



**FINDING AID TO THE
PAULINA T. MERRITT PAPERS ON
INDIANA WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, 1860-1906**

**Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
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Processed by: Stephanie Schmitz, March 8, 2012

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Merritt, Paulina T. McClung, 1831- unknown
Title	Paulina T. Merritt papers on the Indiana Women's Suffrage Movement
Collection Identifier	MSP 108
Date Span	1860-1906 [predominant 1880-1895]
Abstract	This collection includes correspondence and other materials documenting Paulina T. Merritt's involvement in the Indiana women's suffrage movement.
Extent	0.25 cubic feet (1 mss. box)
Finding Aid Author	Stephanie Schmitz, 2012
Languages	English
Repository	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:	ASC
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research.
Acquisition Information:	Donated by Lori Birrell, Rush Rhees Library, University of Rochester, February 6, 2012
Custodial History:	These materials were made a gift to the University of Rochester's Rare Books, Special Collections and Preservation Department by Howard S. Merritt, date unknown. Having been outside of the collection scope at Rochester, the materials were transferred to Purdue by manuscript librarian Lori Birrell.
Accession Number:	20120206
Preferred Citation:	MSP 108, Paulina T. Merritt papers on the Indiana Women's Suffrage Movement, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries

Copyright Notice:

ASC received no deed of gift with this collection.
Copyright restrictions may apply.

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Merritt, Paulina T.

Topics

Suffrage – United States

Women's Suffrage – Indiana

Women's history

Form and Genre Types

Correspondence

Occupations

Suffragists

Biography of Paulina T. Merritt

Paulina T. Merritt was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia on August 8, 1831 to John and Hannah McClung. She married George Merritt in 1852, and they settled in Indianapolis, where George ran a wool manufacturing business. Paulina invested her inheritance in order to improve conditions for those less fortunate, building “small cottages for friendless, suffering families” in 1864. She established a house for soldier’s orphans with her husband. She was an advocate for reforming insane asylums, and was instrumental in Sarah Oren’s election to office as the first state librarian in Indiana. Paulina Merritt also donated property to the Indianapolis Colored Women’s Mutual Society, to be used by those who were sick or elderly. Merritt was a member of and frequent visitor for the Benevolent Society, and was active in securing equal rights for women throughout her adult years.

Source:

MSP 108, Paulina T. Merritt papers on the Indiana Women’s Suffrage Movement, “Biographical information” manuscript

Collection Description

Scope

The Paulina T. Merritt papers on the Indiana Women's Suffrage Movement (1873-1906; 0.25 cubic feet) document Paulina Merritt's activities pertaining to the suffrage movement in Indiana during the late 19th century. It includes correspondence to elected officials (among them Benjamin Harrison) concerning voting rights as well as correspondence with leaders in the women's suffrage movement including May Wright Sewall. Also included in the collection is an autobiographical sketch of Merritt, as well as some clippings and advertisements.

Descriptive Rules Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd Edition / Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

Correspondence has been grouped as "incoming" or "outgoing" and then arranged chronologically. Other materials have been grouped according to format or content. All materials have been placed in archival housing.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

1 Box

Folder

1. Incoming correspondence to Paulina T. Merritt, 1876-1895
 - 1876 Oct. 1 [Author unclear] to Paulina T. Merritt, 16 pages
 - 1881 Feb. 24 Wilson, E.R. to Paulina T. Merritt, ALS, 2 pages
 - 1881 Jul. 24 Carter, Vinson to Paulina T. Merritt, ALS, 3 pages
 - 1882 Mar. 3 Lieber, Herman to Paulina T. Merritt, ALS, 6 pages
 - 1882 Jun. 30 Peelle, Stanton J. to Paulina T. Merritt, ALS, 1 page
 - 1882 Jul. 20 Price, Mary E. M. to Paulina T. Merritt, ALS, 2 pages
 - 1882 Aug. 8 Price, Mary E. M. to Paulina T. Merritt, ALS, 2 pages
 - 1882 Aug. 8 Price, Mary E. M. to Paulina T. Merritt, ALS, 2 pages
 - 1882 Aug. 10 Price, Mary E. M. to Paulina T. Merritt, ALS, 2 pages
 - 1882 Dec. 12 Furnas, John W. to Paulina T. Merritt, ALS, 1 page
 - 1884 Apr. 11 McCulloch, Alice to Paulina T. Merritt, ALS, 4 pages
 - 1884 Apr. 22 Gray, Isaac P. to Paulina T. Merritt, ALS, 2 pages
 - 1884 May 13 Pelle, Stanton J. to Paulina T. Merritt, ALS, 2 pages
 - 1884 May 16 Browne, Thomas M. to Paulina T. Merritt, ALS, 1 page
 - 1890 Mar. 23 Merritt, George to Paulina T. Merritt, ALS, 10 pages
 - 1891 Nov. 17 Sewall, May Wright to Paulina T. Merritt, LS, 4 pages
 - 1891 Nov. 24 Sewall, May Wright to Paulina T. Merritt, LS, 1 page
 - 1891 Sewall, May Wright to Paulina T. Merritt, LS, 1 page
 - 1894 Dec. 18 Sewall, May Wright to Paulina T. Merritt, TLS, 1 page
 - 1895 Jan. 16 Sewall, May Wright to Paulina T. Merritt, TLS, 1 page
 - 1895 Apr. 18 Chislett, Margaret D. to Paulina T. Merritt, ALS, 1page
2. Incoming correspondence to Paulina T. and George Merritt, 1890-1893
 - 1890 Jul. 29 Elrad, S.H. to Mr. and Mrs. George Merritt, ALS, 2 pages
 - 1893 Apr. 25 Sewall, May Wright to Paulina T. Merritt, TLS, 1 page
3. Outgoing correspondence from Paulina T. Merritt, 1881-1895
 - 1881 Oct. 1 Merritt, Paulina T. to Benjamin Harrison, Ms., 8 pages (Draft)
 - 1882 Jan. 14 Merritt, Paulina T. to Senator Benjamin Harrison, ALS, 2 pages (Handwritten copy)
 - 1882 Feb. 25 Merritt, Paulina T. to Herman Lieber, Ms., 6 pages
 - 1882 Jun. 24 Merritt, Paulina T. to Stanton Peele, ALS, 2 pages
 - 1882 Aug. 5 Merritt, Paulina T. to [Hulloyay?], ALS, 3 pages
 - 1884 Apr. 9 Merritt, Paulina T. to Alice McCulloch, ALS, 4 pages
 - 1884 Apr. 13 Merritt, Paulina T. to [?], ALS, 1 page
 - 1884 Apr. 15 Merritt, Paulina T. to Sewall, May Wright, Ms., 2 pages
 - 1884 Apr. 22 Merritt, Paulina T. to [?] Sherman, ALS, 4 pages
 - 1895 Jan 20 Merritt, Paulina T. to Rachel Foster Avery, ALS, 2

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| | | pages |
| | undated | Merritt, Paulina T. to Isaac Gray, ALS, 3 pages |
| | undated | Merritt, Paulina T. to May Wright Sewall, ALS 4 pages |
| | undated | Merritt, Paulina T. to Harrison, Benjamin, Ms., 2 pages |
4. Letter to the son of Paulina T. Merritt from his aunt, 1876, ALS, 2 pages
 5. Manuscripts, undated
 - Draft of address on women's suffrage issues to the Tippecanoe Gentleman's Club, 1882, 21 pages
 - Commentary on clergymen's opinions of women's suffrage issues, undated, 11 pages
 6. Circulars, circa 1860-1882
 - Advertisement pertaining to the state lottery, W. Nason and Co., Wilmington, Del., 1860
 - Flier: "A Mass Meeting of the Friends of Woman Suffrage," Dickson's Grand Opera House, Indianapolis, May 19, 1882
 - Flier, "Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony Bust Fund"
 - Flier, "Women's Work in America," Edited by Annie Nathan Meyer, Introduction by Julia Ward Howe, Henry Holt and Co. Publishers (2 copies)
 - Clipping: "A Noble Woman's Work, Some Account of the Life of Susan Ferrell, Who Died at Spiceland Yesterday"
 7. Character readings by Mada Paddock Sprague, circa 1899
 8. Biographical information on Paulina T. Merritt, 1881-1892
 - Photograph of Paulina T. Merritt, 1881
 - Handwritten biographical information on Paulina T. Merritt, 1892
 9. Information pertaining to George Merritt, particularly his involvement with parks in Indianapolis, circa 1873-1906
 - Note of introduction of George Merritt, from A. P. Morton to Prof. F. Hayden, 1873, 1 page
 - "Care of Children in Parks," Typescript, circa 1897, 18 pages
 - "History of Play ground in Military Park," Typescript, undated, 9 pages
 - Resolution by the Department of Public Parks, undated, Typescript, 1 page
 - 1906 Sept. 24 Bookwalter, Charles A. to George Merritt, TLS, 2 pages
 - Clipping, "Ground on the Banks of the Canal is Suggested," undated