photographs, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1	**Journal, 1861-1862**
	Holograph transcript and typed transcript of the journal of Eugenia Levy Phillips.
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BOX 1	1861-1862
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	Letters sent and received.
	Arranged chronologically.
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BOX 2-10	**Letterbooks, 1856-1897**
	Washington, D. C. law office letterbooks of Philip Phillips; Phillips, Maury, & Phillips; W. Hallett Phillips; and Phillips & Phillips. There is some overlapping between volumes and a gap in the records of Philip Phillips for the period 1862-1867.
	Arranged by name of firm and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 2	Philip Phillips
BOX 2	1856, Feb.-1869, Dec.
BOX 3	1870, Jan.-1873, Sept.
BOX 4	1873, Sept.-1877, Mar.
BOX 5	1877, Mar.-1882, May
BOX 6	Phillips, Maury, & Phillips, 1877, Apr.-1883, Nov.
BOX 7	W. Hallett Phillips, 1875, Aug.-1885, June; Phillips & Phillips, 1883-1884
BOX 8	W. Hallett Phillips
BOX 8	1885, June-1889, Mar.
BOX 9	1889, Mar.-1893, Mar.
BOX 10	1893, Mar.-1897, May
BOX 11-12	**Subject File, 1885-1897**
	Correspondence, reports, and printed matter.
	Arranged by subject or type of material.
BOX 11	Cuban Revolution, 1895-1896
BOX 11	Hahnville, La., lynching 1896
BOX 11	Judiciary Reform Bill, 1890-1892
BOX 12	Wharton, *Digest of International Law*, 1896-1897
BOX 12	Yellowstone National Park, 1885-1897
BOX 13-14	**Autobiography, Speeches, and Writings, 1849-1884**
	Autobiography, printed speeches and statements, and "In Memoriam," of P. Phillips, and miscellaneous writings and translations of W. Hallett Phillips.
	Arranged by type of material.

Container	*Contents*
BOX 13	Autobiography of P. Phillips, circa 1870-1876
BOX 13	Speeches by P. Phillips, 1849-1861
BOX 13	"In Memoriam" of P. Phillips, 1884
BOX 14	Miscellaneous writings, notes, and translations of W. Hallett Phillips
BOX 15-17	**Legal File, 1838-1897**
	Deeds, will, Supreme Court brief, dockets, legal notebooks, and record books of Philip Phillips; Phillips, Maury, & Phillips; and W. Hallett Phillips.
	Arranged by type of material.
BOX 15	Deeds
BOX 15	Supreme Court brief, Key v. Frelinghuysen, undated
BOX 15	Will of Jacob Clavius Levy, 1870
BOX 16	Docket book of W. Hallett Phillips, 1867-1878
BOX 16	Docket book of Philip Phillips; Phillips, Maury, & Phillips; and W. Hallett Phillips, 1875-1880
BOX 16	Index and digest of *Wallace's Reports*, United States Supreme Court, 1877
BOX 16	Docket of United States Supreme Court
BOX 16	Legal notebooks of P. Phillips
	(2 vols.)
BOX 16	Legal notebook of W. Hallett Phillips
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BOX 17	Philip Phillips, 1838-1858
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BOX 17	W. Hallett Phillips, 1884-1897
BOX 17	Phillips, Maury, & Phillips, 1877-1882
BOX 18-19	**Financial Papers, 1839-1890**
	Ledger, account books, receipt books, cancelled checks, and fee memorandum.
	Arranged by type of material.
BOX 18	Ledger
BOX 18	Gayle & Phillips, circa 1839-1841
BOX 18	Philip Phillips, circa 1855-1861
BOX 18	Account book
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BOX 18	1843-1862
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BOX 18	Philip Phillips and Phillips & Phillips, 1867-1885
BOX 19	Receipt book
BOX 19	Philip Phillips, 1842-1852
BOX 19	Checks, 1845-1883

Container	*Contents*
BOX 19	Fee memorandum, 1890
BOX 20-22	**Miscellany, 1850-1888**
	Commonplace books, receipt books, scrapbooks and notebooks, a copy of "Vindiciae Judaeorum," a book of quotations, notes and invitations, memorabilia, photographs, and printed matter.
	Arranged by type of material.
BOX 20	Commonplace book, Fanny Yates Levy
BOX 20	Commonplace book, W. Hallett Phillips
BOX 20	Receipt book, P. Phillips
BOX 20	*Memoirs of an Hungarian Lady*, by Theresa Pulszky (Philadelphia, 1850)
BOX 20	Receipt book, poetry, and related material, Samuel Yates Levy, 1857-1871
BOX 21	Scrapbook, P. Phillips, 1860-1863
BOX 21	Legal notebook, W. Hallett Phillips, 1871, undated
BOX 21	Memorabilia, 1850-1887
BOX 22	Notebook, W. Hallett Phillips
BOX 22	"Vindicise Judaeorum," by Jacob C. Levy, 1861
BOX 22	Book of quotations, W. Hallett Phillips, 1875
BOX 22	Photographs
BOX 22	Printed matter