

Philip Henry Sheridan Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2005

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78039768>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms006029>

Prepared by Allan H. Kitchens, Susie H. Moody, Roger W. Preston, and Edwin A. Thompson
Revised by Michael Spangler

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2006
Revised 2016 February

Collection Summary

Title: Philip Henry Sheridan Papers

Span Dates: 1853-1896

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1862-1887)

ID No.: MSS39768

Creator: Sheridan, Philip Henry, 1831-1888

Extent: 18,000 items

Extent: 120 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 46.4 linear feet

Extent: 104 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78039768>

Summary: Army officer. Correspondence, letterbooks, telegrams, writings, reports, orders, financial records, scrapbooks, and other papers relating primarily to the Civil War, Reconstruction, Mexican border disputes, Indian wars, and Sheridan's service as commanding general of the army.

Online Content: The papers of Philip Henry Sheridan are available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000038>.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Bonsal, Rebecca M.

Forsyth, George A.--Correspondence.

Forsyth, James W. (James William), 1836-1906--Correspondence.

Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885--Correspondence.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Correspondence.

Page, Henry, active 1863-1865.

Sheridan, Michael V. (Michael Vincent), 1840-1918--Correspondence.

Sheridan, Philip Henry, 1831-1888.

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.

Warren, G. K. (Gouverneur Kemble), 1830-1882.

Subjects

Courts-martial and courts of inquiry.

Indians of North America--Government relations.

Indians of North America--Wars--Montana.

Indians of North America--Wars.

Piegans Indians--Wars--Montana.

Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)

Shenandoah Valley Campaign, 1864 (August-November)

Shenandoah Valley Campaign, 1864 (May-August)

Places

Appomattox (Va.)--History.

Asia--Description and travel.

Bighorn Mountains (Wyo. and Mont.)--Discovery and exploration.

Boonville (Mo.)--History.

Chickamauga (Ga.)--History.

Europe--Description and travel.

Georgia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Kentucky--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Mexico--Boundaries--United States.
Missionary Ridge (Tenn.)--History.
Mississippi--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Missouri--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Murfreesboro (Tenn.)--History.
Perryville (Ky.)--History.
Ripley (Miss.)--History.
Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Tennessee--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Tullahoma (Tenn.)--History.
United States--Boundaries--Mexico.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Cavalry operations.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Winchester, 3rd Battle of, Winchester, Va., 1864.
Wyoming--Discovery and exploration.
Yellowstone River--Discovery and exploration.

Titles

Philip Henry Sheridan Papers at the Library of Congress

Occupations

Army officers.

Provenance

The papers of Philip Henry Sheridan, army officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1931-1932 by his widow, Irene Rucker Sheridan. In 1948, heirs to his estate converted the deposit to a gift. The collection was augmented by a transfer of items from the papers of Sheridan's secretary, Daniel O. Drennan, which were donated in 1946 by Mrs. Charles H. Kneessi.

Processing History

The Sheridan Papers were processed in 1960 and prepared for microfilming in 1985. The finding aid was revised in 2005.

Additional Guides

In 1962, the Library published *Philip H. Sheridan, A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress*. The register was amended when the papers were microfilmed in 1985.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Philip Henry Sheridan is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Philip Henry Sheridan are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on 104 reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Online Content

The papers of Philip Henry Sheridan are available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/collmss.ms000038>.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Philip Henry Sheridan Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1831, Mar. 6	Born, Albany, N.Y.
1853	Graduated, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1854-1855	Frontier duty at Fort Duncan, La Pena, and Turkey Creek, Tex.
1855-1861	Frontier duty in the Oregon and Washington territories
1861-1862	Chief quartermaster and chief commissary of the Army of the Southwest
1862	Promoted to colonel, U.S. Volunteers Commanded Second Michigan Cavalry, Volunteers Commanded Second Brigade, Cavalry Division, Army of the Mississippi Promoted to brigadier general, U.S. Volunteers Commanded Eleventh Division, Third Corps, Army of the Ohio Commanded Third Division, Right Wing, Fourteenth Army Corps Promoted to major general, U.S. Volunteers
1863	Commanded Third Division, Twentieth Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland
1863-1864	Commanded Second Division, Fourth Army Corps
1864	Commanded Cavalry Corps, Army of the Potomac Promoted to brigadier general, U.S. Army
1865	Commanded Army of the Shenandoah Commanded Middle Military Division Promoted to major general, U.S. Army Commanded all U.S. forces west of the Mississippi River
1865-1866	Commanded Military Division of the Gulf
1866-1867	Commanded Department of the Gulf
1867	Commanded Fifth Military District
1867-1869	Commanded Department of the Missouri
1869-1878	Commanded Military Division of the Missouri
1869	Promoted to lieutenant general, U.S. Army
1870	Inspected military posts in northern Utah and Montana
1870-1871	United States official observer of the Franco-Prussian War
1875	Married Irene Rucker
1877	Led Yellowstone expedition
1878-1883	Commanded Western and Southwestern Military Division

1883	Escorted Chester A. Arthur, Robert Todd Lincoln, and others on an expedition through Yellowstone Park
1883-1888	Commanding general, U.S. Army, succeeding William T. Sherman
1888	Published <i>Personal Memoirs of P. H. Sheridan</i> . New York: C. L. Webster. 2 vols. Promoted to general, U.S. Army
1888, Aug. 5	Died, Nonquit, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Philip Henry Sheridan (1831-1888) span the years 1853 to 1896, with the bulk of the material originating between 1862 and 1887. The collection includes correspondence, reports, orders, memorabilia, scrapbooks, commissions, financial records, and speeches organized in the following series: [General Correspondence](#), [Autograph Letters](#), [Letterbooks](#), [Field Dispatches and Telegrams](#), [Military Papers](#), [Subject File](#), [Book and Speech File](#), [Miscellany](#), [Scrapbooks](#), and [Oversize](#).

The papers relate chiefly to the Civil War, Reconstruction, Mexican border disputes, Indian wars, and military administration. There is very little material concerning Sheridan's family and personal life. Dominated by correspondence and reports, the papers document Sheridan's service as an army commander in the Civil War and his postwar commands up to and including that of commanding general of the United States Army. The papers also include material relating to George A. Forsyth's Europe-Asia observation tour; the Piegan expedition; Gouverneur K. Warren's court of inquiry; Rebecca Wright, a Federal spy at Winchester, Virginia; reconnaissance of Bighorn Mountain and the valleys of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers; and Henry Page's letterbooks as quartermaster for the Army of the Potomac. Correspondents include George A. Forsyth (aide and secretary), James W. Forsyth, Ulysses S. Grant, Michael V. Sheridan (his brother), and William T. Sherman. There are two letters from Abraham Lincoln to Sheridan, September 20 and October 22, 1864.

Included also is a draft of Sheridan's published memoirs. Following the destruction of some of Sheridan's papers in the Chicago fire of 1871, a large number of transcripts were made from the records of the War Department by his secretaries. These transcripts have been interfiled with the surviving original papers.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in ten series:

- [General Correspondence, 1853-1888](#)
- [Autograph Letters, 1865-1887](#)
- [Letterbooks, 1871-1888](#)
- [Field Dispatches and Telegrams, 1862-1883](#)
- [Military Papers, 1853-1887](#)
- [Subject File, 1863-1891](#)
- [Book and Speech File, 1878-circa 1883](#)
- [Miscellany, 1853-1896](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1861-1881](#)
- [Oversize, 1853-1869](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-38 REEL 1-16	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1853-1888</u> Letters, telegrams, and memoranda sent and received. Arranged chronologically with undated items at the end of most years and at the end of the series.</p>
BOX 39 REEL 17	<p><u>Autograph Letters, 1865-1887</u> Letters received from William T. Sherman and Ulysses S. Grant and miscellaneous letters sent by Sheridan. Arranged alphabetically by name of person and thereunder chronologically.</p>
BOX 40-49 REEL 18-42	<p><u>Letterbooks, 1871-1888</u> Copies of letters sent and received. Grouped into general correspondence and correspondence signed by aides and clerks and arranged thereunder chronologically. Most volumes are indexed.</p>
BOX 50-59 REEL 43-64	<p><u>Field Dispatches and Telegrams, 1862-1883</u> Field dispatches and telegrams sent and received. Grouped as items sent and items received and filed thereunder chronologically. Some volumes are indexed.</p>
BOX 60-89 REEL 65-87	<p><u>Military Papers, 1853-1887</u> Endorsements, official correspondence of the Department of the Gulf, operations reports, orders, and reports. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and filed thereunder by topic or chronology.</p>
BOX 90-95 REEL 87-94	<p><u>Subject File, 1863-1891</u> Correspondence, telegram books, reports, newspaper clippings, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by subject and thereunder chronologically.</p>
BOX 96-109 REEL 94-100	<p><u>Book and Speech File, 1878-circa 1883</u> Drafts of memoirs and speeches. The memoirs are arranged by volume and chapter and the speeches chronologically.</p>
BOX 110-113 REEL 101-103	<p><u>Miscellany, 1853-1896</u> Biographical material, citations, charges and specifications against Sheridan, commissions, contingent fund records, memorabilia, newspaper clippings, personal financial records, printed matter, and expressions of sympathy. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p>
BOX 114-116 REEL 104	<p><u>Scrapbooks, 1861-1881</u> Mounted newspaper clippings. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX OV 1 REEL 104	<p><u>Oversize, 1853-1869</u> Commissions.</p>

Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,308

Container	Contents
BOX 1-38 REEL 1-16	General Correspondence, 1853-1888 Letters, telegrams, and memoranda sent and received. Arranged chronologically with undated items at the end of most years and at the end of the series.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1853, July Digital content available 1861, Apr.-Nov. Digital content available 1862 Digital content available 1863, Feb.-Dec. Digital content available 1864 Jan. Digital content available Feb. Digital content available Mar. Digital content available Apr. Digital content available May Digital content available June Digital content available July Digital content available Aug. Digital content available Sept. Digital content available Oct. Digital content available Nov. Digital content available Dec. Digital content available Undated Digital content available
BOX 2 REEL 1	1865

General Correspondence, 1853-1888

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	May Digital content available
	Apr. Digital content available
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	June 15-29 Digital content available
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BOX 3 REEL 1	Aug. 1-11 Digital content available
	Aug. 14-28 Digital content available
	Sept. Digital content available
BOX 3 REEL 2	Oct. Digital content available
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	Dec. 1-18 Digital content available
	Nov. 15-19 Digital content available
	Dec. 19-31 Digital content available
BOX 4 REEL 2	1866
	Jan. 2-13 Digital content available
	Jan. 14-24 Digital content available
	Jan. 26-30 Digital content available
	Feb. Digital content available
	Mar. Digital content available
	Apr. Digital content available

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	June	Digital content available
	July	Digital content available
BOX 5 REEL 2	Aug. 1-15	Digital content available
	Aug. 17-30	Digital content available
	Sept. 1-17	Digital content available
	Sept. 18-30	Digital content available
	Oct. 1-17	Digital content available
	Oct. 18-31	Digital content available
	Nov.	Digital content available
	Dec.	Digital content available
	1867	
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BOX 6 REEL 3	June	Digital content available
	July	Digital content available
	Aug.	Digital content available
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	Undated	Digital content available
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	1869	

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	Oct. Digital content available
	Nov. 2-13 Digital content available
	Nov. 14-22 Digital content available
	Nov. 24-30 Digital content available
	Dec. Digital content available
	Undated Digital content available
BOX 7 REEL 3	1872
	Jan.-Feb. Digital content available
	Mar. 2-14 Digital content available
	Mar. 15-31 Digital content available
	Apr. Digital content available
	May Digital content available
	June 3-23 Digital content available
BOX 7 REEL 4	June 24-30 Digital content available
	July Digital content available
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BOX 8 REEL 4	Oct. 1-15
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	1873
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Digital content available	
Jan. 28-31	
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BOX 9 REEL 4	Mar. 1-17
	Digital content available
	Mar. 19-24
	Digital content available
	Mar. 25-31
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BOX 9 REEL 5	June 2-12
	Digital content available
	June 13-30
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BOX 10 REEL 5	Sept.
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	Nov. 3-18 Digital content available
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BOX 11 REEL 5	Apr. Digital content available
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	June Digital content available
	July 10-18 Digital content available
BOX 11 REEL 6	July 20-31 Digital content available
	Aug. Digital content available
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	Sept. 18-25 Digital content available
	Oct. Digital content available
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BOX 12 REEL 6	Nov. 27-30 Digital content available
	Dec. 1-17 Digital content available
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	1875
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BOX 13 REEL 6	Feb. 1-11 Digital content available
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BOX 13 REEL 7	Mar. 12-28 Digital content available
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BOX 14 REEL 7	Dec. Digital content available
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	1876
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BOX 15 REEL 7	May 13-20 Digital content available
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	Aug. 4-17 Digital content available
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BOX 15 REEL 8	Sept. Digital content available
BOX 16 REEL 8	Oct. Digital content available
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	1877
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BOX 17 REEL 8	Mar. 12-19 Digital content available
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BOX 18 REEL 8	Oct. Digital content available
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BOX 18 REEL 9	Undated
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BOX 19 REEL 9	1878
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BOX 20 REEL 9	Sept. 2-12 Digital content available
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BOX 20 REEL 10	Nov. 11-19 Digital content available
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	Dec. 20-31 Digital content available
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BOX 21 REEL 10	1879
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BOX 22 REEL 10	Mar. 1-21 Digital content available
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BOX 23 REEL 10	May 1-7 Digital content available
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BOX 23 REEL 11	July 2-9 Digital content available
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BOX 25 REEL 11	Sept. Digital content available
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BOX 26 REEL 11	1880 Mar. Digital content available Apr. Digital content available May 1-19 Digital content available May 20-24 Digital content available May 26-31 Digital content available June Digital content available July Digital content available
BOX 26 REEL 12	Aug. Digital content available
BOX 27 REEL 12	Sept. 11-20 Digital content available Sept. 21-30 Digital content available Oct. Digital content available Nov. Digital content available Dec. 2-14 Digital content available Dec. 15-30 Digital content available

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	Digital content available
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BOX 29 REEL 12	Sept. 5-15
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BOX 30 REEL 12	Nov. 2-10
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	Nov. 11-16
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BOX 30 REEL 13	Nov. 22-30
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BOX 31 REEL 13	1882 Jan. 3-13 Digital content available Jan. 14-21 Digital content available Feb. Digital content available Mar. 3-10 Digital content available Mar. 13-31 Digital content available Apr. 1-8 Digital content available Apr. 11-21 Digital content available Apr. 23-29 Digital content available
BOX 32 REEL 13	May 4-20 Digital content available May 22-27 Digital content available June 1-10 Digital content available June 12-23 Digital content available June 24-28 Digital content available July 3-12 Digital content available July 13-20 Digital content available July 24-31 Digital content available
BOX 33 REEL 13	Aug. Digital content available Sept. 4-7 Digital content available Sept. 8-15 Digital content available
BOX 33 REEL 14	Sept. 16-30 Digital content available Oct. 2-23 Digital content available

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BOX 34 REEL 14	1883
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	Feb. Digital content available
	Mar. Digital content available
	Apr.-May Digital content available
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	Sept. Digital content available
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	Dec. Digital content available
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	1884
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	Feb. Digital content available
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BOX 35 REEL 14	June Digital content available
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BOX 35 REEL 15	1885
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	Mar. Digital content available
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BOX 36 REEL 15	Sept. Digital content available
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	Apr. Digital content available

General Correspondence, 1853-1888

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	July	Digital content available
	Aug.	Digital content available
	Oct.-Nov.	Digital content available
	Dec.	Digital content available
	Undated	Digital content available
	1887	
	Jan.-Feb.	Digital content available
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	May-June	Digital content available
	July-Sept	Digital content available
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	Undated	Digital content available
BOX 37 REEL 15	1888	
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BOX 37 REEL 16	1870s	
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BOX 39 REEL 17	Autograph Letters, 1865-1887 Letters received from William T. Sherman and Ulysses S. Grant and miscellaneous letters sent by Sheridan. Arranged alphabetically by name of person and thereunder chronologically.
BOX 39 REEL 17	Grant, Ulysses S., to Sheridan, 1865-1881 Digital content available Sheridan to others, 1865-1885 Digital content available Sherman, William T., to Sheridan 1868-1877 Digital content available 1878-1887 Digital content available
BOX 40-49 REEL 18-42	Letterbooks, 1871-1888 Copies of letters sent and received. Grouped into general correspondence and correspondence signed by aides and clerks and arranged thereunder chronologically. Most volumes are indexed.
BOX 40 REEL 18	General correspondence 1871, Oct. 12-1872, May 6 Digital content available

Letterbooks, 1871-1888

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BOX 40 REEL 19	1871, Oct. 21-1872, Dec. 31 (includes correspondence dated 1874 and 1876) Digital content available
BOX 41 REEL 20	1873, Jan. 22-1875, Dec. 12 Digital content available
BOX 41 REEL 22	1874, Dec. 10-1875, Dec. 31 Digital content available
BOX 41 REEL 21	1876, Jan. 3-1878, Dec. 24 (includes correspondence dated 1879) Digital content available
BOX 42 REEL 23	1879, Jan. 4-1881, Apr. 29 Digital content available
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The memoirs are arranged by volume and chapter and the speeches chronologically.

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