

Phelps, William and Eula, papers

William and Eula Phelps's papers

1895-1940

Title Statement

Phelps, William and Eula, papers William and Eula Richardson Phelps papers MSS 15787

Author: Ellen Welch

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: English

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 15787

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/223

Unit Date

1895-1940

Language

English

Extent

2 Cubic Feet 4 Document boxes

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use.

Provenance

Purchased, 29 April 29, 2014.

Preferred Citation

MSS 15787 William and Eula Richardson Phelps letters, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia.

Biographic Note

William Stine Phelps was born in Boones Mill, Virginia on October 14, 1867, where he also attended school. In 1895 he began courting Eula Richardson, while he was working as a tobacco salesman, traveling across the mid-west states. William and Eula were married in 1897 before she began her teaching career and while he was still traveling for his job. Their correspondence describes their loneliness for each other and their family life in Roanoke, Virginia at the turn of the century. The collection demonstrates their strong commitment to family and church. In 1903, the couple moved to Bluefield, West Virginia where William and his brother, J. T. Phelps bought a furniture business, eventually incorporating it in 1909. He managed the business for many years until his retirement. Eula Richardson Phelps was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David F. Richardson. She had two sisters, Leah who was a teacher and was married to Holley Prescott Bush; and Rosa who was married to D. Luther Meador. They also had a brother, William R. Richardson who was married to "Willie M." William Phelps was the son of Andrew Jackson Phelps and Alice Jane Boone Phelps. He had two brothers, J. T. Phelps (who bought their furniture business), and N. W. Phelps. They also had a sister, Mary Phelps Walker.

Scope and Contents

The William and Eula Richardson Phelps letters (1895-1940; 2 cubic feet) relates the courtship and early marriage of William and Eula Richardson and their life with family members. William was a tobacco salesman for R. H. Fishburne and Company in Roanoke, Virginia and because he travelled across the mid-west for his living, there are frequent letters between the couple, that describe their life at the turn of the century. There are also letters from Eula's family about her mother being unwell, and the medical attention that was provided during this time. A hypnotist by the name of Price is also mentioned. In addition to family correspondence there is a handwritten will from Eula Phelps; a marriage certificate, a wedding "Memories" booklet, a teacher certificate, report cards for her sister Leah Richardson, a Workman's Time book, and photographs of William Stine Phelps, and Eula's father, David P. Phelps.

Keywords

letters (correspondence)

Arrangement

The collection of letters is arranged into four series: Series 1. Correspondence of William and Eula Phelps from 1895 to 1901, Series 2. letters to William and Eula Phelps 1897-1920's, Series 3. Greeting cards, and Series 4. Photographs, personal items, and poetry.

Description of Subordinate Components

William and Eula Phelps correspondence

Unit ID 15787

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48255

Unit Date 1895-1901

Language English

Unit ID 15787

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47727

Unit Date 1895 January-June

Manuscripts 1 [X031589128] (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47728

Unit Date 1895 July-December

Manuscripts 1 [X031589128] (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47729

Unit Date 1896 January-March

Manuscripts 1 [X031589128] (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47730

Unit Date 1896 April-June

Manuscripts 1 [X031589128] (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47731

Unit Date 1896 July-September

Manuscripts 1 [X031589128] (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47732

Unit Date 1896 October-December

Manuscripts 1 [X031589128] (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47733

Unit Date 1897 January

Manuscripts [X031589129] 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47734

Unit Date 1897 February

Manuscripts [X031589129] 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47735

Unit Date 1897 March

Manuscripts [X031589129] 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47736

Unit Date 1897 April

Manuscripts [X031589129] 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47737

Unit Date 1897 May

Manuscripts [X031589129] 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47739

Unit Date 1897 July

Manuscripts [X031589129] 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47740

Unit Date 1897 August

Manuscripts [X031589129] 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47742

Unit Date 1897 September 3-15

Manuscripts 3 [X031589130] (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47743

Unit Date 1897 September 16-30

Manuscripts 3 [X031589130] (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47744

Unit Date 1897 October 2-14

Manuscripts 3 [X031589130] (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47745

Unit Date 1897 October 17-31

Manuscripts 3 [X031589130] (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47746

Unit Date 1897 November-December

Manuscripts 3 [X031589130] (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47749

Unit Date 1898 January

Manuscripts 3 [X031589130] (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47750

Unit Date 1898 February

Manuscripts 3 [X031589130] (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47751

Unit Date 1898 March 1-15

Manuscripts 3 [X031589130] (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47752

Unit Date 1898 March 16-30

Manuscripts 3 [X031589130] (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47753

Unit Date 1898 April

Manuscripts 3 [X031589130] (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47754

Unit Date 1898 (July) August 3-15

Manuscripts 3 [X031589130] (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47755

Unit Date 1898 August 16-29

Manuscripts 3 [X031589130] (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47756

Unit Date 1898 October 20-December 7

Manuscripts 3 [X031589130] (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47758

Unit Date 1899 (January) July 25-August 18

Manuscripts 4 [X031589131] (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47760

Unit Date 1900 February-November

Manuscripts 4 [X031589131] (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47761

Unit Date 1901 January-September

Manuscripts 4 [X031589131] (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

Letters to William and Eula Phelps

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48256

Unit Date 1897-1920's

From William's brothers

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47747

Unit Date 1897 January-December

Manuscripts 4 [X031589131] (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English

From their siblings and cousins

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47748

Unit Date 1897 November-December

Manuscripts 4 [X031589131] (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English

From their siblings and cousins

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47757

Unit Date 1898 February; July; April

Manuscripts 4 [X031589131] (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English

From Charles E. Eckerly, National Business College

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47759

Unit Date 1900 December; undated

Manuscripts 4 [X031589131] (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47762

Unit Date 1901

Manuscripts 4 [X031589131] (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English

From Eula's sister Rosa Meador

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47763

Unit Date 1920's

Manuscripts 4 [X031589131] (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English

Letters to Mrs. David F. (Fannie) Phelps

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47764

Unit Date 1922-1929; undated

Manuscripts 4 [X031589131] (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English

Greeting cards

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48258

Greeting cards to Mr. and Mrs. David F. Richardson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47765

Unit Date 1916-1925; undated

Mixed Materials 4 [X031589131] (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Eula's parents

Greeting cards to Mr. and Mrs. Holley Prescott Bush

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47770

Unit Date 1921-1928

Mixed Materials 4 [X031589131] (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Language English

Biographical / Historical

Leah and Holley Bush are the sister and brother-in-law of Eula Phelps

Greeting cards to Mr. and Mrs. David F. Richardson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47766

Unit Date 1926-1929; undated

Mixed Materials 4 [X031589131] (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Language English

Photographs, personal items, and poetry

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47767

Unit Date undated

Language English

Records and documents of the Phelps and Richardson family

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47768

Unit Date 1902-1940

Mixed Materials 4 [X031589131] (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Includes handwritten will of Eula Phelps, certificates, report cards, and wedding memories booklet

Photographs of Williams S. Phelps and David F. Richardson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/47769

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 4 [X031589131] (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Unidentified photographs