

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