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Gignilliat Family Papers

Zach S. Henderson Library Special Collections

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OVERVIEW OF COLLECTION

Title: Gignilliat family papers

Date: 1830-1978, bulk 1930-1975

Extent: 4 Boxes, 1 Oversized Folder (1.75 linear feet)

Creator: Sewell, Clifford Gignilliat, 1906-1990; Gignilliat, Robert Deas, Jr., 1901-1954; Gignilliat, Leigh Robinson, 1909-1980.

Language: English

Repository: Zach S. Henderson Library Special Collections, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA. specolle@georgiasouthern.edu, 912-478-7819, library.georgiasouthern.edu.

Processing Note: Finding aid revised by Avra Mukherjee, Graduate Assistant, under the supervision of Autumn Johnson, Special Collections Librarian, 2024.

INFORMATION FOR USE OF COLLECTION

Conditions Governing Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Materials must be viewed in the Special Collections Reading Room under the supervision of Special Collections staff.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

In order to protect the materials from inadvertent damage, all reproduction services are performed by the Special Collections staff. All requests for reproduction must be submitted using the Reproduction Request Form. Requests to publish from the collection must be submitted using the Publication Request Form. Special Collections does not claim to control the rights to all materials in its collection. In all instances, it is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission from the holders of any rights in the material being quoted, reproduced or published.

Preferred Citation: [Item Identification], Gignilliat family papers, Zach S. Henderson Library Special Collections, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA

Related Collections: [History of the Gignilliat family of Switzerland and South Carolina / by Robert Gignilliat Kenan.](#)

Separated Materials:

- Map Case A6: Articles of Marriage Settlement, Adeline S. Graham, James A. Probhart to [illegible] Jacob Probhart. 1830 September.
-

ABOUT THE COLLECTION

Biographical History: The Gignilliat family history can be traced back to Jean Francois Gignilliat, a French Huguenot who fled to Switzerland and then to America in the 18th century. He was granted a tract of 5,000 acres of land in South Carolina, at Purysburg on the Savannah River. According to the South Carolina Historical Society, Gignilliat was the first Swiss immigrant to these colonies.

The Gignilliat family includes notable members such as Arthur M., Clifford Sewell, Robert D., General Leigh R., and Thomas Heyward Gignilliat. James Gignilliat served on Georgia's first constitutional convention in 1777. Educated at the University of Georgia, William Robert Gignilliat's father was a wealthy antebellum rice planter. His twin sons, Thomas Hart and Gilbert West, joined the Confederacy at age 19, serving in the Fifth Georgia Cavalry.

Scope and Content: Spanning 1930-1978, this collection consists of the papers of the Gignilliat family of Savannah, Georgia. The collection primarily contains Clifford Gignilliat Sewell's correspondence (1928-1934), including letters with W.L. Sewell (1928-1932) and others, along with manuscripts of Sewell's works and their source materials. It also includes scrapbooks, loose clippings, and articles written by Sewell, mainly about Savannah's history. The collection also includes correspondence (1891-1908) to and from Robert D. Gignilliat, information on Leigh R. Gignilliat, genealogical data on the Gignilliat family, and family photographs.

System of Arrangement: Materials are arranged in 4 boxes by material type, and further arranged by size and condition, according to their housing needs. Originally cataloged as part of the Georgia Archives and Manuscripts Automated Access Project: A Special Collections Gateway Program of the University Center in Georgia.

Box 1: 0200105033241

Box 2: 0200105033035

Box 3: 0200105033043

Box 4: 0200105033456

Oversized Materials: 0200107554764

Map Case A6

Acquisitions Info: Gift of Meta Gignilliat Colley, 1994.

Access Points:

Authors, American.
Authors, American -- Georgia
Georgia
Georgia -- Savannah
Gignilliat family
Gignilliat family -- Photographs
Gignilliat, Leigh Robinson, 1875-
History
Manuscripts
Savannah (Ga.)
Savannah (Ga.) -- History
Sewell, W. L.

CONTAINER LISTING**Box 1:** 0200105033241

<u>Items</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Family Information - genealogical information re: Gignilliat family	1	1
Lila's Letters - letters to "Aunt Lila and Uncle Rayburn" (Webb) and "Aunt Tip and Uncle Walter" (Sewell) from "Lila" [1951]	1	2
Robert D. Gignilliat - miscellaneous correspondence to and from Robert D. Gignilliat [1891-1908]	1	3
General Leigh R. Gignilliat - poem - "General L. R. Gignilliat" by Edgar A. Guest - article re: Gen. Gignilliat from Culver Alumnus, Culver Military Academy, Culver, Indiana	1	4
Clifford Gignilliat Sewell - Correspondence (1) - correspondence between Clifford Gignilliat Sewell and various others [1928-1934]	1	5
Clifford Gignilliat Sewell - Correspondence (2) - correspondence between Clifford Gignilliat Sewell and W. L. Sewell [1928-1932]	1	6
Clifford Gignilliat Sewell - Manuscripts (1)	1	7

- manuscripts of works by Cliff Sewell, source materials for her works, photocopies of newspaper articles		
Clifford Gignilliat Sewell - Manuscripts (2) - manuscripts of works by Cliff Sewell, source materials for her works, photocopies of newspaper articles	1	8
Roses - God's Autograph - book - Roses . . . God's Autograph, but Anne Douglas Leitch with Cliff Sewell [copyright 1976] - articles about book	1	9
Filler for Candle - copy of The Candle, publication of St. Andrew's Independent Episcopal Church 1978 September. - miscellaneous manuscripts	1	10
Photographs (1)- miscellaneous photographs of the Gignilliat family, mostly unidentified	1	11
Photographs (2) miscellaneous photographs of the Gignilliat family, mostly unidentified	1	12
Miscellaneous - ration books from World War Two - booklet - Calvary Catechism - letter to "Mother" from William Robert Gignilliat, with form of contract for employment of freed slave attached [undated, but sounds like from just after Civil War] - handwritten story - "The lost son," by Hattie H. Gignilliat. 1907 January. - plat of part of Tybee Island	1	13
Notebook - "Clifford Gignilliat, Man 101"	1	<i>Loose</i>
Composition book - "Clifford Gignilliat, English I, Rm. 27"	1	<i>Loose</i>
Articles of Marriage Settlement, Adeline S. Graham, James A. Probhart to [illegible] Jacob Probhart. 1830 September.	1	<i>Loose</i>

Box 2: 0200105033035

<u>Items</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
<i>Georgia Magazine</i> , Volume 11, Number 3, with story by Cliff Sewell on page 25 - "When Somebody Cares - A Short Georgia	2	<i>Loose</i>

Story" 1967 October-November.		
<i>Savannah St. Patrick's Day</i> , Vol 1. No. 8 and No. 9. 1970 February-March.	2	<i>Loose</i>
<i>Savannah</i> , Vol. 1 No. 10. 1970 April.	2	<i>Loose</i>
<i>Savannah</i> , Vol. 1 No. 11. 1970 May.	2	<i>Loose</i>
<i>Savannah, First Anniversary Issue</i> , Vol. 2 No. 1. 1970 July.	2	<i>Loose</i>
<i>Savannah</i> , Vol. 4, No. 3. 1972 September.	2	<i>Loose</i>
<i>Savannah Shrine Bowl Issue</i> , featuring profile of Halmer Baker by Cliff Sewell. 1969 November.	2	<i>Loose</i>
<i>Savannah Season's Greetings</i> , featuring Christmas and Meta Collect by Cliff Sewell page 19 and St. John's Parish House page 22. [1969 December.]	2	<i>Loose</i>
<i>Savannah</i> , Vol. 1 No. 7. 1970 January.	2	<i>Loose</i>
Bound Scrapbook, cuttings from Savannah Morning News Magazine, 1966.	2	<i>Loose</i>
Newspaper, [1960-1970] - <i>Georgia's Coastal Illustrated</i> , bi-monthly newspaper, Volume 8, Number 170 [no date given] - Cliff Sewell is listed as a feature writer, but her by-line does not appear on any of the stories	2	<i>Loose</i>
Newspaper, <i>Savannah News-Press Sunday Magazine</i> , with story by Cliff Sewell on first page - "Ghostly Tales Freeze the Blood and Other Savannah Memories" 1975 May 4.	2	<i>Loose</i>
Newspaper, <i>Savannah News-Press Sunday Magazine</i> , with story by Cliff Sewell on first page - "Savannah Dolls" 1974 June 16.	2	<i>Loose</i>
Newspaper, <i>Savannah News-Press Sunday Magazine</i> , with story re: Cliff Sewell on first page - "'Savannah, Now and Then': Sunday Magazine Writer Authors Book on Savannah" 1974 June 2.	2	<i>Loose</i>
<i>Savannah News</i> , press, Magazine, story by Cliff Sewell- "Education a privilege, not a right" 1970 November 29.	2	<i>Loose</i>
Savannah news press, Magazine, story by Cliff Sewel "The most wonderful time of my life". 1970 December 6.	2	<i>Loose</i>
<i>Savannah News Press, Magazine</i> , story by Cliff Sewel "Come to Cockspur Island" page 3. 1970 October 25.	2	<i>Loose</i>

<i>Savannah News Press, Magazine</i> , story by Cliff Sewel "twenty-five years of bowling in Savannah". 1970 September 13.	2	<i>Loose</i>
<i>Savannah News Press, Magazine</i> , story by Cliff Sewel "twenty-five years of bowling in Savannah". 1970 September 13.	2	<i>Loose</i>
<i>Savannah News Press, Magazine</i> , story by Cliff Sewel "Gardeners become bricklayers to restore colonial cemetery". 1970 September 20.	2	<i>Loose</i>

Box 3: 0200105033043

<u>Items</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Autograph book, "Miss A. G. [illegible], January 9, 1877"	3	1
Bound scrapbook, labeled "Volume II: 1968-1969"	3	<i>Loose</i>
Bound scrapbook, [1960s]	3	<i>Loose</i>

Box 4: 0200105033456

<u>Items</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Assorted Newspaper Issues, 1930-1970 - <i>Savannah Morning News</i> - <i>Savannah Evening Press</i> - <i>The Augusta Chronicle</i> - <i>The Atlanta Journal</i> - <i>The True Citizen</i> - <i>The Toyland Herald</i> - <i>The Atlanta Constitution</i> - <i>The Ludowici News</i>	4	<i>Loose</i>
Letter from Rice Growers Bank, date.	4	<i>Loose</i>

Oversized Materials: 0200107554764 Map Case A6

<u>Items</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Articles of Marriage Settlement, Adeline S. Graham, James A. Probhart to [illegible] Jacob Probhart. 1830 September.		1