

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

Publication Information