

P. Phillips Family Papers

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<http://lcn.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 Alabama. Correspondence, letter books, legal record books, journals, dockets, notebooks, and an unpublished autobiography of P. Phillips, relating chiefly to the law practice of P. Phillips and his son, W. Hallet Phillips, both of whom practiced before the Supreme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 Hallett), 1853-1897. W. Hallett Phillips papers.
Smith, Hoke, 1855-1931--Correspondence.
Stanton, Edwin M. (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--Alabama.
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Alabama.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of P. Phillips, lawyer, state legislator, and United States representative from Alabama; 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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
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, 33 rd 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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
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

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1	<u>Journal, 1861-1862</u> Holograph transcript and typed transcript of the journal of Eugenia Levy Phillips.
BOX 1	<u>General Correspondence, 1832-1914</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 2-10	<u>Letterbooks, 1856-1897</u> 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	<u>Subject File, 1885-1897</u> Correspondence, reports, and printed matter. Arranged by subject or type of material.
BOX 13-14	<u>Autobiography, Speeches, and Writings, 1849-1884</u> 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	<u>Legal File, 1838-1897</u> 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	<u>Financial Papers, 1839-1890</u> Ledger, account books, receipt books, cancelled checks, and fee memorandum. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 20-22	<u>Miscellany, 1850-1888</u> 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.

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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.

Autobiography, Speeches, and Writings, 1849-1884

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BOX 20	Receipt book, P. Phillips
BOX 20	<i>Memoirs of an Hungarian Lady</i> , 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
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