

Philip Henry Sheridan

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

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Revised by Michael Spangler



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2005

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress
Manuscript Division, 2006**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms006029>

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Philip Henry Sheridan

Span Dates: 1853-1896

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1862-1887)

ID No.: MSS39768

Creator: Sheridan, Philip Henry, 1831-1888

Extent: 18,000 items; 120 containers plus 1 oversize; 46.4 linear feet; 104 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Army officer. Correspondence, letterbooks, telegrams, writings, reports, orders, financial records, scrapbooks, and other papers relating primarily to the Civil War, Reconstruction, Mexican border disputes, Indian wars, and Sheridan's service as commanding general of the army.

Selected Search Terms

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

Names:

Sheridan, Philip Henry, 1831-1888

Bonsal, Rebecca M.

Forsyth, George A.--Correspondence.

Forsyth, James W. (James William), 1836-1906--Correspondence

Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885--Correspondence

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Correspondence

Page, Henry, fl. 1863-1865

Sheridan, Michael V. (Michael Vincent), 1840-1918--Correspondence

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence

Warren, Gouverneur Kemble, 1830-1882

Subjects:

Courts-martial and courts of inquiry

Indians of North America--Government relations

Indians of North America--Wars

Indians of North America--Wars--Montana

Piegans Indians--Wars--Montana

Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)

Shenandoah Valley Campaign, 1864 (May-August)

Appomattox (Va.)--History

Asia--Description and travel

Bighorn Mountains (Wyo. and Mont.)--Discovery and exploration

Boonville (Mo.)--History

Chickamauga (Ga.)--History

Europe--Description and travel

Georgia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Kentucky--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Mexico--Boundaries--United States

Missionary Ridge (Tenn.)--History

Mississippi--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Missouri--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Murfreesboro (Tenn.)--History

Perryville (Ky.)--History

Ripley (Miss.)--History

Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Tennessee--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
Tullahoma (Tenn.)--History
United States--Boundaries--Mexico
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Cavalry operations
Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
Winchester (Va.)--History--Siege, 1864
Wyoming--Discovery and exploration
Yellowstone River--Discovery and exploration

Occupation:

Army officers

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Philip Henry Sheridan, army officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1931-1932 by his widow, Irene Rucker Sheridan. In 1948, heirs to his estate converted the deposit to a gift. The collection was augmented by a transfer of items from the papers of Sheridan's secretary, Daniel O. Drennan, which were donated in 1946 by Mrs. Charles H. Kneessi.

Processing History:

The Sheridan Papers were processed in 1960 and prepared for microfilming in 1985. The finding aid was revised in 2005. In 1962, the Library published *Philip H. Sheridan, A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress*. The register was amended when the papers were microfilmed in 1985.

Copyright Status:

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

Microfilm:

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on 104 reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Philip Henry Sheridan Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1831, Mar. 6	Born, Albany, N.Y.
1853	Graduated, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1854-1855	Frontier duty at Fort Duncan, La Pena, and Turkey Creek, Tex.
1855-1861	Frontier duty in the Oregon and Washington territories
1861-1862	Chief quartermaster and chief commissary of the Army of the Southwest

1862	Promoted to colonel, U.S. Volunteers Commanded Second Michigan Cavalry, Volunteers Commanded Second Brigade, Cavalry Division, Army of the Mississippi Promoted to brigadier general, U.S. Volunteers Commanded Eleventh Division, Third Corps, Army of the Ohio Commanded Third Division, Right Wing, Fourteenth Army Corps Promoted to major general, U.S. Volunteers
1863	Commanded Third Division, Twentieth Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland
1863-1864	Commanded Second Division, Fourth Army Corps
1864	Commanded Cavalry Corps, Army of the Potomac Promoted to brigadier general, U.S. Army
1865	Commanded Army of the Shenandoah Commanded Middle Military Division Promoted to major general, U.S. Army Commanded all U.S. forces west of the Mississippi River
1865-1866	Commanded Military Division of the Gulf
1866-1867	Commanded Department of the Gulf
1867	Commanded Fifth Military District
1867-1869	Commanded Department of the Missouri
1869-1878	Commanded Military Division of the Missouri
1869	Promoted to lieutenant general, U.S. Army
1870	Inspected military posts in northern Utah and Montana
1870-1871	United States official observer of the Franco-Prussian War
1875	Married Irene Rucker
1877	Led Yellowstone expedition
1878-1883	Commanded Western and Southwestern Military Division
1883	Escorted Chester A. Arthur, Robert Todd Lincoln, and others on an expedition through Yellowstone Park
1883-1888	Commanding general, U.S. Army, succeeding William T. Sherman
1888	Published <i>Personal Memoirs of P. H. Sheridan</i> . New York: C. L. Webster. 2 vols. Promoted to general, U.S. Army
1888, Aug. 5	Died, Nonquit, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Philip Henry Sheridan (1831-1888) span the years 1853 to 1896, with the bulk of the material originating between 1862 and 1887. The collection includes correspondence, reports, orders, memorabilia, scrapbooks, commissions, financial records, and speeches organized in the following series: [General Correspondence](#), [Autograph Letters](#), [Letterbooks](#), [Field Dispatches and Telegrams](#), [Military Papers](#), [Subject File](#), [Book and Speech File](#), [Miscellany](#), [Scrapbooks](#), and [Oversize](#).

The papers relate chiefly to the Civil War, Reconstruction, Mexican border disputes, Indian wars, and military administration. There is very little material concerning Sheridan's family and personal life. Dominated by correspondence and reports, the papers document Sheridan's service as an army commander in the Civil War and his postwar commands up to and including that of commanding general of the United States Army. The papers also include material relating to George A. Forsyth's Europe-Asia observation tour; the Piegan expedition; Gouverneur K. Warren's court of inquiry; Rebecca Wright, a Federal spy at Winchester, Virginia; reconnaissance of Bighorn Mountain and the valleys of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers; and Henry Page's letterbooks as quartermaster for the Army of the Potomac. Correspondents include George A. Forsyth (aide and secretary), James W. Forsyth, Ulysses S. Grant, Michael V. Sheridan (his brother), and William T. Sherman. There are two letters from Abraham Lincoln to Sheridan, September 20 and October 22, 1864.

Included also is a draft of Sheridan's published memoirs. Following the destruction of some of Sheridan's papers in the Chicago fire of 1871, a large number of transcripts were made from the records of the War Department by his secretaries. These transcripts have been interfiled with the surviving original papers.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in ten series:

- [General Correspondence, 1853-1888, n.d.](#)
- [Autograph Letters, 1865-1887](#)
- [Letterbooks, 1871-1888](#)
- [Field Dispatches and Telegrams, 1862-1883](#)
- [Military Papers, 1853-1887, n.d.](#)
- [Subject File, 1863-1891, n.d.](#)
- [Book and Speech File, 1878-ca. 1883, n.d.](#)
- [Miscellany, 1853-1896, n.d.](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1861-1878](#)
- [Oversize, 1853-1869](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-38
REEL 1-16

Series

General Correspondence, 1853-1888, n.d.

Letters, telegrams, and memoranda sent and received.
Arranged chronologically with undated items at the end of most years and at the end of the series.

BOX 39
REEL 17

Autograph Letters, 1865-1887

Letters received from William T. Sherman and Ulysses S. Grant and miscellaneous letters sent by Sheridan.
Arranged alphabetically by name of person and thereunder chronologically.

BOX 40-49
REEL 18-42

Letterbooks, 1871-1888

Copies of letters sent and received.
Grouped into general correspondence and correspondence signed by aides and clerks and arranged thereunder chronologically. Most volumes are indexed.

BOX 50-59
REEL 43-64

Field Dispatches and Telegrams, 1862-1883

Field dispatches and telegrams sent and received.
Grouped as items sent and items received and filed thereunder chronologically. Some volumes are indexed.

BOX 60-89
REEL 65-87

Military Papers, 1853-1887, n.d.

Endorsements, official correspondence of the Department of the Gulf, operations reports, orders, and reports.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and filed thereunder by topic or chronology.

BOX 90-95
REEL 87-94

Subject File, 1863-1891, n.d.

Correspondence, telegram books, reports, newspaper clippings, and printed matter.
Arranged alphabetically by subject and thereunder chronologically.

BOX 96-109
REEL 94-100

Book and Speech File, 1878-ca. 1883, n.d.

Drafts of memoirs and speeches.
The memoirs are arranged by volume and chapter and the speeches chronologically.

BOX 110-113
REEL 101-103

Miscellany, 1853-1896, n.d.

Biographical material, citations, charges and specifications against Sheridan, commissions, contingent fund records, memorabilia, newspaper clippings, personal financial records, printed matter, and expressions of sympathy.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

BOX 114-116
REEL 104

Scrapbooks, 1861-1878

Mounted newspaper clippings.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX OV 1
REEL 104

Oversize, 1853-1869

Commissions.
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,308

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-38 REEL 1-16	General Correspondence, 1853-1888, n.d. Letters, telegrams, and memoranda sent and received. Arranged chronologically with undated items at the end of most years and at the end of the series.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1853-1864 (17 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 1	1865, Jan.-July (9 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 1-2	1865, Aug.-Dec. (7 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 2	1866, Jan.-July (9 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 2	1866, Aug.-1867, May (11 folders)
BOX 6 REEL 3	1867, June-1871, Dec. (20 folders)
BOX 7 REEL 3-4	1872, Jan.-Sept. (10 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 4	1872, Oct.-1873, Feb. (11 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 4-5	1873, Mar.-Aug. (10 folders)
BOX 10 REEL 5	1873, Sept.-1874, Mar. (10 folders)
BOX 11 REEL 5-6	1874, Apr.-Nov. 24 (10 folders)
BOX 12 REEL 6	1874, Nov. 27-1875, Jan. (9 folders)
BOX 13 REEL 6-7	1875, Feb.-Nov. (12 folders)

General Correspondence, 1853-1888, n.d.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 14 REEL 7	1875, Dec.-1876, May 5 (10 folders)
BOX 15 REEL 7-8	1876, May 13-Sept. (8 folders)
BOX 16 REEL 8	1876, Oct.-1877, Feb. (10 folders)
BOX 17 REEL 8	1877, Mar.-Sept. (10 folders)
BOX 18 REEL 8-9	1877, Oct.-Dec. (11 folders)
BOX 19 REEL 9	1878, Jan.-Aug. (11 folders)
BOX 20 REEL 9-10	1878, Sept.-Dec. (12 folders)
BOX 21 REEL 10	1879, Jan.-Feb. (7 folders)
BOX 22 REEL 10	1879, Mar.-Apr. (6 folders)
BOX 23 REEL 10-11	1879, May-July 15 (7 folders)
BOX 24 REEL 11	1879, July 16-Aug. (6 folders)
BOX 25 REEL 11	1879, Sept.-Dec. (11 folders)
BOX 26 REEL 11-12	1880, Mar.-Aug. (8 folders)
BOX 27 REEL 12	1880, Sept.-Dec. (7 folders)
BOX 28 REEL 12	1881, Jan.-July 15 (10 folders)
BOX 29 REEL 12	1881, Sept. 5-Nov. 10 (7 folders)

General Correspondence, 1853-1888, n.d.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 30 REEL 12-13	1881, Nov. 11-Dec. (7 folders)
BOX 31 REEL 13	1882, Jan.-Apr. (8 folders)
BOX 32 REEL 13	1882, May-July (8 folders)
BOX 33 REEL 13-14	1882, Aug.-Dec. (10 folders)
BOX 34 REEL 14	1883, Jan.-1884, May (16 folders)
BOX 35 REEL 14-15	1884, June-1885, Aug. (16 folders)
BOX 36 REEL 15	1885, Sept.-1887, Dec. (21 folders)
BOX 37 REEL 15-16	1888, Jan.-June and undated (10 folders)
BOX 38 REEL 16	Undated (9 folders)
BOX 39 REEL 17	Autograph Letters, 1865-1887 Letters received from William T. Sherman and Ulysses S. Grant and miscellaneous letters sent by Sheridan. Arranged alphabetically by name of person and thereunder chronologically.
BOX 39 REEL 17	Grant, Ulysses S., to Sheridan, 1865-1881 Sheridan to others, 1865-1885 Sherman, William T., to Sheridan, 1868-1887 (2 vols.)
BOX 40-49 REEL 18-42	Letterbooks, 1871-1888 Copies of letters sent and received. Grouped into general correspondence and correspondence signed by aides and clerks and arranged thereunder chronologically. Most volumes are indexed.
BOX 40 REEL 18-19	General correspondence 1871, Oct. 12-1872, May 6 1871, Oct. 21-1872, Dec. 31

Letterbooks, 1871-1888

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 41 REEL 20-22	1873, Jan. 22-1875, Dec. 31
BOX 42 REEL 23-25	1873, Jan. 3-1878, Dec. 14 1879, Jan. 4-1881, Apr. 29
BOX 43 REEL 26	1881, May 7-1883, Oct. 23 1883, Nov. 1-1885, Sept. 8
BOX 44 REEL 27-28	1885, Sept. 28-1887, Apr. 9
BOX 45 REEL 29-31	1887, Apr. 13-1888, May 4 Correspondence signed by aides and clerks
BOX 46 REEL 32-34	1871, Oct. 23-1873, Sept. 20 1873, Sept. 22-1875, June 11 1875, June 22-1877, Mar. 5 1875, June 15-1879, Sept. 20
BOX 47 REEL 35-36	1879, Oct. 3-1881, July 5 1871, Oct. 23-1876, Dec. 27 1877, Jan. 5-1881, Sept. 20; 1884, Mar. 28
BOX 48 REEL 37-39	1881, Sept. 15-1884, Oct. 19 1883, Nov. 2-1885, Dec. 30
BOX 49 REEL 40-42	1883, Nov. 9-1887, June 2 1886, Jan. 2-Dec. 19
BOX 50-59 REEL 43-64	1886, Jan. 2-1888, Sept. 5 1887, Jan. 3-1888, Aug. 14 Field Dispatches and Telegrams, 1862-1883 Field dispatches and telegrams sent and received. Grouped as items sent and items received and filed thereunder chronologically. Some volumes are indexed.
BOX 50 REEL 43-45	Sent, 1862, June-1871, Oct.
BOX 51 REEL 46	Received, 1862, May-1871, July Sent
BOX 52 REEL 47	Vol. 1, 1862, June-1864, Sept. Vol. 2, 1864, Sept.-1867, June
BOX 53 REEL 48	Vol. 3, 1867, Sept.-1871, Oct.
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Field Dispatches and Telegrams, 1862-1883

Container

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BOX 58	1873, Jan.-1875, Dec.
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BOX 58A	1876, Jan.-1877, Sept.
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BOX 58B	1877, Aug.-1879, July
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BOX 59	1879, July-1881, Apr.
REEL 62-64	
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BOX 60-89	Military Papers, 1853-1887, n.d.
REEL 65-87	
	Endorsements, official correspondence of the Department of the Gulf, operations reports, orders, and reports. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and filed thereunder by topic or chronology.
BOX 60	Endorsements
REEL 65	
	1872, May 1-Dec. 31 (index only)
BOX 60A	1873, Jan. 2-1877, Nov. 24 (incomplete film ends at 1876, Sept. 7)
REEL 66	
BOX 60B	1877, Nov. 17-1879, Dec. 18
REEL 67	
BOX 61	1880, Mar. 30-1883, May 28
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	1883, June 2-Oct. 23
BOX 62	1883, Nov. 2-1886, July 30
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BOX 63	1886, Aug. 4-1887, Apr. 14
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BOX 64	Official correspondence, Department of the Gulf
REEL 71	
	1865-1868 (vol. 2 and fragments of another volume)
BOX 65	Operations reports
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	Boonville, Mo., 1862
	Ripley, Miss., 1862
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Military Papers, 1853-1887, n.d.

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	Stones River, Tenn., 1862-1863
	Tullahoma, Tenn., campaign, 1863
	Chickamauga, Ga., 1863
	Missionary Ridge, Tenn., 1863
BOX 66	Division and brigade commanders' reports, Cavalry Corps, Army of the Potomac, 1864
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BOX 67	Shenandoah Valley campaign
REEL 73	
	Sheridan's reports and battle dispatches and reports of cavalry commanders
	Winchester, 1864
	Fisher's Hill, 1864
	Tom's Brook and minor engagements, 1864-1865
BOX 68	Reports of corps, cavalry, division, brigade, regimental, and artillery commanders, Sixth
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BOX 69	Reports of the Nineteenth Army Corps and Army of West Virginia, 1864-1865
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	Winchester, Va., raid, 1865
	Appomattox campaign
	Sheridan's report and battle dispatches, 1865
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	List of battles and routes of raids, 1865
	Brigade reports of Stones River, Tenn., 1862-1863
	Additional reports of Shenandoah Valley campaign and Winchester raid, 1864-1865
BOX 71	First Brigade, First Cavalry Division, Middle Military Division, 1864
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	Military Division of the Southwest and Department of the Gulf, 1865-1886
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	Vol. 2, Shenandoah Valley campaign, 1864-1865
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Military Papers, 1853-1887, n.d.

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	Shenandoah Valley campaign, 1864-1865
	Winchester, Va., raid, 1865
	Appomattox campaign, 1864-65
	Cavalry battles fought under Sheridan, 1864-1865
	Reports of subordinate commanders, Third Division, Right Wing, Fourteenth Army Corps, Department of the Cumberland, including Battle of Stones River, 1862-1863
	Additional reports of subordinate commanders under Sheridan
	Shenandoah Valley campaign, 1864
	Winchester, Va., raid, 1865
	Additional reports of cavalry, Middle Military Division, 1864
	Winchester, Va., raid, 1865
	Military Division of the Southwest and Department of the Gulf, 1865-1866
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	Military Division of the Missouri, 1869
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Military Papers, 1853-1887, n.d.

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BOX 90-95 REEL 87-94	Subject File, 1863-1891, n.d. Correspondence, telegram books, reports, newspaper clippings, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by subject and thereunder chronologically.
BOX 90 REEL 87	Forsyth, George A., Europe-Asia observation tour, 1875-1876 (11 folders)
BOX 91 REEL 88-91	Indian affairs (2 vols.) 1869-1877
BOX 92 REEL 91	1868-1878, 1885-1891, n.d. (7 vols. and 6 folders)
BOX 93 REEL 91-93	Page, Henry, telegram books, quartermaster, Army of the Potomac, 1863-1865 (6 folders)
BOX 94 REEL 93-94	Piegan expedition, 1869-1870 (5 folders) Warren, Gouverneur K., court of inquiry, 1881 (6 folders)
BOX 95 REEL 94	Wright, Rebecca, federal spy, Winchester, Va., 1864 (4 folders) Reconnaissance of the Bighorn Mountains and the valleys of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers, 1877 (7 folders)
BOX 96-109 REEL 94-100	Book and Speech File, 1878-ca. 1883, n.d. Drafts of memoirs and speeches. The memoirs are arranged by volume and chapter and the speeches chronologically.
BOX 96 REEL 94	Memoirs, n.d. Vol. 1 Chapters 1-4 (7 folders)

Book and Speech File, 1878-ca. 1883, n.d.

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BOX 99 REEL 95-96	Chapters 12-14 (6 folders)
BOX 100 REEL 96	Chapters 15-17 (5 folders)
BOX 101 REEL 96	Chapters 18-21 (8 folders)
BOX 102 REEL 97	Chapters 22-24 (7 folders)
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BOX 105 REEL 98	Chapters 8-9 (8 folders)
BOX 106 REEL 99	Chapters 10-12 (8 folders)
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BOX 109 REEL 100	Chapters 19-20 (6 folders)
	Fragments Speeches, 1878-ca. 1883
BOX 110-113 REEL 101-103	Miscellany, 1853-1896, n.d. Biographical material, citations, charges and specifications against Sheridan, commissions, contingent fund records, memorabilia, newspaper clippings, personal financial records, printed matter, and expressions of sympathy. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Miscellany, 1853-1896, n.d.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 110 REEL 101	Biographical material, 1882-1888, n.d. (2 folders) Citations, 1865-1871 Charges and specifications, 1862 Commissions, 1853-1869 <i>See Oversize</i> Contingent fund records, 1872-1874, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX 111 REEL 101	General, 1873, n.d.
BOX 112 REEL 101-103	Maps, 1871-1884 Newspaper clippings, 1875-1878, n.d. Personal financial records, 1867-1888
BOX 113 REEL 103	(3 folders) Printed matter, 1855-1896, n.d. Sympathy expressions, 1888 (5 folders)
BOX 114-116 REEL 104	Scrapbooks, 1861-1878 Mounted newspaper clippings. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 114 REEL 104	1861, May-1862, Aug., Cincinnati <i>Daily Commercial</i>
BOX 115 REEL 104	1863, Jan.-June, Cincinnati <i>Daily Commercial</i>
BOX 116 REEL 104	1874, Apr.-1878, June, various newspapers
BOX OV 1 REEL 104	Oversize, 1853-1869 Commissions. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1 REEL 104	Miscellany Commissions, 1853-1869 (Container 110)