Read family papers

Read

Finding aid prepared by Megan Atkinson and Christiana Dobrzynski Grippe.

Last updated on September 22, 2011.

Library Company of Philadelphia

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biography/History	4
Scope and Contents	6
Administrative Information	11
Related Materials	12
Controlled Access Headings	13
Collection Inventory	15
Series I. Family History and Genealogy	15
Series II. Deeds	16
Series III. Bills and Receipts	19
Series IV. John Read I	19
Series V. Judge John M. Read II	37
Series VI. General John Meredith Read Jr	52
Series VII. Harmon Pumpelly Read	78
Series VIII. John Meredith Read III: Autobiography and family history	80
Series IX. James Read account book for Rings End and Point (part 9)	80
Series X. Collected Meredith family papers	80

Summary Information

Repository Library Company of Philadelphia

Creator Read, John Meredith, 1797-1874

Creator Read, John Meredith, 1837-1896

Creator Read, John, 1769-1854

Creator Read

Title Read family papers

Call number Read

Date [bulk] 1792-1896

Date [inclusive] 1736-1896

Extent 70 linear feet ()

Language English

Abstract The Read family consistently played an important role in American

resident, signed the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Throughout the 17th to 19th centuries, the Reads served as lawyers, judges, politicians, generals, consul-generals and foreign ministers. This collection contains the papers of four generations of the Read family of Philadelphia, consisting of John Read, Judge John Meredith Read, General

government and politics from the time that George Read, a Delaware

John Meredith Read, and Harmon Pumpelly Read. The materials date from 1736 to 1896, with the bulk dating from 1792 to 1896, and include extensive correspondence, bills and receipts, genealogical notes, legal

documents, newspaper clippings, photographs, scrapbooks and ephemera. The majority of the collection consists of General John Meredith Read's papers relating to his family history and genealogy, correspondence, and political materials. The collection is particularly valuable in illustrating Philadelphia social life, global and local politics, as well as Civil War experiences, as it includes extensive correspondence describing first-hand accounts as well as with several key political figures during the Civil War era.

Cite as:

[Description and date of item], [Box and folder number], Read family papers, 1736-1896 (bulk 1792-1896), Library Company of Philadelphia.

Biography/History

The Read family consistently played an important role in American government and politics from the time that George Read, a Delaware resident, signed the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Throughout the 17th to 19th centuries, the Reads served as lawyers, judges, politicians, generals, consulgenerals and foreign ministers.

John Read (1769-1854) was born on July 17, 1796 in New Castle, Delaware to George Read and Gertrude Ross Read. After graduating from the College of New Jersey in 1787 and studying law with his father, John worked as a lawyer; as agent general of the United States under Jay's Treaty, a position for which he was appointed by President John Adams in 1797; city solicitor of Philadelphia; and member of common and select councils. During the War of 1812, John was "active in the defense of the Delaware against British invasion" (Reynolds, page 492). He served as a senator for Pennsylvania from 1816 to 1817 and was appointed, by the Pennsylvania Legislature, as the state director of the Philadelphia Bank. Later, he became president of the Philadelphia Bank. John's brother, William Read, was a Philadelphia merchant who was involved in the China trade.

In 1796, John married Martha Meredith, the daughter of General Samuel Meredith who had served as the first treasurer of the United States. They had five children, three of whom survived infancy: John Meredith Read (1797-1874), Henry Meredith Read (1800-1826), and Margaret Meredith Read (1806-1854).

During the 1793 yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia, John's "humanity and philanthropy were manifest ... [when] he contributed most liberally from his purse, and exposed his life throughout the whole course of the epidemic in behalf of his suffering fellowmen" (Reynolds, page 492). He was actively involved in the Protestant Episcopal Church and served as warden of Christ Church, St. Peter's, and St. James. He died on July 13, 1854.

John Read's son, **John Meredith Read** (-1874), was born on July 21, 1796 in Philadelphia. He was educated at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating "at the age of fifteen, was admitted to the bar in 1822, elected to the Pennsylvania legislature in 1822 and again in 1823" (Reynolds, page 493). Other positions held by John Meredith Read include city solicitor of Philadelphia and member of the select council, United States district attorney of the eastern district of Pennsylvania from 1837 to 1841, solicitor general of the treasury department, and attorney general of Pennsylvania from 1845 to 1846. Politically, John Meredith Read veered from the family norm of Federalists, and instead participated in the founding of the "Free Soil" Democrats.

John Meredith Read opposed the extension of slavery in new states. As a result, when nominated to serve as judge of the United States Supreme Court, "southern senators opposed his confirmation," (Reynolds, page 493). As the Republican Party formed, Read served as a founder and supporter of the party and in 1856, gave a speech entitled, "Power of Congress over Slavery in our Territories." He was elected judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in 1858, the same year that the Republican Party gained its first victory in Pennsylvania. He eventually became Chief Justice of Philadelphia.

John Meredith Read married Priscilla Marshall on March 20, 1828. They had two children who survived infancy: John Meredith Read (1837-1896) and Emily Marshal Read. Priscilla Marshall Read died on April 18, 1841. John Meredith Read later married Amelia Thompson in 1855.

John Meredith Read died on November 29, 1874. He was remembered as "a gentleman of the old school, of the highest sense of honor, of great dignity of character, and in social intercourse kind, affable and courteous ... despising everything that was low and vile," (Reynolds, page 493).

John Meredith Read Jr (1837-1896), son of John Meredith Read (1797-1874), was born on February 21, 1837. He was educated at military school and graduated from Brown University in 1859 and later from Albany Law School where he studied international and civil law. Although admitted to the Philadelphia Bar, John Meredith Read moved to Albany.

John Meredith Read's military career was explosive in nature. According to Cuyler Reynolds, "while at Brown, he commanded a company of national cadets which afterwards furnished many commissioned officers to the United States Army during the rebellion; at twenty he was appointed aide-de-camp to the governor of Rhode Island, with the rank of colonel; at the age of twenty three, he was appointed adjutant general of New York, with the rank of brigadier general; [and] when Fort Sumter was fired upon, General Read was appointed chairman of a committee of three to draft a bill appropriating three million dollars for the purchase of arms and equipments" (Reynolds, page 494).

Politically, General Read supported Abraham Lincoln in 1860, in part by organizing the "Wide Awake" movement in New York; and later supported General Ulysses S. Grant for the presidency. President Grant appointed General Read consul general of the United States for France and Algeria. During the Franco-Prussian War, General Read acted as consul-general in Germany. In 1873, General Read was appointed to serve as the United States minister to Greece. In addition to serving as a diplomat, General

Read also wrote and published many reports, public addresses, scholarly papers, and *A Historical Inquiry Concerning Henry Hudson*.

General Read married Delphine Marie Pumpelly on April 7, 1859 in Albany. They were the parents of four children: Harmon Pumpelly Read, John Meredith Read, Emily Meredith Read, and Marie Delphine Meredith Read. General Meredith died on December 27, 1896.

Harmon Pumpelly Read, born July 13, 1860 in Albany, was educated at the Albany Boys' Academy, St. John's Military Academy at Sing Sing, and Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. After graduating, Read traveled extensively through Europe. In 1882, he returned to Albany and entered the law office of Edward Wade; however, concerns regarding his health prevented him from practicing law. He then turned towards community and political activities and ran for the Assembly in the Third District (he was defeated), served as president of the Young Men's Association, and was nominated for alderman of the thirteenth ward (he declined). Read was interested in history and genealogy. Read married Marguerite de Carron on August 24, 1889.

Bibliography:

"Noted Living Albanians and State Officials." 1891.

Reynolds, Cuyler. *Hudson-Mohawk Genealogical and Family Memoirs*. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1911

Scope and Contents

This collection contains the papers of four generations of the Read family of Philadelphia, consisting of John Read, Judge John Meredith Read, General John Meredith Read, and Harmon Pumpelly Read. The materials date from 1736 to 1896, with the bulk dating from 1792 to 1896, and include extensive correspondence, bills and receipts, genealogical notes, legal documents, newspaper clippings, photographs, scrapbooks and ephemera. The majority of the collection consists of General John Meredith Read's papers relating to his family history and genealogy, correspondence, and political materials. The collection is particularly valuable in illustrating Philadelphia social life, global and local politics, as well as Civil War experiences, as it includes extensive correspondence describing first-hand accounts of war activities as well as with several key political figures during the Civil War era.

The collection is arranged into nine series: "Family History and Genealogy," "Deeds," "Bills and Receipts," "John Read I," "Judge John M. Read II," "General John Meredith Read, Jr.," "Harmon Pumpelly Read," "James Read account book for Rings End and Point (Part 9)" and "Collected Meredith family papers." Because most series are arranged chronologically, some subjects are represented throughout a series. Researchers are advised to review the entire folder list for each of the series in which that are interested.

The series "Family History and Genealogy" consists of materials presumably collected by General Meredith Read in the 1880s as a result of his research of his family history. Included in the series are eight

volumes of correspondence relating to the genealogy of the Cadwalader, Howell, Ross and Read families, as well as some genealogical notes by General Meredith Read. Also included in the series are autograph materials, mostly single items of correspondence collected by General Meredith Read of famous or significant historical figures, some possibly related to the Read family. Autographs include those of William Penn, George Washington, Robert Morris, and Mrs. Horatio Gates. The series is arranged in loose chronological order.

The series "Deeds" is comprised of thirty-eight deeds, dating from 1403 to 1848. The series is arranged chronologically. Some of the deeds pertain to the history of the Read family; however, many are documents which General Meredith Read purchased while collecting autographs and compiling genealogical research. Included in the deeds is a charter for the manor of Northstede, which is a typical example of 15th century clerk writing.

The series "Bills and Receipts" contain ten folders of bundled bills and receipts related to the Read family that date from 1787 to 1847. The papers include bills for various sundry supplies and services, including clothing, groceries, building materials, and legal fees collected by various Read family members. The bills and receipts were bundled together with ribbon in loose chronological order, presumably by General Meredith Read. The series is arranged in chronological order, mostly maintaining the order originally imposed by General Meredith Read.

The "John Read I" series contains the papers of John Read I (1769-1854) and date from 1773 to his death in 1854. The series is arranged alphabetically by subject, and then loosely arranged in chronological order within each subject. Subjects in this series include: "Bills and Receipts," "Business Papers," "Correspondence," "Court Cases," "Estates," "Land Tracts and Deeds," and the more general "Subject File." The bills and receipts provide good documentation of the Read family expenses, as well as John Read I's legal practice in Philadelphia. His business papers include correspondence with legal clients and associates, various promissory notes, court case notes, legal documents, and notes and documents relating to the Asylum Company, which was a land share company based in Bradford County, Pennsylvania. The correspondence includes both personal and business matters, such as land tracts and land title disputes, and financial and legal assistance to family members. The materials for court cases consist of papers related to legal representation in cases of land disputes, the Bank of Philadelphia, and railroad cases. The estates papers document John Read I's involvement with the settling and executing of many of his family members estates and wills, including those of George Clymer, Samuel Meredith, George Read, Benjamin Gibbs, Elizabeth Meredith, as well as his own estate with his wife Martha Meredith. The papers relating to land tracts and deeds include materials mostly related to land in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania along with a few other properties owned by Read family members or associates of John Read I. The general subject file materials contain personal papers, such as poems and songbooks, materials compiled during his education at Princeton University, literary research notes, as well as materials relating to John Read I's involvement with the United Church of Christ and the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Freemasons. This series provides good documentation of upper class Philadelphia society, family life, law, and politics.

The series "Judge John M. Read II" consists mostly of correspondence and business papers of Judge John M. Read II (1797-1874) relating to his legal practice and his relationship with various family members. The papers date from 1769 to 1882 and are arranged chronologically. Judge Read maintained an extensive correspondence with several business colleagues and family members (especially his son, General Meredith Read) throughout his life; these relationships are well-documented in this series. Besides numerous loose correspondence, there also are two bound volumes of family letters compiled by

Judge Read late in his life. They contain papers on the history of the Read family, the Marshall family, the Eckard family, and the Irish and Scotch ancestors of the Reads. Many of the letters are of John Read I, pasted in no particular order into the albums. There are a large number of Marshall family papers, including letters of John Meredith Read to Priscilla Marshall, before their marriage in March of 1828; some of the papers are of Edward H. Hyde, whom Judge Read's daughter, Emma, married. Pasted in the albums also are the frequent notices of Judge Read that appeared in the newspapers during his life, which provide a very helpful overview of his career. Of particular interest in this series is Judge Read's correspondence with his legal clerk, Charles H. T. Collis, and Collis' wife, Septima Sevy Collis. Collis considered Judge Read a mentor, and wrote exhaustively of local and national politics, legal matters, philosophy, personal struggles, his military career, and his experiences fighting in the Civil War. Collis wrote about the Civil War concerning the battles he fought in or heard about, the problems of officers' and soldiers' pay, promotions, political appointments and influence in the Army, his opinions about the incompetency of generals, the apparent indifference of civilians to the political struggles during the War, as well as the national political campaign. There are over two hundred letters written by Collis to Judge Read in this series. Septima Sevy Collis wrote to Judge Read and his second wife about her marriage to Charles Collis and her experiences being close to battles in the Civil War. Judge Read also communicated heavily with his son, General Meredith Read, who frequently asked for money to fund his lifestyle as a gentleman scholar, as well as other family members, including William H. Hyde, Emma H. Hyde, Edward M. Clymer, Amelia Thomson, Samuel R. Meredith, and John Cadwallader. Judge Read also maintained correspondence with key political figures such as Charles Sumner, Michael Meyfert, Joseph Pugh, Henry A. Muhlenberg, George Plitt, and James Buchanan. His business papers include legal documents, correspondence, ephemera, and newspaper clippings and mostly relate to his activities as a Supreme Court judge, his investment in railroad companies, as well as his involvement in local and national politics, including his attempt to run for the presidency.

The series "General John Meredith Read Jr." consists of eight subseries arranged in alphabetical order by title: "Address books, notebooks, memoranda books," "Archives du General Meredith Read," "Business Papers," "Correspondence," "Genealogy," "Newspaper Clippings and Publications."

The subseries "Address books, notebooks, memoranda books" dates from circa 1879 to circa 1896 and consists of eight notebooks containing notes, addresses, and research written by General Meredith Read (1837-1896) during his time spent living in Paris, France. The subseries is arranged chronologically.

The subseries "Archives du General Meredith Read" consists of seventy-eight bound volumes containing mostly correspondence, memoranda, invitations received for social events, visiting cards, genealogical research and notes, and autograph collection materials compiled by General Meredith Read. The materials date from 1869 to 1906. The volumes are titled and arranged in the order in which General Meredith Read originally organized them. General Meredith Read began collecting and arranging papers relating to his family history and genealogy but never fully completed the task. Considering this, many materials in this subseries probably relate to the series "Family History and Genealogy" as well as the other subseries "Genealogy."

The subseries "Business Papers" consists of thirteen folders of papers compiled by General Meredith Read concerning his various business and legal ventures as well as his financial affairs dating from 1849 to 1889. The subseries is arranged in mostly chronological order. Materials include papers relating to court cases General Read participated in, legal notes, research notes, visiting cards of business associates, and financial ledgers and expense books. Of particular interest is the folder containing materials related

to his involvement in the establishment of Cornell University, including newspaper clippings, the first published general announcement of the University, related correspondence, and the document of the establishment act.

The subseries "Correspondence" primarily documents General Meredith Read's personal and business relationships from circa 1839 to his death in 1896. The subseries also includes some materials in a scrapbook such as newspaper clippings dating up to 1901, most likely added by his son Harmon Pumpelly Read or his wife Delphine Marie Pumpelly. Earlier materials in the subseries document General Meredith Read's correspondence with the Pumpelly family, with his father Judge John M. Read II, and his family living in Providence, Rhode Island, mostly concerning his travels to Europe, his education at Brown University, his interest in politics (including the "Wide Awake" movement), and his brief military career. Many of General Meredith Read's letters to his father contain requests for substantial financial assistance and personal advice. Later materials include letterpress books, scrapbooks and correspondence containing information about his appointments as Consul-General of the United States to France and Algeria and United States Minister to Greece. These latter materials also reflect General Meredith Read's somewhat close and long-term friendship with King George I of Greece; many incoming and outgoing pieces of correspondence between the two men are included here, spanning a time period of roughly eighteen years, between 1878 and 1896. The letters contain discussions of global politics, family life, and advice.

The "Genealogy" subseries contains eight bound volumes and three folders of genealogical research materials and correspondence, dating from 1872 to 1909, compiled by General Meredith Read (and probably later materials added by his son Harmon Pumpelly Read). The subseries is arranged in chronological order. Most of the materials are correspondence written by General Meredith Read to various distant relatives requesting information about the Read and Ross families, as well as about the Cadwalader and Howell families. Also included in the subseries are several portraits and illustrations relating to General Meredith Read's genealogical research, such as possible family homestead sites and notable family ancestors and relatives. The materials in this subseries most likely relates to materials found in the subseries "Archives du General Meredith Read" and the series "Family History and Genealogy."

The "Newspaper Clippings and Publications" subseries contains eight bound scrapbook volumes as well as several folders of newspaper clippings and various political publications in English, Greek, French and Italian that span the dates 1859 to 1894. The materials are arranged chronologically and appear to have been compiled by General Meredith Read while serving at the Paris Consulate and the Greek Ministry. The newspaper clippings document various political stories about Europe and the United States. The clippings complement the latter materials in the subseries "Correspondence" as they contain concurrent information that parallels General Meredith Read's political activities in France and Greece.

The subseries "Palaeographia" consists of five folders of research and notes, dating from 1869 to 1873, compiled by General Meredith Read concerning his analysis and study of handwriting in correspondence he received. The subseries is arranged chronologically.

The "Prints and photographs" subseries contains three bound photograph albums and twenty folders of photographs and prints of photographs primarily compiled by General Meredith Read for genealogical and literary research. The photographs and prints date from 1796 to 1898 but many photographs are undated. The photographs and prints are mostly of people, buildings, and places in England and France with some perceived connection to the Read family or its ancestors and relatives. Also included in

this series is a hand painted cloth folder made by Queen Olga of Greece and given as a gift to General Meredith Read, possibly to use as a protective covering for photographs. The subseries is arranged in chronological order.

The "Subject Files" subseries includes five volumes and twenty-eight folders of materials dating from 1838 to 1895, with some undated materials. The subseries mostly consists of scrapbook materials compiled by General Meredith Read and relating to his social life (including the various clubs and societies to which he belonged, his correspondence, and dinners hosted by him and his wife) as well as personal writings such as autobiographical notes, historical writing, political opinion and journals. Also included are various photographs along with a pencil sketch and a watercolor possibly done by General Meredith Read. Many of the materials in this subseries probably relate to other materials filed under "General John Meredith Read, Jr." The "Subject Files" are arranged in mostly chronological order.

The subseries "Writings and Research by General John Meredith Read II" consists of numerous notes, drafts, and correspondence related to General Meredith Read's various published and unpublished writings. The subseries is divided into two groupings, each arranged chronologically. The first grouping dates from 1865 to 1896 and contains mostly items directly related to or produced by General Meredith Read's writing. The second grouping is an autograph collection of correspondence that dates from 1710 to 1779. Of particular interest are the materials related to his draft of "Life and Lineage of His Royal Highness Prince Albert" and his self-published book A Historical Inquiry Concerning Henry Hudson. The related research notes, drafts, advertisements, pamphlets, shipment forms and correspondence written by General Read to various associates provide illustrative examples of the process of self-publication in the mid- to late- 19th century. Also of note are the research materials gathered by General Meredith Read to aid in his writing of the posthumously published book "Historic Studies in Vaud, Berne, and Savoy from Roman Times to Voltaire, Rousseau and Gibbon." The various notes and correspondence comment on the social history of France in the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries. Also related to his "Historic Studies" are the numerous pieces of correspondence he collected for their autograph value, including several items written and signed by Voltaire, Edward Gibbon, King Frederick II of Prussia, and other 18th century correspondence, mostly written in French.

The series "Harmon Pumpelly Read" consists primarily of scrapbook materials, correspondence and ephemera that relates mostly to General Meredith Read's son Harmon Pumpelly Read. The series dates from 1880 to circa 1908 and is arranged chronologically. Included in the series is a scrapbook of the death of Harmon's father, General Meredith Read, as well as various pieces of ephemera such as playbills and blank postcards. There are a few items of business correspondence and financial materials such as bills, receipts, and accounting ledgers. Of particular interest in the correspondence is Harmon Pumpelly Read's communication with his mother-in-law, Madame de Carron, who was confined to a mental hospital in Hartford against her will, presumably committed by Harmon himself. Madame de Carron wrote several angry letters to Harmon Pumpelly Read to express her outrage about his actions against her and even accused him of corrupting her relationship with her daughter. There also are some letters written in French by Madame de Carron to one or more of her daughters describing her anguish at being committed to the mental hospital as well as a few letters written by Harmon complaining about his mother-in-law's irrational behavior. The correspondence provides researchers with insight into late 18th century mental health, women's health, and family life.

The series "John Meredith Read III: Autobiography and family history" contains one bound volume dating circa 1900. The volume contains a hand-written memoir of the life of John Meredith Read III, who

was Harmon Pumpelly Read's brother and General Meredith Read's other son. The memoir provides supplementary insight into other genealogical research found elsewhere in the collection.

The series "James Read account book for Rings End and Point (part 9)" consists of a single bound financial volume, dating from 1761 to 1765. The account book contains financial records for James Read, who was the brother of George Read, the signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The series "Collected Meredith family papers" is a collection separately acquired and added to the Read Family collection. The series contains mostly correspondence written by Read family members to each other, dating from 1667 to 1892. The series is arranged in chronological order. Items of correspondence are from Samuel Meredith to his wife Peggy Meredith, Martha Read to Peggy Meredith, James Gibson to Peggy Meredith, John Read to Thomas Meredith, Thomas Meredith Maxwell to General Meredith Read and several others. Also included is a copy of a letter written by Thomas Jefferson to Samuel Meredith.

Administrative Information

Library Company of Philadelphia Finding aid prepared by Megan Atkinson and Christiana Dobrzynski Grippe.

Sponsor

The processing of this collection was made possible through generous funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, administered through the Council on Library and Information Resources' "Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives" Project.

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research use, on deposit at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107. For access, please contact the Historical Society at 215-732-6200 or visit http://www.hsp.org.

Use Restrictions

Copyright restrictions may apply. Please contact the Library Company with requests for copying and for authorization to publish, quote or reproduce the material.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Bequest of Marguerite de Carron Read, 1940.

Processing Information note

The processing of this collection was made possible through generous funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, administered through the Council on Library and Information Resources' "Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives" Project.

This collection was *minimally processed* in 2009-2011, as part of an experimental project conducted under the auspices of the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries to help eliminate processing backlog in Philadelphia repositories. A minimally processed collection is one processed at a less intensive rate than traditionally thought necessary to make a collection ready for use by researchers. When citing sources from this collection, researchers are advised to defer to folder titles provided in the finding aid rather than those provided on the physical folder.

Employing processing strategies outlined in Mark Greene's and Dennis Meissner's 2005 article, *More Product, Less Process: Revamping Traditional Processing Approaches to Deal With Late 20th-Century Collections*, the project team tested the limits of minimal processing on collections of all types and ages, in 23 Philadelphia area repositories. A primary goal of the project, the team processed at an average rate of 2-3 hours per linear foot of records, a fraction of the time ordinarily reserved for the arrangement and description of collections. Among other time saving strategies, the project team did not extensively review the content of the collections, replace acidic folders or complete any preservation work.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Dickinson College: John Meredith Read papers, 1818-1870.

Library of Congress: Read family papers, circa 1568-1906.

New York Public Library: Clymer-Meredith-Read family papers, 1675-1902 (bulk 1760s-1850s).

Rosenbach Museum and Library: George Read papers, 1766.

University of Delaware: Read family papers, 1756-1833, MSS #237; Samuel Meredith papers, 1730-1823 (bulk 1764-1823), MSS #240; and Samuel Meredith letters and documents, 1786-1798, MSS #239.

University of Rochester: John Meredith Read papers, circa 1870-1907.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Cornell University.
- Freemasons. Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.
- United Church of Christ.

Family Name(s)

- Meredith
- Read

Form/Genre(s)

- Business records
- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Deeds
- Diaries
- Ephemera
- Estate records
- Family papers
- Financial records
- Genealogical tables
- Legal documents
- Manuscripts
- Photographs
- Poems
- Property records
- Scrapbooks
- Textbooks

Geographic Name(s)

• France

- Greece
- New York (State)
- Philadelphia (Pa.)

Personal Name(s)

- Collis, Charles H.T., (Charles Henry Tucky), 1838-1902
- Collis, Septima M., (Septima Maria), 1842-1917
- Read, Harmon Pumpelly, b. 1860
- Read, John Meredith, 1797-1874
- Read, John Meredith, 1837-1896
- Read, John, 1769-1854

Subject(s)

- Law
- Politics & international relations
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Collection Inventory

Series I. Family History and Genealogy.

		Volume
Cadwalader and Howell families, genealogical correspondence, 1883-1886.		1
Genealogical research scrapbook on Thomas Read by General John Meredith Read,	1885.	2
Genealogical and historical scrapbook about Captain Thomas Read, 1883-1885.		3
Portraits and illustrations relating to genealogical research, circa 1876.		4
The Ross family genealogical research conducted by General John Meredith Read, 1872-1874.		5
Correspondence to General John Meredith Read about family history, 1882-1886.		6
Correspondence from Major Harmon Read to General John Meredith Read regarding and Read families, 1882 August.	g Ross	7
Delaware Society of the Cincinnati scrapbook, 1895-1909.		8
Vo	olume	
Autograph collection: William Penn to Gookin, 1710.	1	1
Autograph collection: Bill of ship Catherine, 1772.	1	2
Autograph collection: Mrs. Horatio Gates to Mr. Meredith, 1778 February 4.	1	3
Autograph collection: George Washington to Samuel Meredith, 1780 September 9, 1790 March 9.	1	4

Autograph collection: Governor Robert Morris to Samuel Meredith, 1789 July 25, 1789 September 13, 1790 May 28.	1	5
Autograph collection: George Washington Commission to Samuel Meredith, 1789 August 4.	1	6
Autograph collection: Timothy Pickering to John Read Jr., 1797 November 17.	1	7
Autograph collection: Commission to John Read I from John Forsyth, 1798.	1	8
Autograph collection: Mrs. Meredith to General Meredith about General Washington, undated.	1	9
Genealogical notes: George Ross of Pitcalnie manuscript notes, undated.	1	10
Genealogical notes: Descent of the Read family from the Ancient Earls of Ross, undated.	1	11-12
Genealogical notes: Read and Pumpelly family genealogical notes and research, undated.	1	13-14
Series II. Deeds.		Box 2
	Box	-
Thomas Overton to Northstede Manor, 1403.	2	1
Regarding Andrewe Reade and land in Berks County, 1577.	2	2
William Ifenwick to Phillipp Gibbon, 1609.	2	3
Suffolk One-Honse Manor to Family of Reade, 1624.	2	4

Unidentified (in French), 1650.	2	5
Comelius Vermigden to Mary Reade, 1684.	2	6
Catherine Dowager to Thomas Meredith, 1732.	2	7
Christian Hartell to Petrus Emundus Elmendorph, 1752.	2	8
St. Ann's Church in Blackfryers, 1757.	2	9
Helena Van Keuren to William Elingedorf, 1768.	2	10
Paul Zantzinger to Sebastian Graff, 1773.	2	11
Jacob Cooper to Henry Casdorp, 1776.	2	12
William Ball to Henry Hill, 1776.	2	13
Charles Ruston to Charles Young, 1776.	2	14
Joanna Young to John Waldrick, 1782.	3	1
Joanna Young to Charles Tice, 1783.	3	2
Joanna Young to John Sproson, 1784.	3	3
Joanna Young to John Sproson, 1784.	3	4
John Sproson to David Dreaclery Benonery, 1784.	3	5
John Sproson to John Edling, 1784.	3	6
John Sproson to John Edling, 1785.	3	7
John Edling to Joanna Young, 1788.	3	8

James Ash to John Cummings, 1788.	3	9
Joshua Fisher to Sarah Fisher, 1789.	3	10
Catharine Cropper to Thomas Ruston, 1793.	3	11
Nathaniel Browning to Thomas Bryan, 1794.	3	12
Thomas Morris to Charles Wilkes, 1802.	3	13
Correspondence Regarding Elizabeth Bleecker Religious Conviction, 1811.	3	14
Cadwalader Evans, Jr. to William Lee, 1813.	3	15
Jacob Fitler to Adolph Ehringhaus, 1813.	3	16
Robert F. Smith to John Cochran, 1814.	3	17
Adolph Ehringhaus and wife to Charles W. Hulz, 1814.	3	18
Jacob Cist, Luzerne County Treasurer to Henry Clymer, circa 1816.	3	19
George M. Hollenback to Thomas Meredith, 1820.	4	1
Jacob S. Cunitz to Thomas G. Leaffer, 1829.	4	2
Sharp D. Lewis to Thomas Meredith, 1830.	4	3
Samuel Davis to James Clark, 1848.	4	4
Unidentified (in French), undated.	4	5

Series III.	Bills and	Receipts,	1787-1798.
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	Box	Folder
1787-1798.	4	6
1792-1794.	4	7
1796-1802.	4	8
1800-1805.	5	1
1821-1824.	5	2
1825-1828.	5	3
1829, 1831, 1832, 1834.	5	4
1835-1838.	6	1
1839-1842.	6	2
1843-1847.	6	3

Series IV. John Read I.

	Box	Folder
Bills and Receipts: John Read Jr. receipt numbers 233-284, 1796 January 6-1796 December 6.	7	1
Bills and Receipts: List of fees, 1797-1807.	7	2

		Box
Bills and Receipts: Professional receipt book, 1800-1818.		78
	Box	Folder
Bills and Receipts: John Read Jr. expense book, 1806-1809.	7	3
Bills and Receipts: John Read Jr. expense book, 1812-1814.	7	4
Bills and Receipts: Family expense book, 1813-1814.	7	5
Bills and Receipts, 1814.	7	6
Bills and Receipts, 1814-1815.	7	7
Bills and Receipts: Harrisburg Bank with John M. Read, 1816-1821.	7	8
Bills and Receipts: Receipt book, 1817.	7	9
Bills and Receipts: Invoices, 1818-1834.	7	10
Bills and Receipts: John Read Jr. expense book, 1819-1820.	7	11
Bills and Receipts: John Read Jr., 1822-1827.	7	12
Bills and Receipts: Invoices for work done, materials used, 1827-1854.	7	12
Bills and Receipts: Isaac Kite expense book, 1828.	8	1
Bills and Receipts, 1829-1830.	8	2
Bills and Receipts, 1832-1833.	8	3
Bills and Receipts, 1833, 1834, 1848, 1850.	8	4

Bills and Receipts: An account of John read's family and other expenses, 1835-1848.	8	5
Bills and Receipts, 1849.	8	6
Bills and Receipts: The Trenton Banking Company with John Read, 1851-1854.	8	7
Bills and Receipts: Accounts of monies from income and stocks purchased, 1852-1854.	8	8
Bills and Receipts: Index to professional receipts, undated.	8	9
Business Papers: Correspondence, legal notes, memorandum, account information, freight information, 1761-1779.	9	1
Business Papers: Correspondence, summons, land tract information, estate papers, 1780-1789.	9	2
Business Papers: Correspondence and business papers (mostly involving Benjamin Gibbs), 1790-1798.	9	3
Business Papers: Tuscarora lands, Bradford County, PA, deeds, 1793, 1813.	9	4
Business Papers: Promissory notes, 1795.	9	5
Business Papers: Correspondence, shopping lists, receipts, 1795-1809.	9	6
		Box
Business Papers: Tax book exhibiting what taxes have been paid on each particul tract for the year 1796, 1796.	ar land	79
	Box	Folder
Business Papers: Correspondence and legal notes, 1796-1824.	9	7

Business Papers: Articles of agreement, indentures, 1798, 1809, 1818.	9	8
Business Papers: Estate of Thaddeus Goodyear; Tuscarora land, Bradford County, PA information, 1798-1834.	9	9
Business Papers: Correspondence, indentures, receipts, 1798-1814.	9	10
Business Papers: Land tract information, legal papers, correspondence, 1798-1799.	9	11
Business Papers: Accounts and correspondence, 1800.	10	1
Business Papers: Legal documents and correspondence regarding Nicholas Le Favre, 1800-1815.	10	2
Business Papers: Court case notes, indentures, promissory notes, 1800-1849.	10	3
Business Papers: Legal documents concerning the ship <i>Cordelia</i> , [packet] <i>Pennsylvania</i> , ship <i>Three Sisters</i> , and others, 1801-1821.	10	4
Business Papers: Correspondence, legal notes, memorandum, account information, freight information, 1801.	10	5
Business Papers: Correspondence, indentures, promissory notes, receipts, Estate of Robert Wiley, 1802.	10	6
Business Papers: Promissory notes, house-building contracts, debt, lawsuits, 1802-1807.	10	7
Business Papers: Papers and correspondence with Robert Clark regarding home on Baskin Island, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, 1802-1803.	10	8
Business Papers: Promissory notes and legal correspondence, 1802-1827.	10	9

Business Papers: John Read's Philadelphia Bank account book, 1803.	10	10
Business Papers: Correspondence, deeds, indentures, promissory notes,	11	1
warrant, 1803.		
Business Papers: Financial and legal notes, 1803-1812.	11	2
Business Papers: Correspondence, deeds for Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, indentures, 1804.	11	3
Business Papers: Saint Michael's Church financial lists; family correspondence, promissory notes, 1804-1830.	11	4
Business Papers: Newspaper clippings, papers relating to David Rittenhouse Water, correspondence with Joseph Webb, 1804-1835.	11	5
Business Papers: Correspondence, financial papers, covenant, land tracts, receipts, 1805.	11	6
Business Papers: Correspondence and notes regarding Nicholas Le Favre, 1805-1815.	11	7
Business Papers: Correspondence, deeds, indentures, 1806.	11	8
Business Papers: Correspondences, court cases, financial papers, insurance policy, 1807.	11	9
Business Papers: Promissory notes, court summons, trade contracts, 1807.	12	1
Business Papers: Correspondence, deeds, indentures, elections, receipts, 1807-1839.	12	2
Business Papers: Correspondence, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania land tract information, court cases, papers regarding Wayne County, 1808.	12	3

Business Papers: Correspondence, deed information, land tract information, notes, 1809.	12	4
Business Papers: Notes to self by John Read Jr., 1808-1810.	12	5
Business Papers: Indentures and promissory notes, 1809-1813.	12	6
Business Papers: Asylum Company legal documents, court case notes, court summons, 1809-1815.	12	7
Business Papers: Asylum Company legal disputes, 1809-1822.	12	8
Business Papers: John Read, Secretary of the Asylum Company, with the Bank of the United States account book, 1810.	12	9
Business Papers: Correspondence, indenture, petition, Samuel Dickinson's will draft, 1810.	12	10
Business Papers: Legal papers, correspondence, account information, 1810-1842.	12	11
Business Papers: Correspondence, judgment bond, financial information, 1811.	13	1
Business Papers: Papers regarding Peter Gaskell and land dispute, 1811.	13	2
Business Papers: Legal notes regarding Thomas Meredith, promissory notes, 1811-1834.	13	3
Business Papers: Legal documents concerning Union Canal Company, 1811-1830.	13	4
		Box
Business papers: Legal history notebook, circa 1812.		80

	Box	Folder
Business Papers: Correspondence and financial papers, 1812.	13	5
Business Papers: Legal notes, 1812-1818.	13	6
Business Papers: Correspondence, financial papers, promissory notes, 1813 January-June.	13	7
Business Papers: Correspondence, financial papers, warrant of attorney, 1813 July-December.	13	8
Business Papers: Bank of Trenton check stubs written by Samuel Meredith, 1813-1834.	13	9
Business Papers: Indentures, legal client correspondence, promissory notes, 1813-1830.	13	10
Business Papers: Notes and correspondence relating to Thomas Kennedy, 1813-1821.	13	11
Business Papers: Court notes, correspondence, correspondence with J. Meredith, 1814 January-June.	14	1
Business Papers: Court notes, financial papers, Lee's notes of Kennedy's evidence, 1814 May-December.	14	2
Business Papers: Correspondence and account information, 1814-1818.	14	3
Business Papers: Bonds, letters of administration, mortgages, warrants, circa 1814.	14	4
Business Papers: Correspondence, court notes, financial papers, indentures, 1815 January-August.	14	5

Business Papers: Correspondence, financial papers, indentures, 1815 September-December.	14	6
Business Papers: Ledger, receipts, check stubs, 1815-1826.	14	7
Business Papers: Correspondence, receipts, legal notes, and papers about Rebecca Dickinson's death with correspondence with Philip Dickinson, 1815-1832.	14	8
Business Papers: John Read's book of notes on estates and businesses, 1816.	15	1
Business Papers: Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, land tract information, correspondence, 1816.	15	2
Business Papers: Correspondence, indentures, land tract papers, legal notes, 1816-1819.	15	3
Business Papers: Correspondence, financial information, indentures, 1817.	15	4
Business Papers: Account book for Philadelphia Bank, 1819.	15	5
Business Papers: Correspondence, court cases, indentures, loan agreements, 1818 January-June.	15	6
Business Papers: Correspondence, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania land tract information, financial information, 1818 July-December.	15	7
Business Papers: Indentures and papers regarding Philadelphia Mayor Alderman, 1818-1823.	16	1
Business Papers: Correspondence, insurance policies, court summons, 1819.	16	2
		Box
Business Papers: Thomas Meredith memorandum book, 1819.		81

	Box	Folder
Business Papers: Court summons for Philadelphia Bank to Debtors, 1819-1824.	16	3
Business Papers: Sherriff's sales, 1819-1824.	16	4
Business Papers: Legal notes, receipts, election information, 1819-1832.	16	5
Business Papers: Correspondence, court case notes and papers, indentures, 1820.	16	6
Business Papers: Court summons for Philadelphia Bank loans, 1820-1828.	16	7
Business Papers: Legal notes regarding David Ross and M. Cadwalader, 1820-1828.	16	8
Business Papers: Papers regarding Episcopal Fund, 1820-1837.	17	1
Business Papers: Correspondence, court case papers, financial information, 1821.	17	2
Business Papers: Correspondence, financial papers, indentures, 1822.	17	3
Business Papers: Expense book for John Read, Treasurer of the State Convention, 1822.	17	4
Business Papers: Account book for Philadelphia Bank (number 2), 1822.	17	5
Business Papers: Farmers and Mechanics Bank check stubs and promissory notes written by John Meredith Read, 1822-1827.	17	6
Business Papers: Farmers and Mechanics Bank check stubs and promissory notes written by John Meredith Read, 1822-1827.	17	7

Business Papers: Correspondence, receipts, account information, 1822-1829.	17	8
Business Papers: Correspondence, legal notes, 1823.	17	9
Business Papers: Accounts, land tract papers, mortgages, legal notes, correspondence, 1823-1839.	18	1
Business Papers: Correspondence, Luzerne County land tract information, 1824.	18	2
Business Papers: Correspondence, legal notes, 1825.	18	3
Business Papers: Correspondence, indentures, legal notes, 1826.	18	4
Business Papers: Correspondence, account information, receipts, 1826-1828.	18	5
Business Papers: Correspondence and notes related to family, legal, academic, and financial matters, circa 1826.	18	6
Business Papers: Correspondence and notes related to family, legal, academic, and financial matters, circa 1826.	18	7
Business Papers: Correspondence, legal notes, court case papers, 1827.	19	1
Business Papers: Correspondence, financial papers, legal notes and papers, mortgages, 1828.	19	2
Business Papers: Correspondence, financial papers, 1829.	19	3
Business Papers: Account book with Philadelphia Bank (number 4), 1829.	19	4
Business Papers: Promissory notes, Luzerne County land tract information, correspondence, 1830.	19	5

Business Papers: Promissory notes, land tract papers, 1831.	19	6
Business Papers: Court summons, promissory notes, legal correspondence, 1832-1833.	19	7
Business Papers: Legal notes and correspondence relating to clients Samuel Davis and Gilbert Smith Walker, circa 1832.	19	8
Business Papers: Checks, 1834.	19	9
Business Papers: Promissory notes and business correspondence, 1834.	20	1
Business Papers: Legal correspondence, court notes, court summons, promissory notes, 1835-1837.	20	2
Business Papers: Legal correspondence, court notes, promissory notes, 1838-1842.	20	3
		Box
Business Papers: [John Read?] Account book with Trenton Bank, 1839.		82
	Box	Folder
Business Papers: Correspondence, deeds, notes, 1842-1846.	20	4
Business Papers: Account information, legal papers, correspondence, 1843-1850.	20	5
Business Papers: Legal correspondence, promissory notes, 1846-1849.	20	6
		Box
Business Papers: Account of Family Expenses book, 1848.		83

	Box	Folder
Correspondence: Family members including George Read, Thomas Meredith, Emily M. Hyde, Thomas Read, Thomas Meredith, 1785-1852.	20	7
Correspondence: Regarding land tract documents, legal information, 1794-1797.	20	8
Correspondence to Samuel Meredith, Treasurer of the United States, circa 1801.	20	9
Correspondence and documents regarding home on Baskin Island, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, 1802-1806.	20	10
Correspondence, 1802-1808, 1844-1845.	21	1
Correspondence with George Read, 1803-1804.	21	2
Correspondence: T. Watkins to George Simpson, 1804.	21	3
Correspondence from Simpsons and Watkins relatives requesting financial assistance, promissory notes, 1804-1835.	21	4
Correspondence, 1805-1860.	21	5
Correspondence, 1808-1819.	21	6
Correspondence from George Read and various legal clients, 1809-1810.	21	7
Correspondence: Mostly regarding Samuel Barr and William Duncan, 1811-1812.	22	1
Correspondence to John Read Jr. concerning business matters, 1815-1829.	22	2
Correspondence, 1817, 1820, 1823.	22	3

Correspondence with family members including John Meredith Read to	22	4
father John Read Jr., 1817-1854.	22	·
Correspondence from Levi Hollingsworth, 1818, 1825.	22	5
Correspondence: Legal, financial, and family issues with related papers, circa 1826.	22	6
Correspondence with John M. Read and William Dickinson mostly regarding investments and stock, 1839-1843.	22	7
Correspondence concerning Lycoming lands, 1841 March 10-1842 January 26.	23	1
Correspondence concerning legal matters, W. B. Clymer, Susquehanna County land title disputes, 1843-1845.	23	2
Correspondence with John M. Read and C.W. Caldwell regarding stock and investments, 1848.	23	3
Correspondence with John M. Read and C.W. Caldwell regarding stock and investments, 1849.	23	4
Correspondence from C. W. Caldwell and others to John Meredith Jr., 1850.	23	5
		Box
Correspondence, business book, 1850-1853.		84
	Box	Folder
Correspondence about business and the Episcopal Fund, 1851-1853.	23	6
Correspondence from C.W. Caldwell, Michael Meyfert, and others concerning financial and legal issues, 1851-1853.	23	7

Court Cases: Land dispute, 1813-1815.	24	1
Court Cases: Nicholson J. Wallis regarding Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, land dispute, 1816-1829.	24	2
Court Cases: Trustee for Kennedy, George W., 1820-1827.	24	3
Court Cases: Philadelphia Bank, 1820-1842.	24	4
Court Cases: Gilbert Smith Walker and Samuel Davis, 1823-1834.	24	5
Court Cases: Read versus Ross, 1826-1829.	24	6
Court Cases: Williams versus Watkinson, 1829-1833.	24	7
Court Cases: Solomon Allen and Moses Allen versus James M. Gould, 1830-1833.	24	8
Court Cases: Nathan Bunker versus city of Philadelphia concerning damages incurred from widening of Locust Street between Washington Street and 8th Street, 1833.	25	1
Court Cases: Railroad cases, 1836-1839.	25	2
Court Cases: Cochran versus Woodward, 1839.	25	3
Court Cases: Edward B. Grubb versus Henry Bayard, court notes involving mining in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, 1850.	25	4
Estate of Samuel Meredith, 1772-1796, 1816.	25	5
Estate Benjamin Gibbs, 1784-1820.	25	6
Estate of George Read, 1786-1790.	25	7

Estate of George Read, promissory notes, 1789-1815.	25	8
Estate of Samuel Meredith, check stubs, 1790-1792, 1814.	25	9
Estate of John Morris regarding law library, circa 1798.	25	10
Estate of William Read with accounts with John Read Jr., 1798-1805.	25	11
Estate of Dr. Nathan Dorsey, 1798-1812.	25	12
Estates of William Read, George Read, James Read, 1800-1806.	26	1
Estates of Samuel Meredith, memoranda of monies received on account of Samuel Meredith, 1802, 1807.	26	2
Estate of Benjamin Gibbs, related correspondence, promissory notes, 1802-1819.	26	3
Estate of George Clymer, 1802-1822.	26	4
Estate of Elizabeth Meredith, 1807-1821.	26	5
Estate of Samuel Meredith, 1807-1828, 1853.	26	6
Estate of Thomas Bryan, 1807-1836.	26	7
Estate of John Read and Martha Meredith, George Read, Pennsylvania land purchase agreements, 1807-1839.	26	8
Estate of John Read of Newcastle County, Delaware with papers from and about William Read, George Read, and James Read, 1808-1813.	26	9
Estate of Esther Waters, account books, 1809-1832.	27	1

Estate of John Read and Martha Meredith, promissory notes, account vouchers, 1810-1823.	27	2
Estate of Rebecca Dickinson, account with Samuel Dickinson, executor of Rebecca Dickinson's estate, 1811-1827.	27	3
Estate of Samuel Meredith, legal papers, 1813.	27	4
Estate of Esther Waters, 1817, 1833-1835.	27	5
Estate of Samuel Meredith, John Read's account with the trustees of Samuel Meredith, 1817-1833.	27	6
Estate of Benjamin Gibbs, 1818-1820.	27	7
Estate of Samuel Meredith regarding Robert Gilmore and Sons, 1818-1820.	27	8
Estate of Samuel Meredith, receipts and payments, 1819-1824.	27	9
Estate of Samuel Meredith in account with John Read, 1819-1825.	27	10
Estate of Benjamin Gibbs, related materials and correspondence, 1819-1831.	27	11
Estate of George W. Kennedy, John Read Trustee for George W. Kennedy with Philadelphia Bank, 1820.	27	12
Estate of Rebecca Dickinson, 1820-1823.	27	13
Estate of Mary R. Eckard, 1823-1824.	28	1
Estate of Elizabeth Garrett, 1825.	28	2
Estate of Samuel Meredith, 1826-1830.	28	3

Estate of Esther Waters, 1833-1835.	28	4
Estate of Esther Waters, 1834.	28	5
Estate of Samuel Meredith, 1834-1841.	28	6
Estate of Peter Ozeas regarding Margaret Lucretia Nathans, 1835.	28	7
Estate of Samuel Meredith, maps and land tracts in Abingdon, undated.	28	8
Estate of Samuel Meredith, land tract information, undated.	28	9
Land tracts and deeds, legal correspondence, 1773-1797.	29	1
Land tracts and deeds, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, 1784-1792.	29	2
Land tracts and deeds, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, financial accounts list, 1784-1795.	29	3
Land tracts and deeds, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, 1793.	29	4
Land tracts and deeds, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, promissory notes, 1799-1804.	29	5
Land tracts and deeds, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, 1804-1824.	29	6
Land tracts and deeds, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, 1809-1815.	29	7
Land tracts and deeds, deed for William Duane and wife to Franklin Bache and others, 1820.	29	8
Land tracts and deeds, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, 1820-1825.	30	1

Land tracts and deeds, Northern Liberties properties, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1830-1837.	30	2
Land tracts and deeds, surveys, bills, and receipts, circa 1849.	30	3
Subject File: Personal papers, General John Meredith Read, songbook, poems, wills, 1786-1854.	30	4
Subject File: Princeton papers, philosophy, 1785 December.	30	5
Subject File: Princeton papers, philosophy and other subjects, circa 1787.	30	6
Subject File: Princeton papers, an abstract of Powell's <i>Treatise on Devises</i> , with an abridgement of the law, regulating the estates of interstates in Pennsylvania, circa 1787.	30	7
Subject File: Research notes on a variety of academic subjects, circa 1787.	30	8
Subject File: Princeton papers, "Division of Simple Division" notebook, 1788.	30	9
Subject file: "Lands Claimed by Pennsylvania Owners", undated.	30	10
Subject File: List of claims presented to the Board of Common [Pleas] under the Sixth Article of the Treaty Amity [Plea] with Great Britain, 1798.	31	1
Subject File: William Read's China Voyage, 1804-1806.	31	2
Subject File: United Churches of Christ, account book by John Read, Church Warden, 1820-1826.	31	3
Subject File: United Churches of Christ, account information, correspondence, newsletters, 1820-1853.	31	4

Subject File: Commonplace book, 1822.	31	5
Subject File: United Church of Christ account book by John Read, Treasurer, 1825-1827.	31	6
Subject File: Marriage certificate of Judge John M. Read, 1828.	31	7
Subject File: Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Freemasons, 1832-1833.	31	8
Subject File: Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Freemasons, 1833-1835.	31	9

Series V. Judge John M. Read II.

		Volume
[Judge John M. Read Jr.'s?] personal commonplace book with newspaper clipp 1769-1854.	pings,	85
	Volume	
Business papers, legal notes, and documents (mostly George Clymer, Samuel Meredith, and Isaiah Jones), 1790s-1820s.	32	1
Business papers and correspondence, 1791-1866.	32	2
Business papers and correspondence, 1792-1869.	32	3
[Diary of S. Gretlet [?] (transcription)], 1796-1797.	32	4
Correspondence, 1800-1809.	32	5
Correspondence, 1810s.	32	6
Business papers and legal documents, 1816-1857.	32	7

Papers associated with Judge John Meredith's death, 1818-1880.	32	8
Correspondence, 1820-1829.	32	9
Papers associated with Judge John Meredith's death, 1820-1975.	33	1
Papers associated with Judge John Meredith's death, 1820-1975.	33	2
Papers associated with Judge John Meredith's death, 1820-1975.	33	3
Papers associated with Judge John Meredith's death, 1820-1975.	33	4
Business papers, correspondence, newspaper clippings, 1820s.	33	5
Correspondence with Henry Clymer, George Clymer, and others, 1822-1825.	33	6
		Volume
Business papers, receipt book, 1824-1837.		86
	Volume	
Correspondence with William Davis and George Will, 1824-1825.	33	7
Correspondence from George Will and others, 1826.	33	8
Correspondence, check stubs, and promissory notes, 1827.	33	9
Business papers, George McClellan vs. Francis Beattie, 1827-1829.	34	1
		Volume
Read book, volume II: Old family letters collected by John Meredith Read, 182	27-1851.	87
	Volume	
Correspondence, promissory notes, check stubs, 1828.	34	2

Correspondence from Francis Engel and others, 1828-1829.	34	3
Business papers, legal notes (Windmill Island and Phoenix Iron Works), 1830s.	34	4
Correspondence and legal notes, 1830.	34	5
Correspondence, 1830-1835.	34	6
Correspondence, 1830-1839.	34	7
Correspondence and legal notes, 1831.	34	8
Business papers, legal notes concerning court cases relating to George Read, property damages filed against Philadelphia, and others, 1832.	34	9
Business papers, letter of attorney from Lazar Agabeg to Richard Willing and S. J. Sarkies, 1832.	34	10
		Volume
Land information compiled by John Meredith Read and "A Short History of the or Pompilly," written by John Meredith Read Jr., 1832, undated.	Pumpelly	88
	Volume	
Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Freemasons, correspondence, undated, 1832, 1833.	34	11
		Volume
Read book, volume II: Old family letters collected by John Meredith Read, 1833	3-1881.	89
	Volume	
Business papers, legal papers, estate of William McCall, Haines vs. Thomson, 1833.	35	1

Business papers, bill and receipts, 1834.	35	2
Business papers, correspondence, financial papers, 1834.	35	3
Resolution that a Bank of the United States is Unconstitutional, 1834.	35	4
Business papers, correspondence, memoranda, 1835.	35	5
Correspondence from Henry Muhlenberg, Van Buren, and Levi Woodbury, 1835-1837.	35	6
Business papers, correspondence, legal notes, 1835-1839.	35	7
Business papers, correspondence, and financial papers, 1836.	35	8
Business papers, correspondence, 1836.	35	9
Writings by young Emily Read and related correspondence from Priscilla Read and others, 1836-1841.	35	10
Correspondence and business papers, 1836-1886.	35	11
Appointment to Attorney for Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 1837.	81	4
Correspondence from H.D. Gilpin, 1837.	35	12
Correspondence from James Buchanan, 1837.	35	13
		Volume
Business papers, account book, circa 1838.		90
	Volume	
Business papers, correspondence, financial papers, 1838.	36	1

Business papers regarding estates and land, 1838-1839.	36	2
Business papers, Conynghan versus The Wilson and Company, Conyngham vs. Shaw, 1838.	36	3
Correspondence from H. D. Gilpin, James Buchanan, and Fr[ancis] P[ierce], 1838-1839.	36	4
Correspondence from family, 1838.	36	5
Business papers, correspondence (Charles Noble and Kensington Property), 1838-1844.	36	6
Business papers and correspondence, 1839.	36	7
Correspondence from family, 1839.	36	8
Business papers, correspondence, legal notes and papers, 1839-1840.	36	9
Business papers, correspondence, legal notes and papers, 1839-1840.	36	10
Correspondence from family, 1839-1840.	36	11
		Volume
Business papers, collector's receipt book, 1839-1841.		91
	Volume	
Correspondence, 1840-1844.	36	12
Business papers, correspondence, newspaper clippings, 1840-1845.	36	13
Correspondence from family, 1840.	36	14

		Volume
Business papers, cash disbursements and receipt book, 1840-1841.		92
	Volume	
Business papers, legal notes and papers, summons, 1841.	36	15
Sarah Biddle Cabeen, papers and correspondence related to Library of Congress cataloging of her book "The Sister", 1841-1908.	36	16
Autobiography of Judge John M. Read, circa 1842.	37	1
Autobiography of Judge John M. Read, circa 1842.	37	2
Mortgage of Elisha Wilkinson to Doylestown Insurance Company of Bucks County, 1842.	37	3
Business papers, correspondence, newspaper clippings, 1842.	37	4
"The Supreme Court of the United States", circa 1842.	37	5
Correspondence from family (mostly from Emily Read), 1842-1843.	37	6
Business papers, correspondence, legal papers, and notes, 1843.	37	7
Business papers, estate of Harriet McCall, estate of Pierre Antoine Blenon, 1843.	37	8
Business papers, correspondence, legal papers, and notes, 1843.	37	9
Correspondence from James Buchanan, Henry A. Muhlenberg, and H. D. Gilpin, 1844.	37	10
Correspondence, 1844.	37	11

Correspondence, legal notes, newspaper clippings, 1844.	37	12
Business papers and correspondence, 1845-1849.	37	13
Correspondence, 1845-1849.	37	14
Bank books and check books, 1842, 1855-1868, 1873.	38	1-8
Correspondence from Joseph Pugh, Henry A. Muhlenberg, James Buchanan, and others, 1845.	39	1
Correspondence from Joseph Pugh, Henry A. Muhlenberg, John Cadwalader, George Plitt, and others, 1845.	39	2
Correspondence from Charles W. Caldwell, Joseph Pugh, George Meyfert, and Henry A. Muhlenberg, 1845.	39	3
Correspondence from family, 1846.	39	4
Correspondence regarding John M. Read's appointment to the Supreme Court, 1846.	39	5
Business papers, correspondence, estate papers, newspaper clippings, deeds, 1846.	39	6
Business papers, estate of Elisha Wilkinson, 1846-1847.	40	1
Correspondence, business, 1846-1847.	40	2
Business papers, letterpress book, 1846-1852.	40	3
Business papers, 1846-1875.	40	4
Correspondence, business papers, 1846-1886.	40	5

Documents relating to improvements of house and store on Chestnut Street, 1847.	41	1
Business papers, correspondence, estates, financial papers, 1847.	41	2
Correspondence from family, 1847.	41	3
Correspondence from John Meredith Read Jr., John Meredith Read, and others, 1848.	41	4
Business papers, master's notes of testimony: court of common pleas in equity, Charles Baeder, et al. vs. Tobias Bechler, 1848.	41	5
Correspondence from Samuel Davis, Mary McCall, and others, 1849.	41	6
Correspondence from Joseph Pugh, John Dickinson, Mary McCall, and others, 1850.	41	7
Correspondence from James Buchanan, 1851.	42	1
Business papers, Brief of the Counsel for the Appellee in the Supreme Court case for John Aspden vs. Matthias Aspden, 1851.	42	2
Correspondence from Michael Meyfert, Mary McCall and others, legal documents, newspaper clippings, report of sheriff's auction, 1851.	42	3
Correspondence from John Meredith Read Jr., Mary McCall, John Meredith Read, Michael Meyfert, William McCall, Samuel R. Meredith, and William Hyde, 1852.	42	4
Business papers, correspondence, newspaper clippings, 1853.	42	5
Business papers, William Weightman vs. Lewis P. Gebhard, 1853.	42	6

Correspondence from family (mostly William Hyde, John M. Read Jr.), 1853-1854.	42	7
Correspondence from family (mostly William Hyde, John M. Read Jr.), 1853-1854.	42	8
Business papers: Letterpress book, 1853.	43	1
Correspondence, business, 1854.	44	1
Correspondence from family (mostly John M. Read Jr. and William Hyde), 1854.	44	2
Correspondence from family, 1854.	44	3
Correspondence, business (mostly R. C. Grier and J. R. Thomson), 1854.	44	4
Business papers, correspondence (C. W. Housekeeper, J. R. Thomson, Magniac vs. Thomson), 1854.	44	5
Correspondence, business, 1854.	44	6
Correspondence, business, 1854.	44	7
Business papers, correspondence, estate papers, 1854.	44	8
Business papers, correspondence, estate papers (Samuel Davis, Robert Simpson, Michael Meyland), 1854.	44	9
Subject File: Act regarding Pennsylvania Railroad, 1854.	45	1
Business papers, estate of Harriet McCall, 1854.	45	2
Business papers, estate of Abraham Kernzie, 1854.	45	3

Correspondence from Samuel Davis, Charlotte Holbrooke, William H. Hyde, William Silver, John Meredith Read Jr. and others, 1855.	45	4
Business papers, letterpresses, 1855.	45	5
Correspondence, 1855-1866.	45	6 Volume
Business papers, account book, 1855 January 23-1857 November 1.		93
	Volume	
Correspondence from William H. Hyde, Marshall Woods, Charlotte M. Bridge, Charlotte M. Hollbrooke, Mary McCall, William McCall, John Meredith Read Jr. and others, 1856.	45	7
Correspondence from Victor Guillou, legal notes, promissory notes, 1857.	45	8
Correspondence, business (Thaddeus Stevens and others regarding nomination), 1858.	46	1
Business papers, correspondence, legal notes, 1858.	46	2
Business papers, correspondence, legal notes, 1858.	46	3
Business papers, legal documents, 1858.	46	4
Correspondence from family, 1858.	46	5
Business papers, bills and receipts, 1858.	46	6
Business papers, bills and receipts, 1858.	46	7
Correspondence from John Meredith Jr., William H. Hyde, David Wilmot, Joseph A. Clay, Henry Wilson, and William Read, 1859.	46	8

Correspondence and other papers from Mary McCall, H. D. Maxwell, John H. Diehl, William H. Hyde, and others, 1859.	46	9
Business papers, correspondence, 1860-1865.	47	1
Correspondence to John M. Read Jr., 1860.	47	2
Business papers, correspondence, newspaper clippings, 1860.	47	3
Business papers, correspondence, bills and receipts, 1860.	47	4
Business papers, correspondence, memoranda, ephemera, 1860.	47	5
Business papers, correspondence, ephemera, newspaper clippings, legal documents, 1860.	47	6
Correspondence from family, 1860.	47	7
Correspondence from John M. Read Jr., 1860.	47	8
Correspondence from Senator Henry Wilson, 1860.	47	9
Correspondence from Charles H. T. Collis, 1860.	48	1
Correspondence from family, 1860.	48	2
Correspondence, legal and business, 1861.	48	3
Correspondence, legal and business, 1861.	48	4
Correspondence from George Harding, William H. Hyde, Emma H. Hyde, A. H. Thomson, and other family members, 1861.	48	5

Correspondence from Hannibal Hamlin, Henry Wilson, Salmon P. Chase, George Curtis, and others, 1861.	48	6
Correspondence from Charles H. T. Collis, Septima Sevy Collis, and Amelia Thompson, 1861.	48	7
Correspondence from John Meredith Jr. and Delphine Marie Pumpelly, 1861.	48	8
Correspondence from Edwin M. Stanton, Gideon Welles, Charles Sumner and others, 1862.	49	1
Correspondence from Charles H. T. Collis and Septima Sevy Collis, 1862.	49	2
Correspondence from John Meredith Read Jr., 1862.	49	3
Business papers, ephemera, newspaper clippings, 1862.	49	4
Correspondence from family, 1862.	49	5
Correspondence from Edward Gratz, J. C. Booth, and George Clymer, 1862.	49	6
Correspondence from family, 1862.	49	7
Business papers, correspondence, ephemera, memoranda, 1862.	49	8
Subject File: John Brown's will and souvenirs, 1862.	49	9
Correspondence, business, 1863.	49	10
Correspondence from John Meredith Read Jr., 1863.	50	1
Correspondence, business, 1863.	50	2

Business papers, correspondence, court cases, 1863.	50	3
Business papers, correspondence, pamphlets, copy of sketch of Fort Sumter, 1863.	50	4
Correspondence from family including Emma H. Hyde, William H. Hyde, and P. J. Horowitz, 1863.	50	5
Correspondence from Charles H. J. Collis and Septima Sevy Collis, 1863.	50	6
Business papers, The United States vs. Colonel Charles H. T. Collis, 1863.	50	7
Correspondence from Charles Sumner, 1864.	51	1
Correspondence from Michael Meyfert, Harry Conrad, Willard Hall, Charles Caldwell, Stephen Holbrook, and others, 1864.	51	2
Correspondence from Michael Meyfert, Harry Conrad, Willard Hall, Charles Caldwell, Stephen Holbrook, and others, 1864.	51	3
Correspondence from family members including Amelia Thomson, William H. Hyde, Phineas J. Horowitz, Samuel R. Meredith, Emma H. Hyde, Charlotte M. Holbrooke, and others, 1864.	51	4
Correspondence, incoming and outgoing, to John Meredith Read Jr., 1864.	51	5
Correspondence, incoming and outgoing, to John Meredith Read Jr., 1864.	51	6
Correspondence from Charles H. T. Collis, Septima Sevy Collis, and William H. French, 1864.	51	7
Correspondence, business (agreements between Samuel G. Hathaway and others from 1857), 1864-1865.	52	1

Correspondence, personal and family, 1864-1865.	52	2
Correspondence, personal and family, 1864-1865.	52	3
Business papers and correspondence, 1864-1880.	52	4
Correspondence, business and invitations, 1865.	52	5
Correspondence, family and personal (mostly John Meredith Read, Charles H. T. Collis, and Dr. Phineas Horowitz), 1865.	52	6
Correspondence, personal and family, 1865.	52	7
Business papers, correspondence, notes, pamphlets, 1865.	53	1
Correspondence from John W. Duncan, John Meredith Read Jr., Delphine Marie Pumpelly, William H. Hyde, George W. Biddle, Harry Conrad, and others (some newspaper clippings9, 1866.	53	2
Correspondence from John Meredith Read Jr., William H. Hyde, Phineas J. Horowitz, Charles Francis Adams, Charles H. T. Collis, and others, 1866.	53	3
Correspondence from William H. Hyde, William B. Clymer, Phineas Horowitz, John Meredith Read Jr., Emma H. Hyde, Charles H. T. Collis, and others, 1866.	53	4
Correspondence from William H. Hyde, Emma H. Hyde, John Meredith Read Jr., Harmon Pumpelly Read, Charles H. T. Collis, and others, 1866.	53	5
Correspondence, personal and family (mostly Catherine M. Thomson, Charles H. T. Collis, and John Meredith Read Jr.), 1865.	54	1
Correspondence, personal and family (mostly Catherine M. Thomson, Charles H. T. Collis, and John Meredith Read Jr.), 1865.	54	2

Business papers, correspondence, financial notes, legal notes, 1865.	54	3
Correspondence, business and personal, 1866-1869.	54	4
Correspondence, business and personal, 1866.	54	5
Correspondence, family, 1866.	54	6
Correspondence from Phineas Horowitz, James T. Mitchell, William H. Hyde, Charles H. T. Collis, John Meredith Read Jr., Harmon Pumpelly Read, Emily Read, and others, 1867.	55	1
Correspondence from Edward M. Clymer, John Meredith Read Jr., Carrie M. Thomson, Charles H. T. Collis, Emma H. Hyde, W. H. Rawle, John L. Cadwalader, and others, 1867.	55	2
Correspondence from John Meredith Read Jr., Charles H. T. Collis, Emma H. Hyde, William H. Hyde, Phineas Horowitz, Carrie M. Thomson, and others, 1867.	55	3
Business papers, legal documents, 1868, 1870.	55	4
Correspondence, business and personal, 1868.	55	5
Correspondence, business and personal, 1869.	55	6
Business papers, financial papers, legal papers, 1870.	55	7
Correspondence from James Rob Snowden, 1872.	55	8
Correspondence, to Judge John Meredith Read Jr. from General John Meredith Read, 1873.	55	9
Correspondence, incoming and outgoing, to John Meredith Read Jr., 1874.	55	10

Estate of the Honorable John M. Read, account of executer William Henry Rawle, 1876.	55	11
Correspondence, 1880s.	55	12
Papers associated with Judge John Meredith's death, correspondence with Michael Meylert and William Henry Rawle), 1881-1882.	55	13
Business papers, correspondence, undated.	56	1
Business papers, correspondence, undated.	56	2
Business papers, correspondence, undated.	56	3
Business papers, correspondence, undated.	56	4
Business papers, correspondence, undated.	56	5

Series VI. General John Meredith Read Jr.

Subseries I. Address books, notebooks, memoranda books.

	Box	Folder
Address books, notebooks, memoranda books, number 1-8, Paris, circa 1879-1896.	57	1-8

Subseries II. Archives du General Meredith Read.

	Volume
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1869.	1
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1870.	2

Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1871.	3
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1872 January 1-April 31.	4
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1872 May 1-August 31.	5
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1872 September 1-December 31.	6
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1873 January-March.	7
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1873 April-June.	8
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1873 July-September.	9
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1873 October-December.	10
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1874.	11
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1875 January-June.	12
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1875 July 1-1875 December 31.	13
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1876 January-April.	14

Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1876 May-August.	15
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1876 September-December.	16
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1877 January-April.	17
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1877 May-August.	18
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1877 September-December.	19
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1878 January 1-March 13.	20
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1878 March 13-December 31.	21
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1879.	22
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1887.	23
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1888.	24
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1890-1891.	25
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1891-1892.	26
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1893.	27
Henry Hudson research and papers, 1869, 1894.	28

Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1894-1895.	29
Correspondence, memoranda, invitations, visiting cards, and other papers, 1895-1896.	30
Invitations received, 1886-1890.	31
Invitations received, 1890-1892.	32
Invitations received, 1893-1894.	33
Invitations received, 1894-1896.	34
Invitations sent and answers received, 1889.	35
Invitations sent and answers received, 1890-1893.	36
Invitations sent and answers received, 1893-1896.	37
[Distinguished correspondence?], 1867-1884.	38
[Distinguished correspondence?], 1885-1889.	39
Distinguished people papers, 1889-1894.	40
Distinguished people papers, 1894-1896.	41
Correspondence, social, 1889.	42
Lord Amherst Centennial of the Town of Barry, 1868.	43
Athlumney Meredith, 1873-1883.	44
Barton Beedon, Brocket Dunstew, Reading Chirk Castle, 1886-1894.	45
Sir Bernard Burke and His Family, 1872-1897.	46

Cadwalader, 1889-1896.	47
Mr. Coote and the British Museum, 1888-1895.	48
Davis, C., Judic Agnew, and the Howell Family, 1889-1895.	49
Lord Devon, Viscount Halifax, Duke of St. Albans, Earl of St. Germans, 1873-1895.	50
Mr. Heron, 1893-1896.	51
Lord Lytton, 1873-1892.	52
Marshall and Waterman Families, 1887-1897.	53
Meredith Family of America, 1890-1896.	54
Mr. Parker, 1888-1890.	55
Mr. Parker, 1888-1893.	56
Mr. Parker, 1893-1895.	57
Pumpelly, 1841-1886.	58
Read family, American Branch, 1894-1896.	59
Read family, American Branch, 1891-1894.	60
The Reads, Philadelphia, Albany, Delaware, and Arkansas, 1870-1890.	61
Arthur E. Reade, Esq., and his Father, Edward A. Reade, Esq., 1859-1886.	62
Charles Reade, D. C. L., 1875.	63
Compton Reade, Esq. and Reverend Compton Reade, 1883-1893.	64

Family of General Meredith Read, 1893-1896.	65
The Meredith Read Ffamily of Portugal and the Marquis de Thomar, 1878-1879.	66
Read/Reade Pedigree, 1886-1906.	67
Ross, 1889-1895.	68
Shipton, 1886-1895.	69
Lord Salisbury, Lorde Stanhope, Comte de Remersat, 1876-1891.	70
Mr. B. J. Stevens, 1890-1896.	71
Lord Talbot de Malahide, 1871-1873.	72
Wynn family, 1870-1890.	73
Clubs and Societies, 1890-1895.	74
Passports and personal papers, 1871-1879.	75
Diner des Spartiates, 1888-1891.	76
Société des Bibliophiles Contemporains.	77

Subseries III. Business Papers.

	Box	Folder
Business papers, financial papers, legal papers, 1849-1850.	58	1
Visiting cards, circa 1850.	58	2
Poole's Gentleman's Pocket Memorandum Book, 1857.	58	3

Court Cases, 1859-1860.	58	4
Notebooks with annotations (business and personal), circa 1860.	58	5
Legal notes, undated.	58	6
Blank notebook, undated.	58	7
Court Cases: Harmon Pumpelly vs. L. M. Chase, circa 1862.	59	1
Cornell University: establishment act, first general announcement, and related correspondence and newspaper clippings, 1865-1868.	59	2
Business papers, correspondence, leases, invitations, newspaper clippings, 1871-1895.	59	3
Notebooks, personal and business, circa 1879.	59	4
Notebooks, personal and business: "Addresses-Greece under King George" and "Addresses", 1879.	59	5
Business papers, notes, receipt book, 1880-1889.	59	6

${\bf Subseries\ IV.\ Correspondence.}$

	Box	Folder
Correspondence form Delphine Drake Pumpelly about her death and illness, circa 1839.	60	1
Correspondence (mostly with Emily Marshall Read) and pictures of Besselsleigh, England and a well at Isden, 1841-1843, 1883.	60	2
Correspondence from family in Providence, Rhode Island, 1842.	60	3

Pumpelly family letters (Mostly to Delphine M. Pumpelly), 1848-1850.	60	4
Correspondence (Mostly with Adeline Pumpelly and Delphine Pumpelly), 1834-1854.	60	5
Correspondence relating to the Young Men's Association of Albany, New York, 1854-1867.	60	6
Correspondence with John Meredith Read, notes, Brown University papers, and newspaper clippings, 1855-1860.	60	7
Correspondence from European trip to John Meredith Read and Aunt, 1857.	60	8
Correspondence from European trip to John Meredith Read and Aunt, 1858.	60	9
Correspondence and European trip notes and miscellaneous documents, 1857.	61	1
Correspondence relating to military career, 1857-1861.	61	2
Correspondence, business and personal, 1859.	61	3
Correspondence from George Bancroft, William J. Read, and others, 1860.	61	4
Correspondence, 1860-1869.	61	5
		Box
Letterpress book, 1860-1865.		94
	Box	Folder
Correspondence from Charlotte Cushman, circa 1860.	61	6
Correspondence from John Meredith Read, 1861.	61	7

Letterpress book, 1861.		Box 95
	Box	Folder
Correspondence from Ricketts, 1862.	61	8
Correspondence between John Meredith Read Jr. and New York Governor E. D. Morgan, related newspaper clippings, 1863.	61	9
Correspondence from John Meredith Read Jr. concerning his address before the Historical Society of Delaware and from E. D. Morgan, 1864.	61	10
Correspondence with and notes related to Albert Bierstadt, 1864-1868.	61	11
Correspondence from E. D. Morgan, M. R. Fisher, John Meredith Read, and Reverend Leighton Coleman, 1865.	61	12
Correspondence from John Meredith Read, 1865.	61	13
		Box
Correspondence book, 1865-1869.		96
	Box	Folder
Correspondence relating to book on Henry Hudson and from John Meredith Read, expense book, 1866.	61	14
Correspondence with H. W. Longfellow, C. F. Adams, G. Bancroft, Senator Morgan, E. Agassiz, S. Weir Mitchell, C. Eliot Norton, John Stay, James B. Angell, F. Parkman, Roscoe Conkling, H. J. Raymond, W. D. Howells, Goldwin Smith, and John A. Dix, 1866-1869.	62	1
Correspondence from John Meredith Read and relating to Henry Hudson book, 1867.	62	2

Correspondence from John Meredith Read, 1868.	62	3
Correspondence concerning 1868 presidential campaign, 1868.	62	4
Correspondence relating to appointment as Consul-General, 1869.	62	5
Correspondence between John Meredith Read and John Meredith Read Jr., 1869.	62	6
Correspondence, business and personal, 1869.	62	7
Correspondence concerning the American Social Science Congress at Albany, New York, 1869.	62	8
		Box
Correspondence from the Paris Consulate scrapbook, 1869-1873.		97
Correspondence from the Paris Consulate scrapbook, 1869-1874.		98
Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book, 1869 July-1871 Octob	er.	99
Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book, 1869 September-1870	June.	100
Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book, 1869 July-1871 March	1.	101
Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book, 1869 July-1871 November 1869 Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book, 1869 July-1871 November 1869 Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book, 1869 July-1871 November 1869 Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book, 1869 July-1871 November 1869 Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book, 1869 July-1871 November 1869 Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book, 1869 July-1871 November 1869 Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book, 1869 July-1871 November 1869 Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book, 1860 Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress	mber.	102
Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book, 1869-1871.		103
	Box	Folder
Correspondence relating to sieges of Paris, 1870-1871.	62	9
		Box
Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book, 1870 June 22-1873 Jan	nuary 30.	104

Fold

Correspondence, 1870-1886.	Box 63	Folder
Correspondence, 1070 1000.	03	Box
Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book, 1871 March-1871 No	ovember.	105
Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book, 1871 December-1873	3 January.	106
Correspondence and newspaper clippings scrapbook ("Greek Ministry"), 1871-1	886.	107
	Box	Folder
Correspondence, 1871-1879.	63	2
		Box
Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book (1 of 2), 1872 Septem March.	ber-1873	108
Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book (2 of 2), 1873 Septem	ber-March.	109
Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book, 1873 March-July.		110
Correspondence from the Paris Consulate letterpress book, 1873 July-December		111
	Box	Folder
Correspondence, personal papers, newspaper clippings, 1874.	63	3
		Box
Correspondence, Greek Ministry letterpress book, 1874 February-June.		112
Correspondence, Greek Ministry letterpress book, 1874 April-June.		113
	Box	Folder
Correspondence, 1875.	63	4

Correspondence, 1876.	63	5	
Correspondence, 1876-1886.	63	6	
Correspondence, 1876-1896.	64	1	
Correspondence and personal papers, 1876-1896.	64	2	
Correspondence, 1877.	64	3	
Correspondence, 1877.	64	4	
		Box	
Correspondence scrapbook from the Greek Ministry, 1877-1878.		114	
	Box	Folder	
Correspondence, 1878.	64	5	
Correspondence from King George I of Greece, 1878.	64	6	
		Box	
Correspondence and newspaper clippings scrapbook, 1878-1901.		115	
	Box	Folder	
Correspondence, 1879.	64	7	
Correspondence from King George I, 1879.	64	8	
		Box	
Correspondence, book of letter copies, 1879 September-1880 April.		116	
	Box	Folder	
Correspondence from King George I of Greece, 1880.	64	9	

Fold

Military button from King George I of Greece, 1880.		65
		Box
Book of Correspondence with Mrs. Meredith Read, London letters, 1880.		117
Correspondence and visiting cards scrapbook, London letters, 1880.		118
Correspondence, letterbook, Paris, 1880, 1886.		119
Correspondence, letterbook, Paris, 1880-1881.		120
	Box	Folder
Correspondence and receipts, 1880-1889.	66	1
Correspondence, 1880-1893.	66	2
Correspondence, 1880-1896.	66	3
Correspondence and telegraphs between John Meredith Read Jr. and Queen Victoria's secretaries, 1880-1896.	66	4
Correspondence from Prince and Princess of Wales, Charlotte Knollys, Lord Colville, Sir Francis Knollys, and S. C. Clarke, 1880-1896.	67	1
Correspondence from Prince and Princess of Wales, Charlotte Knollys, Lord Colville, Sir Francis Knollys, and S. C. Clarke, 1880-1896.	67	2
Correspondence, 1880-1896.	67	3
Correspondence, 1880-1896.	67	4
Correspondence from Duke of Connaught, 1880-1896.	67	5
Correspondence from King George I of Greece, circa 1880.	67	6

Fold

Correspondence, letterbook, Paris, 1881 October 16-1882 February 14.		Box 121
Correspondence, letterbook, Paris, 1882 February 15-July 21.		122
	Box	Folder
Correspondence from King George I of Greece, 1882.	68	1
Correspondence from King George I of Greece, 1884.	68	2
Correspondence and receipts, 1884.	68	3
Correspondence with Martha Lamb of the Magazine of American History, 1885-1892.	68	4
Correspondence book with letters from Samuel Sartain (engraver) and Broadben (photographers), 1885-1886.		Box 123
Correspondence from King George I of Greece, 1886.	Box 68	Folder 5
Correspondence from King George 1 of Greece, 1880.	08	3
Correspondence from King George I of Greece, 1888.	68	6
Correspondence from King George I of Greece, 1889.	68	7
	68	8
Correspondence from King George I of Greece, 1890.		
Correspondence from King George I of Greece, 1890.		Box
Correspondence from King George I of Greece, 1890. Correspondence scrapbook of letters concerning Robert Morris, 1890-1891.		Box 124

	Box	Folder
Correspondence, 1891-1895.	68	9
Correspondence from King George I of Greece, 1891.	68	10
Correspondence from King George I of Greece, 1892.	68	11
Correspondence from King George I of Greece, 1893.	68	12
		Box
Correspondence about Thomas Jefferson Coolidge, Paris, 1893.		126
Correspondence and newspaper clippings, American Chamber of Commerce at 1893.	nd Paris,	127
Correspondence and newspaper clippings scrapbook, Paris and the Lafayette Cundated.	eremony,	128
	Box	Folder
Correspondence from King George I of Greece, 1894.	68	13
Correspondence from King George I of Greece, 1895.	68	14
Correspondence from King George I of Greece, 1896.	68	15
Correspondence, undated.	68	16

Subseries V. Genealogy.

	Volume
The Ross family genealogical research conducted by General John Meredith Read, 1872-1874.	129
Portraits and Illustrations relating to genealogical research, circa 1876.	130

Correspondence from Major Harmon Read to General John Meredith Read regard and Read families, 1882 August.	ling Ross	131
Correspondence to General John Meredith Read about family history, 1882-1886		132
Genealogical and historical scrapbook about Captain Thomas Read, 1883-1885.		133
Cadwalader and Howell families, genealogical correspondence, 1883-1886.		134
Genealogical research scrapbook on Thomas Read by General John Meredith Rea	nd, 1885.	135
Delaware Society of the Cincinnati scrapbook, 1895-1909.		136
	Volume	
Notebook with genealogy notes, undated.	68	17
Cemetery and memorial transcriptions book, undated.	68	18
Pedigree of Read family, undated.	68	19

Subseries VI. Newspaper Clippings and Publications.

		Volume
Newspaper clippings scrapbook, 1859-1863.		137
	Volume	
Albany Journal, New York Times, New York Tribune, 1863-1868.	69	1
Newspaper clippings in English and Greek; "Postal Treaty between France and Greece", 1867-1879.	81	1
		Volume
Newspaper clippings scrapbook, Paris Consulate, 1870.		138

Newspaper clippings scrapbook, Paris Consulate (miscellaneous English clippi 1871-1874.	ngs),	139
Newspaper clippings scrapbook, Greek Ministry, 1873-1874.	Volume	140
Collected publications, pamphlets, and newspaper articles, 1873-1889.	69	2
		Volume
Newspaper clippings scrapbook, Greek Ministry, extracts from Greek newspap translations, 1874.	ers with	141
	Volume	
Calignani's Messenger, 1874.	69	3
Newspaper clippings and collected articles and writings, 1876-1896.	81	2
		Volume
Newspaper clippings scrapbook, 1879-1896.		142
	Volume	
New York Herald, Morris Chronicle, and others, 1883-1895.	69	4
		Volume
Newspaper clippings and correspondence, 1887-1889.		143
Newspaper clippings scrapbook, 1893-1894.		144
Subseries VII. Palaeographia.		
	Box	Folder
Palaeographia of correspondence, 1869.	70	1
Palaeographia of correspondence, 1870.	70	2

Palaeographia of correspondence, 1871.	70	3
Palaeographia of correspondence, 1872.	70	4
Palaeographia of correspondence, journal, 1873.	70	5
Subseries VIII. Photographs.		
	Box	Folder
Prints, information on Read memorial, sketches, 1796, 1790, 1800, undated.	71	1
		Box
General John Meredith Read Jr. photograph album, circa 1805.		145
General John Meredith Read Jr. photograph album, circa 1876-1877.		146
	Box	Folder
Hand painted folder by Queen Olga of Greece, 1878.		1
Trand painted folder by Queen Orga of Greece, 1076.	82	1
Miscellaneous photographs, 1878, undated.	71	2
Miscellaneous photographs, 1878, undated. Photographs of people and places (mostly English) used for genealogical	71	2
Miscellaneous photographs, 1878, undated. Photographs of people and places (mostly English) used for genealogical research, circa 1888.	71 82	2 2
Miscellaneous photographs, 1878, undated. Photographs of people and places (mostly English) used for genealogical research, circa 1888. Photographs for research and writing, France (labeled), 1893, undated.	71 82 71	2 2 3

		Box
Photograph album of Beedon, Barton Court, Abingdon, Appleford, Culham, W. Leamington, Oxford, Brocket Hall, Hatfield, Wheathampstead, Ayot., undated.	allingford,	147
	Box	Folder
Photographs and prints used for research and writing, undated.	82	3
Photographs for genealogical research (England), undated.	82	4
Photographs for research and writing, France (labeled), undated.	82	5
Photographs of artwork, interiors and exteriors of buildings (labeled), undated.	71	7
Photographs of individuals (mostly labeled), undated.	71	8
Photographs of [opera singers?], undated.	71	9
Portrait photographs used for genealogical research, undated.	82	6
Prints and photographs for research and writing, France (mostly labeled), undated.	71	10
Prints and sketches, undated.	71	11
Prints of portraits, undated.	71	12
Prints of portraits, mostly family members, undated.	82	7
Prints, sketches, tombstone engraving, undated.	82	8

Subseries IX. Subject Files.

		Volume
"The Oxford Chronological Tables of History, 1838.		148
	Volume	
Journal, circa 1857.	72	1
		Volume
Clubs and societies scrapbook, 1860-1888.		149
	Volume	
Scrapbook: "Alabama Claims" and "Anglo-American Relations during the Civil War", 1865-1869.	72	2
		Volume
Scrapbook (formerly titled "Clippings"), 1877-1878.		150
	Volume	
General John Meredith Read Jr. autobiographical notes, circa 1879.	72	3
General John Meredith Read Jr. autobiographical notes, circa 1879.	72	4
		Volume
Freemasons scrapbook (possibly compiled by Harmon Pumpelly Read), 1880-1	910.	151
	Volume	
"Historical Manuscripts on Greece", circa 1880.	72	5
		Volume
Scrapbook/letterbook (formerly "Letters"), 1885.		152
	Volume	
Correspondence and writings with M. A. de Quatrefages, 1889.	72	6

"Dinners given by General and Mrs. Meredith Read," guest lists, table settings, menus, 1889-1896.	72	7
Interview with General John Meredith Read Jr. on the American presidential elections, newspaper clippings, 1896 November.	72	8
Pencil sketch, watercolor, two photographs, undated.	72	9
Photographs, undated.	72	10
"Horace et Son Temps," manuscripts and notes by unknown author, undated.	72	11
Journal, undated.	72	12
Engravings (depicting a variety of images including literature and medieval times), undated.	73	1
Les Bibliophiles Contemporains scrapbook, 1890-1895.	73	2-16
Subseries X. Writings and Research by General John Meredith Read II.		
	Box	Folder
Speech pamphlets, 1865-1868.	74	1
Drafts and notes for "Life and Lineage of His royal Highness Prince Albert", 1865-1868.	74	2
"A Historical Inquiry Concerning Henry Hudson," related advertisement pamphlets, shipment forms, and correspondence, 1865-1868.	74	3
Writings and personal papers, 1876-1896.	74	4
Notebook: "Notes Upon Cannes Oxybian Days", circa 1879.	74	5

Notebook: "Oxybian Days and Grecian Memories in Provence by General Meredith Read", 1879.	6
	Box
Copies of correspondence from Richard Eliot, 1879-1896.	153
Copies of correspondence from Richard Eliot, 1879-1896.	154
Copies of letters from Edward Gibbon, Lord Chesterfield, and Mr. Stanhope, 1879-1896.	155
Copies of letters from Mr. W. Harte, inclusive, 1879-1895.	156
Correspondence and addressees a Rosset de Rochefort (1765-1770), 1879-1896.	157
Titres de la Grotte Liasse de la Famille Teirssoniere, 1879-1896.	158
Evian: Famille de Blonay Etat des Biens (1818-1846), 1879-1896.	159
Titres de Possession de la Grotte, 1879-1896.	160
Titres de la Grotte: Liasse de Monsieur George de Montagny, 1879-1896.	161
Memoir sur les Personnes et Sur les Familles a qui on Donne en France le Titre de Prince, 1879-1896.	162
Collection de documents de Monsieur Ernest Charannes, 1879-1896.	163
Collection de fue Monsieur A. Veideil, 1879-1896.	164
Collection de Mde Constantine Grenier, 1879-1896.	165
Correspondence and Notes Relating to the Town and Canton of Berne, 1879-1896.	166
Collection of Madame Constantin Grenier, 1879-1896.	167

Autobiographical notes, circa 1879.		168
	Box	Folder
Personal writings and correspondence, 1879-1896.	75	1
Newspaper clippings: various articles by General John Meredith Read II and collected works, 1881, 1883, 1886.	75	2
Notes on Henry Hudson, 1887.	75	3
"Tribute to Arsene Houssaye," by Meredith Read printed in the Home Journal, 1896 April 15.	75	4
Proofs of silhouette illustrations for "historical studies", circa 1896.	75	5
Eighteenth and seventeenth century material, undated.	76	1
Vers de la main de Monsieur de malesherbes and copies of other letters, 1710-1730.	76	2
L. M. du Loisngne to the Marquis de St. Michel, 1712 January 20, 1712 April 15.	76	3
Madame Necker aux Editeurs de Oeuvres de Voltaire; Madame Necker a Monsieur Jacques Godard, circa 1730.	76	4
F. Random to the Marquise and Marquis de Saint Michel, 1730 December 1-6.	76	5
Lettre de Monsieur de Voltaire a Monsieur le Marquis d'Argens, 1736 October 18.	76	6
Lettre de Voltaire a Monsieur Thiriot, 1741 April 6.	76	7

Copies of correspondence from Edward Eliot, 1746-1747.	76	8
Lettre de Monsieur de Voltaire a Monsieur Lambert, 1754 January.	76	9
Lettre de Monsieur de Voltaire a Monsieur Lambert [?], 1756.	76	10
Lettre de Monsieur de Voltaire a Monsieur de Labat, Baron de Grandcourt, 1756.	76	11
Lettre de Monsieur de Voltaire a Monsieur Boris Soltikoff, 1759.	76	12
Lettre de Monsieur de Voltaire a Monsieur le Due de Choiseul, 1757.	76	13
Lettres de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1763 April-December.	76	14
Lettres de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1764 April-December.	76	15
Lettres de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1765 April-December.	76	16
Lettres de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1766 April-December.	76	17
Letter from Bonnet to Lesage, 1763 November 15.	76	18
Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1764 January 10.	76	19
Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1764 January 22.	76	20
Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1764 January 25.	76	21
Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1764 February 13.	76	22
Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1764 February 16.	76	23
Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1764 February 8, 1764 February 22.	76	24

Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1764 March 1, 1764 March 4.	76	25
Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1764 May 28, 1764 June 9.	76	26
Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1764 June 19.	76	27
Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1765 April 13.	76	28
Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1765 September 3.	76	29
Fragment d'une lettre de Monsieur de Voltaire, 1765.	76	30
Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1766 February 10.	76	31
Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1766 July 12.	76	32
Letter from Edward Gibbon to Victor de Saussure, 1766 September 23.	76	33
Letter from Edward Gibbon to Victor de Saussure, 1766 September 23.	76	34
Lettres de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1767 January 23, 1767 February 25.	76	35
Lettres de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1767 February 28, 1767 June 7.	76	36
Lettres de Monsieur de Voltaire a Monsieur Marin, 1767, 1772.	76	37
Lettre de Monsieur de Voltaire a Madame de La Beaumelle, 1767 June 25.	76	38
Lettre de Voltaire a Maillet du Boullay Ferney, 1768.	76	39
Lettres de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1768 January 27, 1768 February 25.	76	40
Lettres de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1768 February 27, 1768 May 6.	76	41
Lettres de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1768 April 14.	76	42

Lettre de Monsieur de Voltaire a Monsieur Lekain [?], 1769.	76	43
Lettres de Monsieur de Voltaire a Monsieur Cabaeau, 1769, 1771.	76	44
Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1769 August 10.	76	45
Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1770 June 25, 1770 June 28.	76	46
Lettre de Monsieur de Voltaire a Monsieur le-Cardinal de Bernis Datee de Ferney, 1771 November 25.	76	47
Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1771 December 6.	76	48
Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1772 November 19.	76	49
Lettre de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1775 August 22.	76	50
Lettres de Monsieur de Voltaire a Monsieur Marin, 1773 March 1, 1773 August 9.	76	51
Lettres de Monsieur de Voltaire a Monsieur Marin, 1774 March 21, 1775 October 14.	76	52
Lettres de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1775 September 19, 1775 September 26.	76	53
Lettres de Voltaire a de Vegobre, 1776 February 28, 1776 April 15.	76	54
Letter from W. Windham Esquire to Monsieur le Duc de Noailles, 1792 April 27.	76	55
Letter from William Hayley Esquire to Mr. Nicol, 1793 October 11.	76	56
Lettre de Frederic II, Roi de Prusse, 1779 February 27.	76	57

Billet de Monsieur de Voltaire a Monsieur de Malesherbes, undated.	76	58	
Series VII. Harmon Pumpelly Read.			
	Box	Folder	
Correspondence, business and personal, 1880-1906.	77	1	
		Box	Fold
Scrapbook, 1880s.		169	
	Box	Folder	
Contents of blotting paper notebook, correspondence from Henry Hobart Bellas, John Meredith Read II, Smith E. Lane, Delaware Society of the Cincinnati, and others, 1892-1908.	77	2	
Playbills, paperwork for the transfer of stock in the Library Company of Philadelphia, death notice for John Meredith Read II, book plates, and correspondence, 1884-1911.	77	3	
		Box	Fold
Scrapbook, 1885.		170	
	Box	Folder	
Correspondence from Henry Hobart Bellas, National guard of Southern New York headquarters of tenth battalion, and others; bookplates, 1886-1901.	77	4	
Correspondence regarding Madam C. M. Carron's health, 1888-1891.	77	5	
		Box	Fold
Scrapbook (formerly listed under General John M. Read), 1889-1897.		171	

	Box	Folder
Correspondence, bills, and receipts regarding C. M. Carron's stay at the Insane Retreat (mostly Louise de Carron, H. P. Stearns, and Harmon Read); one unidentified photograph, 1890-1891.	78	1
Correspondence, personal, 1890-1906.	78	2
Financial papers, bills, receipts, and accounts, 1890-1906.	78	3
Correspondence from Madam C. M. Carron from Insane Retreat, 1891.	78	4
		Box
Scrapbook of the death of General John Meredith Read, 1896-1899.		172
	Box	Folder
Correspondence, business and personal, 1897-1914.	78	5
Correspondence, telegrams, receipts, playbills, newspaper clippings, Cadwalader and Meredith family tree by John Meredith Read, 1897-1907.	78	6
"With Pen and Camera at Niagara Falls", 1898.	79	1
Writings, circa 1900.	79	2
Ephemera, circa 1900.	79	3
Funeral notices for Delphine Marie Pumpelly Read, 1902.	79	4
Contents of scrapbook with unknown sketches; blank postcards, advertisements, newspaper clippings, 1908.	79	5
		Box
Scrapbook cover (contents in box 79, folder 5), circa 1908.		173

Blotting paper notebook, undated.	Box 79	Folder 6
Series VIII. John Meredith Read III: Autobiography and family history, ci	rca 1900.	Volume 174
Series IX. James Read account book for Rings End and Point (part 9), 1761	1-1765.	Volume 175
Series X. Collected Meredith family papers.		
	Box	Folder
Correspondence from John Salisbury, Watkins Williams Wynn, Campbell-Johnson, undated, 1667 January 29, 1898.	80	1
Correspondence from Samuel Meredith to wife, Peggy Meredith, [1777-1778?].	80	2
Correspondence from Samuel Meredith to wife, Peggy Meredith, 1777 January 9.	80	3
Correspondence from Samuel Meredith to wife, Peggy Meredith, 1777 January 14.	80	4
Correspondence from Samuel Meredith to wife, Peggy Meredith, 1777 January 16.	80	5
Certificate of damages, 1778 July 8, 1778 August 19.	80	6
Samuel Meredith commission, 1786.	81	3

Correspondence from wife, Peggy Meredith, to Samuel Meredith, 1786 December.	80	7
Correspondence from Samuel Meredith to wife, Peggy Meredith, 1788 August 18.	80	8
Correspondence from Samuel Meredith to wife, Peggy Meredith, 1788 August 22.	80	9
Correspondence from Samuel Meredith to wife, Peggy Meredith, 1789 March 26.	80	10
Correspondence from Samuel Meredith to wife, Peggy Meredith, 1790 February 7.	80	11
Correspondence from Samuel Meredith to wife, Peggy Meredith, 1790 March 22.	80	12
Correspondence from Samuel Meredith to wife, Peggy Meredith, 1790 April 6.	80	13
Correspondence from Samuel Meredith to wife, Peggy Meredith, 1790 April 15.	80	14
Correspondence from Samuel Meredith to wife, Peggy Meredith, 1790 July 1.	80	15
Correspondence from Samuel Meredith to wife, Peggy Meredith, 1790 July 7.	80	16
Correspondence from Samuel Meredith to wife, Peggy Meredith, 1790 July 14.	80	17
Samuel Meredith bank book, 1793-1800.	80	18

Correspondence from E. Meredith to Samuel Meredith, 1799 July 13.	80	19
Correspondence from [Peggy Meredith?] to Samuel Meredith, 1799 November 20.	80	20
Correspondence to Betsy Meredith from [M. M.?], 1799 November 26.	80	21
Correspondence from M. Read to Samuel Meredith and Betsy Meredith, 1801 August 23.	80	22
Copy of correspondence from Thomas Jefferson to Samuel Meredith, 1801 September 4.	80	23
Correspondence from L. Cadwalader to Peggy Meredith, 1801 September 17.	80	24
Correspondence from Martha Read to Peggy Meredith, 1815 August 22.	80	25
Correspondence from Martha Read to Peggy Meredith, 1817 January 27.	80	26
Correspondence from James Gibson to Peggy Meredith, 1817 February 24.	80	27
Correspondence from Samuel Dickinson to Peggy Meredith, 1817 April 22.	80	28
Correspondence from [M.M.?] to mother, 1819 September 9.	80	29
Correspondence to Margaret Meredith from Mary, 1820 March 7.	80	30
Correspondence from John Read to Thomas Meredith, 1820 October 7.	80	31
Correspondence from Lloyd P. Smith to John Meredith Read, 1863 January 3.	80	32

Correspondence from P. Dickinson to John Meredith Read, 1864 September 20.	80	33
Correspondence from [M. B.?] to Thomas Meredith Maxwell regarding Meredith Monument Association, 1877 September 27.	80	34
Correspondence from Thomas Meredith Maxwell to General John Meredith Read Jr., 1888 October 24.	80	35
Correspondence from Thomas Meredith Maxwell to General John Meredith Read Jr., 1888 October 25.	80	36
Correspondence from Thomas Meredith Maxwell to General John Meredith Read Jr., 1888 November 6.	80	37
Correspondence from Thomas Meredith Maxwell to General John Meredith Read Jr., 1889 February 11.	80	38
Correspondence from Thomas Meredith Maxwell to General John Meredith Read Jr., 1889 October 23.	80	39
General John Meredith Read Jr.'s Meredith family Genealogy, 1892.	80	40
Correspondence from Mary Dickinson to Harmon Read, 1892 February 29.	80	41
[Information regarding the acquisition of the Meredith family papers], undated.	80	42