

A Guide to the Maury and Perkins Family Papers

Maury and Perkins Family Papers



A Collection in the Special Collections Department 10492-c
Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library
1997

History

Processed by: Special Collections Department Staff
Date Completed: 1997
Encoded by: Elizabeth Slomba

Title Statement

A Guide to the Maury and Perkins Family Papers

Subtitle: Maury and Perkins family.

Collection: 10492-c

Author: Processed by Special Collections Dept. staff; machine-readable finding aid created by Elizabeth Slomba

Sponsor: Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Publication Statement

File size: 25 Kilobytes

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Publisher: University of Virginia Library

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Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from WordPerfect. [Date of source: 1997.]

Language Usage: Description is in English.

Revision Description

Feb 18, 2004 PUBLIC "-//University of Virginia::Library::Special Collections Dept.//TEXT (US::ViU::01005::Maury and Perkins Family Papers)//EN" "ViU01005.sgm" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).

Feb 27, 2004 converted to conform to eadVIVA.dtd by vivastrict.xsl

Descriptive Summary

Collection Number

10492-c

Language

English

Collector

Lydia Lowndes Maury Skeels

Extent

ca. 550 items

Repository

University of Virginia. Library. Special Collections Dept.

Alderman Library
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
USA

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

This collection was given to the Library by Lydia Lowndes Maury Skeels of Storrs, Connecticut, on July 24, 1987.

Funding Note

Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Preferred Citation

Maury and Perkins Family Papers, Accession 10492-c, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

Scope and Content

This material, assembled by Lydia Lowndes Maury Skeels for her books, *One American Family: Some Maury Memories, Legends, and Records* and *Some Distaff Forbears: Perkins, Henderson, Watson, Price, Norris, Opie, Kelly*, consists of ca. 550 items, 1767(1883-1955)1985, and includes original letters and papers of the Maury and Perkins families as well as Mrs. Skeels' notes and copies of material from various repositories.

The correspondence and other material of the Maury and Perkins family pertain chiefly to the family of Eliza Norris (Watson)(1844-1936) and George Perkins(1846-1918) and their children and spouses, Hay Watson (Perkins)(1873-19) and George Rust Bedinger Michie(1870-19), Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins)(1874-1960) and Henry Lowndes Maury(1875-1959), and William Allan Perkins(1880-19) and his wife Hazlehurst Bolton(1882-19). There are also letters from Hortensia Hay Watson(1838-19), Eliza Maury's sister; letters from Nannie Jessie Maury(Mrs. Matthew Fontaine Maury) to her son, Henry Lowndes; and, a farm book of Egbert Reed Watson(1810-1887), Eliza Maury's father.

The majority of the original letters are written to Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury in Butte, Montana from her family in Charlottesville, Virginia and contain much personal news about family members and friends. One letter of interest, dated May 1, 1894, written to Haidee and Nannie Perkins from Bessie P. Woods, a missionary doctor's wife, in Tsing Kiang, China, describes the customs, language, and clothing of the people, and explains the needs for foreign missions. Another interesting letter, November 18, 1898, from Ellen Maury Slayden, in San Antonio, Texas, enlightens Nannie on living out west and describes the "differences between Eastern and Western people." During 1898-1935, Eliza Norris (Watson) Perkins wrote to her daughter, Nannie, discussing news of family and friends in great detail, and mentioning events in Charlottesville. There are two letters in 1901 with news of Charlottesville: April 15, concerning the election to the Virginia Constitutional Convention; and, May 23, describing the city and surrounding area during a flood caused by heavy rainfall, mentioning such sites as the new iron bridge, Holladay House, and Woolen Mills. There are also several letters mentioning persons associated with the University of Virginia: November 28, 1932 and October 16, 1933, John Lloyd Newcomb's tea for Lord and Lady Astor and his appointment as President of the University; February 13, 1933, Frank Abbott's death and John Staige Davis' illness; and, July 16, 1934, John W. Davis' speech at the Institute of Public Affairs. A December 13, 1934 letter describes her train trip from Butte, Montana to her home in Charlottesville.

George Perkins also wrote to his daughter, Nannie, after her marriage to Henry Lowndes Maury on November

22, 1898 and their subsequent departure to Butte, Montana. While he wrote personal letters to his daughter, he wrote more professional ones to his son-in-law. Many of his letters to Lowndes refer to the latter's legal business, especially his partnerships with Clayberg and Corbett and with Pemberton and Maury (August 25 and September 9, 1899), legal cases, and his being made President of the Bar Association in Butte (December 19, 1906). His letters offered support and advice concerning some of these matters. One interesting letter, December 26, 1910, gave a lengthy account of a distant relative's, Charles Alphonso Smith (1864-1924), a University of Virginia professor, successful visit to Berlin, including a lunch with Kaiser Wilhelm and a visit to the palace at Potsdam.

Other letters of interest to Nannie from her family include: September 4, 1899, from her brother, William Allan Perkins, describing a fishing trip that took him across West Virginia and Ohio to a camp near Sault Ste. Marie; May 9 and June 3, 1918, from her aunt, Hortensia Hay Watson, mentioning the University of Virginia Base Hospital and occurrences during World War I.

In addition, there are travel journals, with transcripts, of Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury and Eliza Norris (Watson) Perkins. During July and August 1891, Nannie kept a journal on her travels from Charlottesville to various places in Virginia and New York, and Washington, D.C., describing the sites vividly. In July 1910, Lizzie Perkins travelled from Charlottesville to Butte, Montana to visit her daughter and her family, writing of the trip in a small notebook.

The research material includes Mrs. Skeels' correspondence and notes, biographies and genealogies, and copies of material from various repositories concerning the Maury, Perkins, Watson, Norris, and related families. There is much material pertaining to Matthew Fontaine Maury (1806-1873), the first great American oceanographer. Copies of original family letters, diaries, and papers have been placed in this series.

The material has been organized into three series: I. Maury and Perkins Family Papers; II. Research Material of Lydia Lowndes Maury Skeels; and, III. Oversize Material. Folders in the first two series are arranged alphabetically, and material within is in chronological order.

Container List

I. Maury and Perkins Family Papers

Correspondence

Correspondence of the Perkins and Maury Families

Unit Date 1894-1898

Container Box 1

Letters to Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury

Unit Date 1889-1960

Container Box 1

Nannie Jessie Maury to Henry Lowndes Maury

Unit Date 1894, n.d.

Container Box 1

Eliza Norris (Watson) Perkins to Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) and Henry Lowndes Maury and children

Unit Date 1898-1935

Container Box 1

Extent (5 folders)

George Perkins to Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) and Henry Lowndes Maury

Unit Date 1898-1918

Container Box 1

William Allan Perkins to Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) and Henry Lowndes Maury

Unit Date 1898-1942

Container Box 1

Hortensia Hay Watson to Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury

Unit Date 1898-1918

Container Box 1

Papers

Lists of Gifts for family and friends and of phone calls made on behalf of the British War Relief Society

Unit Date 1940-1955

Container Box 2

Miscellaneous--Lists

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 2

Miscellaneous--Poems and Recipes

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 2

Papers of Eliza Norris (Watson) and George Perkins

Unit Date 1869-1917

Container Box 2

Piedmont Female Institute Alumnae Association

Unit Date 1922

Container Box 2

Bound Volumes

Commonplace Book of Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury, w/ transcript

Unit Date 1891-1894

Container Box 2

Diaries of Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury

Unit Date 1941-1954

Container Box 2

Extent (2 folders)

Diary of Egbert Reed Watson

Unit Date 1875-1885

Container Box 2

Travel Journal of Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury, w/ transcript

Unit Date 1891

Container Box 2

II. Research Material of Lydia Lowndes Maury Skeels

Correspondence

Correspondence of Lydia Lowndes Maury Skeels

Unit Date 1952-1985

Container Box 3

Correspondence of the Maury family, and fragments of letters

Unit Date 1812-1866

Container Box 3

Extent (electrostatic copies)

Papers

Commonplace Book of Nannie Jessie Maury (nee Lydia Ann Maury)

Unit Date 1880-1885

Container Box 3

Extent (electrostatic copy)

Family Events, Volumes I and II

Unit Date 1934-1955

Container Box 3

Extent (2 folders)

Genealogical Charts of the Perkins and related families

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 3

Material re Matthew Fontaine Maury

Unit Date 1911-1976

Container Box 3

Material re the Maury family

Unit Date 1892-1977

Container Box 3

Material re the Maury family of Huguenot descent

Unit Date 1767-1967

Container Box 4

Material re the Maury family of "Piedmont"

Unit Date 1869-1963

Container Box 4

Material re Eliza Norris (Watson) and George Perkins

Unit Date 1918-1919, n.d.

Container Box 4

Material re the Perkins and related families

Unit Date 1880-1931

Container Box 4

Material re the Watson family

Unit Date 1887

Container Box 4

Miscellaneous Notes

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 4

Notes on Calendars of Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury, 1956- 1960

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 4

Notes on Travel Journals of Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury, 1934-1947 and 1954-1955

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 4

Extent (2 folders)

Record of Family Reunions and Household Affairs

Unit Date 1940-1958

Container Box 4

Wills (copies)

Unit Date 1830-1936

Container Box 4

Oversize Material

Appointment to Consul of the United States for the Port of Liverpool for James Maury, signed by George Washington

Unit Date 1790 June 7

Extent (electrostatic copy)

Confederate States of America Bond for \$500

Unit Date 1862 Jan 1

University of Virginia certificate of graduation for Henry Lowndes Maury in the School of Latin

Unit Date 1892 June 29

University of Virginia certificates of graduation for Henry Lowndes Maury for Bachelor of Arts in courses of English Literature, Greek, History, and Physics

Unit Date 1894 June 13

Extent (4 diplomas)

Admission to the Supreme Court of the United States for Henry Lowndes Maury

Unit Date 1938 Aug 29

Extent (electrostatic copy)

Admission to the United States Court of Claims for Henry Lowndes Maury

Unit Date 1950 Oct 4

Extent (electrostatic copy)

Admission to the Supreme Court of the State of Montana for Henry Lowndes Maury

Unit Date 1957 Apr 17

Extent (electrostatic copy)

