

# A Guide to the Maury and Perkins Family Papers

Maury and Perkins Family Papers

---

A Collection in the Special Collections Department 10492-c  
Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library  
1997

## History

**Processed by:** Special Collections Department Staff  
**Date Completed:** 1997  
**Encoded by:** Elizabeth Slomba

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Maury and Perkins Family Papers

**Subtitle:** Maury and Perkins family.

**Collection:** 10492-c

**Author:** Processed by Special Collections Dept. staff; machine-readable finding aid created by Elizabeth Slomba

**Sponsor:** Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## Publication Statement

**File size:** 25 Kilobytes

**Date:** © 1997 By the Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia. All rights reserved.

**Publisher:** University of Virginia Library

[Conditions of Use](#)

Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid derived from WordPerfect. [Date of source: 1997.]

**Language Usage:** Description is in English.

## Revision Description

**Feb 18, 2004** PUBLIC "-//University of Virginia::Library::Special Collections Dept.//TEXT (US::ViU::01005::Maury and Perkins Family Papers)//EN" "ViU01005.sgm" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).

**Feb 27, 2004** converted to conform to eadVIVA.dtd by vivastrict.xsl

## Descriptive Summary

### Collection Number

10492-c

### Language

English

### Collector

Lydia Lowndes Maury Skeels

**Extent**

ca. 550 items

**Repository**

University of Virginia. Library. Special Collections Dept.

Alderman Library  
University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903  
USA

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

Collection is open to research.

**Use Restrictions**

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

**Acquisition Information**

This collection was given to the Library by Lydia Lowndes Maury Skeels of Storrs, Connecticut, on July 24, 1987.

**Funding Note**

Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

**Preferred Citation**

Maury and Perkins Family Papers, Accession 10492-c, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

## Scope and Content

This material, assembled by Lydia Lowndes Maury Skeels for her books, *One American Family: Some Maury Memories, Legends, and Records* and *Some Distaff Forebears: Perkins, Henderson, Watson, Price, Norris, Opie, Kelly*, consists of ca. 550 items, 1767(1883-1955)1985, and includes original letters and papers of the Maury and Perkins families as well as Mrs. Skeels' notes and copies of material from various repositories.

The correspondence and other material of the Maury and Perkins family pertain chiefly to the family of Eliza Norris (Watson)(1844-1936) and George Perkins(1846-1918) and their children and spouses, Hay Watson (Perkins)(1873-19 ) and George Rust Bedinger Michie(1870-19 ), Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins)(1874-1960) and Henry Lowndes Maury(1875-1959), and William Allan Perkins(1880-19 ) and his wife Hazlehurst Bolton(1882-19 ). There are also letters from Hortensia Hay Watson(1838-19 ), Eliza Maury's sister; letters from Nannie Jessie Maury(Mrs. Matthew Fontaine Maury) to her son, Henry Lowndes; and, a farm book of Egbert Reed Watson(1810-1887), Eliza Maury's father.

The majority of the original letters are written to Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury in Butte, Montana from her family in Charlottesville, Virginia and contain much personal news about family members and friends. One letter of interest, dated May 1, 1894, written to Haidee and Nannie Perkins from Bessie P. Woods, a missionary doctor's wife, in Tsing Kiang, China, describes the customs, language, and clothing of the people, and explains the needs for foreign missions. Another interesting letter, November 18, 1898, from Ellen Maury Slayden, in San Antonio, Texas, enlightens Nannie on living out west and describes the "differences between Eastern and Western people." During 1898-1935, Eliza Norris (Watson) Perkins wrote to her daughter, Nannie, discussing news of family and friends in great detail, and mentioning events in Charlottesville. There are two letters in 1901 with news of Charlottesville: April 15, concerning the election to the Virginia Constitutional Convention; and, May 23, describing the city and surrounding area during a flood caused by heavy rainfall, mentioning such sites as the new iron bridge, Holladay House, and Woolen Mills. There are also several letters mentioning persons associated with the University of Virginia: November 28, 1932 and October 16, 1933, John Lloyd Newcomb's tea for Lord and Lady Astor and his appointment as President of the University; February 13, 1933, Frank Abbott's death and John Staige Davis' illness; and, July 16, 1934, John W. Davis' speech at the Institute of Public Affairs. A December 13, 1934 letter describes her train trip from Butte, Montana to her home in Charlottesville.

George Perkins also wrote to his daughter, Nannie, after her marriage to Henry Lowndes Maury on November 22, 1898 and their subsequent departure to Butte, Montana. While he wrote personal letters to his daughter, he wrote more professional ones to his son-in-law. Many of his letters to Lowndes refer to the latter's legal business, especially his partnerships with Clayberg and Corbett and with Pemberton and Maury (August 25 and September 9, 1899), legal cases, and his being made President of the Bar Association in Butte (December 19, 1906). His letters offered support and advice concerning some of these matters. One interesting letter,

December 26, 1910, gave a lengthy account of a distant relative's, Charles Alphonso Smith(1864-1924), a University of Virginia professor, successful visit to Berlin, including a lunch with Kaiser Wilhelm and a visit to the palace at Potsdam.

Other letters of interest to Nannie from her family include: September 4, 1899, from her brother, William Allan Perkins, describing a fishing trip that took him across West Virginia and Ohio to a camp near Sault Ste. Marie; May 9 and June 3, 1918, from her aunt, Hortensia Hay Watson, mentioning the University of Virginia Base Hospital and occurrences during World War I.

In addition, there are travel journals, with transcripts, of Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury and Eliza Norris (Watson) Perkins. During July and August 1891, Nannie kept a journal on her travels from Charlottesville to various places in Virginia and New York, and Washington, D.C., describing the sites vividly. In July 1910, Lizzie Perkins travelled from Charlottesville to Butte, Montana to visit her daughter and her family, writing of the trip in a small notebook.

The research material includes Mrs. Skeels' correspondence and notes, biographies and genealogies, and copies of material from various repositories concerning the Maury, Perkins, Watson, Norris, and related families. There is much material pertaining to Matthew Fontaine Maury(1806-1873), the first great American oceanographer. Copies of original family letters, diaries, and papers have been placed in this series.

The material has been organized into three series: I. Maury and Perkins Family Papers; II. Research Material of Lydia Lowndes Maury Skeels; and, III. Oversize Material. Folders in the first two series are arranged alphabetically, and material within is in chronological order.

## Container List

### I. Maury and Perkins Family Papers

#### Correspondence

##### **Correspondence of the Perkins and Maury Families**

**Unit Date** 1894-1898

**Container** Box 1

##### **Letters to Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury**

**Unit Date** 1889-1960

**Container** Box 1

##### **Nannie Jessie Maury to Henry Lowndes Maury**

**Unit Date** 1894, n.d.

**Container** Box 1

##### **Eliza Norris (Watson) Perkins to Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) and Henry Lowndes Maury and children**

**Unit Date** 1898-1935

**Container** Box 1

**Extent** (5 folders)

##### **George Perkins to Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) and Henry Lowndes Maury**

**Unit Date** 1898-1918

**Container** Box 1

##### **William Allan Perkins to Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) and Henry Lowndes Maury**

**Unit Date** 1898-1942

**Container** Box 1

**Hortensia Hay Watson to Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury**

**Unit Date** 1898-1918

**Container** Box 1

**Papers**

**Lists of Gifts for family and friends and of phone calls made on behalf of the British War Relief Society**

**Unit Date** 1940-1955

**Container** Box 2

**Miscellaneous--Lists**

**Unit Date** n.d.

**Container** Box 2

**Miscellaneous--Poems and Recipes**

**Unit Date** n.d.

**Container** Box 2

**Papers of Eliza Norris (Watson) and George Perkins**

**Unit Date** 1869-1917

**Container** Box 2

**Piedmont Female Institute Alumnae Association**

**Unit Date** 1922

**Container** Box 2

**Bound Volumes**

**Commonplace Book of Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury, w/ transcript**

**Unit Date** 1891-1894

**Container** Box 2

**Diaries of Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury**

**Unit Date** 1941-1954

**Container** Box 2

**Extent** (2 folders)

**Diary of Egbert Reed Watson**

**Unit Date** 1875-1885

**Container** Box 2

**Travel Journal of Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury, w/ transcript**

**Unit Date** 1891

**Container** Box 2

**II. Research Material of Lydia Lowndes Maury Skeels**

**Correspondence**

**Correspondence of Lydia Lowndes Maury Skeels**

**Unit Date** 1952-1985

**Container** Box 3

## **Correspondence of the Maury family, and fragments of letters**

**Unit Date** 1812-1866

**Container** Box 3

**Extent** (electrostatic copies)

## **Papers**

### **Commonplace Book of Nannie Jessie Maury (nee Lydia Ann Maury)**

**Unit Date** 1880-1885

**Container** Box 3

**Extent** (electrostatic copy)

### **Family Events, Volumes I and II**

**Unit Date** 1934-1955

**Container** Box 3

**Extent** (2 folders)

### **Genealogical Charts of the Perkins and related families**

**Unit Date** n.d.

**Container** Box 3

### **Material re Matthew Fontaine Maury**

**Unit Date** 1911-1976

**Container** Box 3

### **Material re the Maury family**

**Unit Date** 1892-1977

**Container** Box 3

### **Material re the Maury family of Huguenot descent**

**Unit Date** 1767-1967

**Container** Box 4

### **Material re the Maury family of "Piedmont"**

**Unit Date** 1869-1963

**Container** Box 4

### **Material re Eliza Norris (Watson) and George Perkins**

**Unit Date** 1918-1919, n.d.

**Container** Box 4

### **Material re the Perkins and related families**

**Unit Date** 1880-1931

**Container** Box 4

### **Material re the Watson family**

**Unit Date** 1887

**Container** Box 4

### **Miscellaneous Notes**

**Unit Date** n.d.

**Container** Box 4

**Notes on Calendars of Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury, 1956- 1960**

**Unit Date** n.d.

**Container** Box 4

**Notes on Travel Journals of Anne "Nannie" Henderson (Perkins) Maury, 1934-1947 and 1954-1955**

**Unit Date** n.d.

**Container** Box 4

**Extent** (2 folders)

**Record of Family Reunions and Household Affairs**

**Unit Date** 1940-1958

**Container** Box 4

**Wills (copies)**

**Unit Date** 1830-1936

**Container** Box 4

## **Oversize Material**

**Appointment to Consul of the United States for the Port of Liverpool for James Maury, signed by George Washington**

**Unit Date** 1790 June 7

**Extent** (electrostatic copy)

**Confederate States of America Bond for \$500**

**Unit Date** 1862 Jan 1

**University of Virginia certificate of graduation for Henry Lowndes Maury in the School of Latin**

**Unit Date** 1892 June 29

**University of Virginia certificates of graduation for Henry Lowndes Maury for Bachelor of Arts in courses of English Literature, Greek, History, and Physics**

**Unit Date** 1894 June 13

**Extent** (4 diplomas)

**Admission to the Supreme Court of the United States for Henry Lowndes Maury**

**Unit Date** 1938 Aug 29

**Extent** (electrostatic copy)

**Admission to the United States Court of Claims for Henry Lowndes Maury**

**Unit Date** 1950 Oct 4

**Extent** (electrostatic copy)

**Admission to the Supreme Court of the State of Montana for Henry Lowndes Maury**

**Unit Date** 1957 Apr 17

**Extent** (electrostatic copy)