

C Phelps, John S. (1814-1886), Scrapbook, 1876-1937
3058 1 volume

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INTRODUCTION

The scrapbook of John S. Phelps contains newspaper clippings and biographical information on the former governor and his family. Some correspondence and photographs of family residences are also included.

DONOR INFORMATION

The John S. Phelps Scrapbook was donated to the University of Missouri by Sue Stubbs on 7 March 1997 (Accession No. 5704).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John S. Phelps was born on 22 December 1814 in Simsbury, Connecticut. He studied at Trinity College in Hartford and was admitted to the bar after his graduation in 1835. Within a year he had married Mary Whitney of Portland, Maine and they moved to Springfield, Missouri in 1837.

Phelps was elected to the state legislature in 1840 and the U.S. Congress in 1844. In 1863, he resigned his position in the House and accepted an appointment as colonel of a Union cavalry regiment raised in Springfield. He participated in the Battle of Pea Ridge and soon after was appointed military governor of Arkansas. After the war, he ran unsuccessfully for U.S. senator and governor of Missouri.

Phelps returned to his law practice in Springfield and then in 1876 ran again for governor, this time defeating George G. Vest. When his term ended in 1881, he retired to Springfield.

He and his wife, who died in 1879, had two children, John E. Phelps and Mary Anne Phelps Montgomery. John S. Phelps died in St. Louis on 26 November 1886.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The John S. Phelps Scrapbook contains newspaper clippings, biographical information on Phelps and his family, a few pieces of correspondence and photographs of family residences. The articles are arranged more or less chronologically with other loose items covering similar topics inserted in between the pages.

Most of the articles concern Phelps' campaign for governor in 1876 and his accomplishments during that term. Other articles include obituaries for Phelps, his wife, and a cousin, William Walter Phelps, who served as foreign minister to Germany in the 1880s and befriended Otto von Bismarck.

The obituary of Mary Phelps details her efforts to comfort soldiers and orphans during the Civil War. She cared for the wounded on and off the battlefields of Wilson's Creek and Pea Ridge, even retrieving the body of General Nathaniel Lyon at Wilson's Creek.

Other articles concern the activities of Phelps' daughter, Mary, and extended family and friends.

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