

Gignilliat family papers

Descriptive Summary

Repository:	Georgia Historical Society
Creator:	Gignilliat, Thomas Heyward, 1897-1988.
Title:	Gignilliat family papers
Dates:	1695-1981
Extent:	1.8 cubic feet (3 boxes, 1 roll box, 4 oversize folders)
Identification:	MS 2077

Biographical/Historical Note

Thomas Heyward Gignilliat II (1897-1988) was a prominent Savannah, Georgia, attorney, civic leader, and amateur historian. He was the son of Thomas Heyward Gignilliat I (1863-1911), a Savannah educator and aviation pioneer, and the grandson of Savannah attorney William Robert Gignilliat Jr. (1839-1885). In 1926, Thomas Heyward Gignilliat II married Mary Wallace Ravenel, a union that produced three children. Thomas Heyward Gignilliat II served as president of both the Telfair Academy of Arts and the Georgia Historical Society.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists chiefly of compiled family histories, lineage charts, Gignilliat family correspondence, and news clippings. There are seven series in the collection: Thomas H. Gignilliat II indexed materials; Gignilliat family; Gignilliat and allied families; individuals; miscellaneous; oversize materials; and photographs. The collection focuses on the descendants of Jean Francois Gignilliat (died 1699), an emigrant from Switzerland to South Carolina in the 1680s, and Susanne Le Surrurier (dates unknown). Thomas Heyward Gignilliat II, compiler of the collection, was of the eighth generation following Jean Francois Gignilliat. Allied families directly from the Jean Francois Gignilliat line include DuPre, Hart, Heyward, Kenear, Le Surrurier, McDonald, Pepper, Ravenel, and Walker. Additional allied families include Hart, Le Noble, Marion, Mazyck, Nephew, Ross, Roulhac, St. Julien, and Wilson.

The box containing photographs is noted as "VM" (visual materials) in the collection inventory.

Index Terms

Chateau de Glerolles (St. Saphorin et Vevy, Switzerland)
Genealogies (histories)
Gignilliat family.
Gignilliat, Mary Wallace Ravenel.
Gignilliat, Thomas Heyward, 1863-1911.
Gignilliat, Thomas Heyward, 1897-1988.
Heyward family.
Le Surrurier family.
Letters (correspondence)
Local histories.
Memoirs.
Photographs.
Ravenel family.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Material was acquired from collector.

Preferred Citation

[item identification], Gignilliat family papers, MS 2077, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Thomas Gignilliat, 1981.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Sponsorship

Encoding funded by a 2012 Documenting Democracy grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Container List

SERIES 1:: Thomas H. Gignilliat II indexed materials, 1868-1968

This series contains thirteen folders in the original order established by Thomas H. Gignilliat II according to his handwritten index. Some items listed in the handwritten index are missing.

Box Fldr

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | Indexes created by Thomas Heyward Gignilliat II, 1968 |
| | 2 | Pamphlet, "Liste des François et Suisses", 1868 |
| | 3 | Genealogical information on the Hart and Gignilliat Families, 1933 |
| | 4 | James B. Heyward's Gignilliat family, 1699-1900, undated |
| | 5 | Gignilliat family information, undated |
| | 6 | "A Record of the Gignilliat Family 1699-1845", undated |
| | 7 | "Josiah Heyward" and "Excursus on the Gignilliats", 1939 |

- 8 Ravenel family pamphlet, "An Abstract of a Genealogical Collection" by Malcolm Macbeth, 1907
- 9 LeSerrurier-Gignilliat, undated
- 10 Gignilliat-LeSerrurier-Nephew: Ancestry of Mary Bartow Simrall, undated
- 11 Gignilliat Family, 1917
- 12 Descent of General James Screven, 1949
- 13 Chart showing descent from Marion and Gignilliat ancestors, 1905

SERIES 2:: Gignilliat family, 1839-1981

This series contains materials focusing primarily on the Gignilliat family, but allied families are sometimes mentioned. This is particularly true in the correspondence files, which contain a great deal of genealogical information.

Box Fldr

- 1 14 Miscellaneous, undated
- 15 Coat of Arms, 1973, undated
- 16 Correspondence, 1886-1887, 1903, 1980-1981
(the most recent pieces refer to older correspondence in the file)
- 17 Correspondence, 1939-1940, 1947-1959
- 18 Correspondence, 1963-1976, undated
- 19 Culver Military Academy, circa 1913, 1957
- 20 Deeds, receipts, and business cards, 1839, 1851, 1858, 1886, undated
- 21 Switzerland, 1958, 1961, 1970, undated

SERIES 3:: Gignilliat and allied families, 1720-1982

Box Fldr

- 1 22 Deed of gift from Elizabeth LeSerrurier to Henry Gignilliat (copies), 1720, 1982
- 23 Portraits, 1949, 1969-1971
- 24 Tombstone inscriptions, Contentment Bluff, 1949, undated
- 25 LeSerrurier family, 1972, undated

- 26 Pepper family, "Descendants of Captain Daniel Pepper (1706-1770) of South Carolina", 1976

Box Fldr

- 2 27 Ravenel family, miscellany, 1926, 1936, 1957, undated
- 28 Ravenel and allied families, "Family Records of Wilson, Ravenel, Mazyck, St. Julien, Le Noble", 1948-1949
- 29 Ross family, Cumberland Island memoirs, circa 1940, 1977
- 30 Roulhac family, undated

SERIES 4:: Individuals, 1911-1968

Box Fldr

- 2 31 Gignilliat, Margaret Deas "Peggy", (b. 1931), 1948-1954
- 32 Gignilliat, Mary Ravenel "Polly", (b. 1936), 1953-1954, undated
- 33 Gignilliat, Thomas Heyward I, (1863-1911), 1911, 1934, undated
- 34 Gignilliat, Thomas Heyward II, (1897-1988), 1937-1961, undated
- 35 Gignilliat, Thomas Heyward III, (b. 1938), 1938, 1956, undated
- 36 Gignilliat, William Robert, (1839-1885), 1968, undated
- 37 Smith, Landgrave Thomas, (1693-1694), 1967

SERIES 5:: Miscellaneous, 1925-1970

Box Fldr

- 2 38 Savannah History, 1948, 1970, undated
- 39 Miscellany, 1925, undated

SERIES 6:: Oversize materials, 1695-1938

Box Oversize_Folder

- 2 40 Gignilliat family chart, 1851

- 40 Gignilliat land grants (photocopy, 2 sheets), 1695
- 41 "Map of a Portion of Venezuela and British Guiana Showing the Advance of English Claims on Venezuelan Territory," Compiled and Drawn by T. Heyward Gignillia, 1896
- 42 Land grant (photocopy), Alexander Kellet, Savannah, Georgia, 1756
- 43 Heyward-Cuthbert family chart, compiled by John Webb Howard, 1938

Box

- 3 Chart, "Descendants of Abraham Gignilliat and Mary DeVille en Suisse In America 1685-1893", undated

SERIES 7:: Photographs

This series contains images of the Gignilliat family and friends. Many of the images date from approximately 1915-1925 and are of Thomas H. Gignilliat, Jr. and his friends. There are images of Thomas H. Gignilliat, Jr. and others while in the military and also at a military hospital. Most of the photographs are snapshots and are largely unidentified.

vm_box Fldr

- 1 1-2 Mary W. Ravenel and Thomas H. Gignilliat, Jr. and Gignilliat family, immediate family only, 30 items

Thomas H. Gignilliat, Jr.

vm_box Fldr

- 1 3-4 Military and military hospital, Some identified, 30 items.

vm_box Fldr

- 1 5-6 Friends, 29 items,
Includes unidentified people at the beach and swimming. and many duplicates.

People

vm_box Fldr

- 1 7 Identified, 11 items.
Includes some Gignilliats, also some actresses.

Men

vm_box Fldr

1 8 Thomas H. Gignilliat, Sr. (probably). Item #5 was in envelope labeled "Father", 5 items.

vm_box Fldr

1 9 Unidentified. #8 is possibly Thomas H. Gignilliat, Jr.'s son, 8 items

Women

vm_box Fldr

1 10 Women in an unidentified uniform, a few are identified. Some of these images are of the same women not in uniform, 9 items.

vm_box Fldr

1 11 Unidentified individuals, 17 items (and duplicates).

vm_box Fldr

1 12 Groups, unidentified, 9 items, a few identified.

vm_box Fldr

1 13 Groups, unidentified, 15 items.

vm_box Fldr

1 14 Children, unidentified, 8 items.

vm_box Fldr

1 15 Photos by Sylvia Salmi, unidentified. There are a few photos of Thomas H. Gignilliat, Jr., #15-16 is probably Mary W. R. Gignilliat, the other are possibly the Gignilliat children. some are dated 1947, 16 items,

Places

vm_box Fldr

1 16 Identified, The Gignilliat Chateaux in Switzerland, photo of the Telfair Museum by Sylvia Salmi, 8 items (and duplicates).

vm_box Fldr

1 17 Unidentified, 10 items.

vm_box Fldr

1 18 Coats-of-Arms, Gignilliat and Ravenel coats-of-arms, 2 items (and duplicates).