

# Missouri State Archives

## Finding Aid [998.506]

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### MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

#### Governor John S. Phelps Collection

*Abstract:* One photo album that belonged to Missouri Governor John S. Phelps (1877-1881). Contains 68 photographs dated 1868-1893 of him, his wife, family, friends and acquaintances, some of whom are unidentified.

*Extent:* ¼ Cubic Feet

*Physical Description:* Ephemera; Photographs

*Location:* Missouri State Archives; Stacks

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

*Alternative Formats:* TIF

*Access Restrictions:* None

*Publication Restrictions:* None

*Preferred Citation:* [item description]; [date]; *Governor John S. Phelps Collection*, Record Group 998.506; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

*Acquisition Information:* Gift with deed; Accession #2021-0006

*Processing Information:* Processing completed by EW on 02/25/2021. Updated by EW on 08/02/2021.

### HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

*Quoted from finding aid RG3.23 John Smith Phelps, 1877-1881 by B.C. and S.E.B.:*

“John Smith Phelps was born in Simsbury, Connecticut on December 22, 1814 to Elisha Phelps and wife Lucy Smith Phelps. Educated at Trinity College in Hartford, Phelps was admitted to the Connecticut bar in 1835. After his marriage to Mary Whitney (1813-1878) in 1837, the couple moved to Springfield, Missouri where Phelps opened his law

practice. The couple would have five children although only two survived to adulthood: John Elisha Phelps (1839-1921) and Mary Anne Phelps Montgomery (1846-1943).

“A devotee of U.S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton early in his political career, John Smith Phelps later aligned himself with the anti-Benton Democrats, and then with the national Democratic Party. He was elected to the Missouri legislature in 1840 and in 1844 to the U. S. House of Representatives where he represented southwest Missouri for the next eighteen years. Congressman Phelps was recognized nationally for his support of an overland mail route to California, his efforts towards gaining Oregon statehood, and his work in the reduction of postage stamps to three cents per letter.

“He served as chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and although was in line to become Speaker of the House in 1860, ultimately failed to obtain the post. Congressman Phelps opposed secession and together with conditional Union and unconditional Union allies in the state legislature successfully kept Missouri in the Union during the secession crisis of 1861. Phelps did not stand for reelection in 1862 and upon leaving Congress, he recruited and commanded a Union regiment at the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas in March 1862. In July 1862, hoping to establish a loyal civil government, President Lincoln appointed Phelps as military governor of Arkansas. Ill health forced Phelps to resign that commission in 1863.

“Upon the conclusion of the Civil War, John Smith Phelps returned to his law practice in Springfield. Mr. Phelps successfully defended James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok who had been tried for killing Dave Tutt in a duel in Springfield in 1865. Hickok was acquitted. Phelps unsuccessfully ran for governor as a Democrat in 1868; but in 1876, he defeated former Congressman Gustavus A. Finkelnburg in the general election on November 7. He received the largest majority vote of any Missouri governor from 1840 to 1920. Governor John Smith Phelps was sworn into office as Missouri’s 23<sup>rd</sup> governor on February 8, 1877.

“The tenure of Governor Phelps was marked by a currency crisis triggered by the federal government ceasing the issuance of silver coins while simultaneously calling back the paper currency issued during the Civil War. Missouri also suffered from staggering war debt and related inflation, depressed wages, and business failures. In his inaugural address, Phelps advocated common schools for whites and blacks. He declared that any new state debt should be approved by the voters, urged the state to economize, and recommended that a tax be levied to pay interest on outstanding state debt. Governor Phelps also called for fair administration of the ballot and impartial interpretation of the constitution.

“During the Phelps administration, the Missouri Bureau of Labor Statistics was created and appropriations for the Board of Immigration were approved. Legislation was enacted requiring counties to balance budgets unless otherwise approved by voters. The balance of state indebtedness was significantly reduced. The University of Missouri received biennial appropriations from the General Assembly for the first time and public schools

received increased state financial support. Criminal laws were strictly enforced and the lawlessness that had plague Missouri since before the Civil War was reduced.

“Governor Phelps retired from public service at the end of his gubernatorial term in 1881. He died in St. Louis on November 20, 1886 and is interred in Hazelwood Cemetery in Springfield, Greene County.”

## ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

### Related Collections

RG3.23 John Smith Phelps, 1877-1881

### Additional External Resources

Giffen, Jerena East. *Mary, Mary, Quite: The Life and Times of Mary Whitney Phelps, 1812-1878*. Peabody, MA: Giffen Enterprises, 2008.

The Library of Congress holds the Gifford Pinchot Papers, 1770-1972, which contain correspondence between John S. Phelps and Mary (Whitney) Phelps:

<https://www.loc.gov/item/mm78036277/>.

Oregon Historical Society Research Library holds several items related to Governor Phelps's daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery and her husband James Boyce Montgomery:

- 1) James Boyce Montgomery Family Papers. Collection Number MSS 2727: <http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv19842>.
- 2) James Boyce Montgomery Diary, 1892-1893. Collection Number Coll 394.
- 3) James Boyce Montgomery Photograph Collection ca. 1892-1967. Collection Number Org. Lot 428.
- 4) Mary Phelps Montgomery Scrapbook, circa 1900-1940. Collection Number Coll 396.
- 5) Mary Phelps Montgomery Letters, 1892-1907. Collection Number MSS 1500.

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield holds the John S. Phelps Papers:

<https://ozarkscivilwar.org/archives/3549>.

The State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia holds several items related to Governor John S. Phelps and his family:

- 1) John S. Phelps, 1814-1886, Scrapbook, 1876-1937. Collection Number C3058. <https://files.shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/C3058.pdf> and <https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/GovColl/id/132>
- 2) Typescript Collection. Collection Number C995. See Item No. 397, “Montgomery, Mary Phelps, Letters, 1936-1939.” <https://files.shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/C0995.pdf>

- 3) Zogbaum, Margaret Montgomery. *The Life of Mary Anne Phelps Montgomery, 1846-1942*. Collection Number C2114.

<https://files.shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/C2114.pdf>

Yale University Library holds Mary Ann Phelps Montgomery Collection, 1746-1939. Call Number MS 801. <https://archives.yale.edu/repositories/12/resources/3860>

## PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM, 1868-1893

*Extent:* ¼ Cubic Feet

*Arrangement:* Original order maintained

### Scope and Content

Series contains a photograph album and 68 original photographs, which have been removed from the album. Scans were made of the photographs *in situ* prior to removal. The album cover is decorated with raised metal filigrees, the center one being a knight's helmet and shield inscribed "Jno. S. Phelps, Governor of the State of Missouri. January 1<sup>st</sup> 1880." The photographs are cabinet cards and cartes de visite ranging in years from 1868 to 1893. Subjects are Governor Phelps, his wife, family members and friends and acquaintances. Some subjects are identified by name and date, others are unidentified.

All items have been digitized. There are two sets of scans: 1) "*In Situ*" scans showing the album cover and the photographs as they appeared in the album pages and 2) "Removed" scans showing the individual photographs, fronts and backs, after removal from the album pages. Scans are on disk in the Vault and in the Reference DVD cabinet.

### Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Photographer	Date
	OB59	n/a	Album. Photographs have been removed. Cover is inscribed "Jno. S. Phelps, Governor of the State of Missouri. January 1 <sup>st</sup> 1880." <b>WARNING:</b> The album cover plate was made with green ink, which may (or may not) be arsenic-based. Use caution.	n/a	01/01/1880
	278	68	Page 1: Cabinet card, Governor John Smith Phelps (1814-1886)	John A. Scholten, 920 & 922 Olive Street, St. Louis	n.d.
	278	69	Page 2: Cabinet card, unidentified man	Roseti, 297 Fifth Ave., N.Y.	n.d.
	278	70	Page 3: Cabinet card, First Lady Mrs. Mary (Whitney) Phelps (1812-1878)	Mora, 707 Broadway, N.Y.	March 1877
	278	71	Page 4: Cabinet card, unidentified man	Mora, N.Y.	n.d.
	278	72	Page 5A: Carte de visite, "The Rev Mr Barrow Who Christened May in Bedford on White Sunday." "May" probably refers to May	T.R. Getts, Bedford, PA	n.d.

			Montgomery, John Phelps's granddaughter by his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery, who was born April 29, 1868 in Philadelphia.		
	278	73	Page 5B: Carte de visite, unidentified woman	Wenderoth & Co., 1328 Chestnut St. Opposite U.S. Mint, Philadelphia	n.d.
	278	74	Page 5C: Carte de visite, "May at 5 months & 5 days old." This is likely May Montgomery, John Phelps's granddaughter by his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery, who was born April 29, 1868.	Whitney's Gallery, 174 Third Street Saint Paul Min.	10/04/1868 [?]
	278	75	Page 5D: Carte de visite, unidentified girl. May be one of Phelps's granddaughters by his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery who lived in Portland.	Joseph Buchtel, No. 91 First Street, Portland, Oregon	n.d.
	278	76	Page 6A: Carte de visite, unidentified man	Geo. G. Rockwood, 839 Broadway New York	n.d.
	278	77	Page 6B: Carte de visite, unidentified woman	Fredricks & Co., 179 Fifth Avenue, Madison Square New York	n.d.
	278	78	Page 6C: Carte de visite, unidentified man. Matches image 8B.	Fredricks & Co., 179 Fifth Avenue, New York	n.d.
	278	79	Page 6D: Carte de visite, "E.S. Phelps Heringsdorf in the Baltic." Initials could be E.L. See also image 8D.	J.C. Schaarwachter, 130 Leipziger Strasse, Berlin (Germany)	08/15/1890
	278	80	Page 7A: Carte de visite, "May Montgomery 10 months." This is John Phelps's granddaughter by his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery, who was born April 29, 1868. Matches images 31A, 45 and 48.	Wenderoth, Taylor & Brown, 912-914 Chestnut Street Philadelphia	March 1869
	278	81	Page 7B: Carte de visite, unidentified man. Matches image 16.	Taylor & Brown, 912-914 Chestnut Street Philadelphia	n.d.
	278	82	Page 7C: Carte de visite, "Professor Tyndal"	The London Stereoscopic & Photographic Company, John	c1873- 1880 (back of photo says the

				Browning, 63 Strand, London	photographer won a prize in 1873)
	278	83	Page 8A: Carte de visite, unidentified woman	Outley & Bell, 114 N. 4 <sup>th</sup> St. St. Louis	n.d.
	278	84	Page 8B: Carte de visite, unidentified man. Matches image 6C.	Fredricks & Co., 179 Fifth Avenue, New York	n.d.
	278	85	Page 8C: Carte de visite, unidentified woman. Phelps's daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery and her family lived in Portland for some time, so this <i>may</i> be her.	Towne, Portland, Oregon	n.d.
	278	86	Page 8D: Carte de visite. Same woman as image 6D (E.S. or E.L. Phelps), wearing same outfit.	J.C. Schaarwachter, 130 Leipziger Strasse, Berlin (Germany)	08/15/1890
	278	87	Page 10: Cabinet card, unidentified woman, dog and child	L. Alman, 172 Fifth Avenue and Lake Mahopac, New York	n.d.
	278	88	Page 11: Cabinet card, unidentified woman	Unknown	n.d.
	278	89	Page 12: Cabinet card, unidentified baby	Scholten, 920 & 922 Olive Street, Cor. 10 <sup>th</sup> Street, St. Louis, Mo.	
	278	90	Page 13A: Carte de visite, unidentified woman	D.C. Burnite, 16 North 3 <sup>rd</sup> St., Harrisburg, Pa.	n.d.
	278	91	Page 13B: Carte de visite, "Russell Montgomery age 17 months." This is Phelps's grandson through his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery, born December 17, 1877.	Scholten, 920 & 922 Olive Street, Cor. 10 <sup>th</sup> Street, St. Louis, Mo.	May-June 1879
	278	92	Page 13C: Carte de visite, "Russell Montgomery age 15 months." This is Phelps's grandson through his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery, born December 17, 1877. Matches image 31C.	Winans, 126 High St., Jefferson City, Mo.	March-April 1879
	278	93	Page 14A: Carte de visite, unidentified Asian man (possibly same man as image 37A)	Mrs. R. Maynard, Corner of Douglas and Johnston Sts. Victoria, B.C. (Canada)	n.d.

	278	94	Page 14B: Carte de visite, unidentified nun	Maison Crespon, L. Huguet, 14 Avenue Feuchere 14, Nimes (France)	n.d.
	278	95	Page 15A: Carte de visite, "3 Months – March 17 <sup>th</sup> 1878. Russell Montgomery." This is Phelps's grandson through his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery, born December 17, 1877.	Winans, 126 High St., Jefferson City, Mo.	03/17/1878
	278	96	Page 15B: Carte de visite, "Elise 4 years." Matches image 32A, making her Elise (aka Elisa) Montgomery, Phelps's granddaughter through his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery, born May 10, 1874.	Scholten, 920 & 922 Olive Street, Cor. 10 <sup>th</sup> Street, St. Louis, Mo.	1878-1879
	278	97	Page 16: Carte de visite, unidentified man. Matches image 7B.	Taylor & Brown, 912-914 Chestnut Street Philadelphia	n.d.
	278	98	Page 18: Cabinet card, unidentified man	Fo. Muliner, 25 Boulevard des Italiens, Paris, Atelier Special (France)	n.d.
	278	99	Page 19: Cabinet card, unidentified woman. Phelps's daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery and her family lived in Portland for some time, so this <i>may</i> be her.	Partridge's Western Headquarters, opposite the Post office, Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. E.J. Partridge. W.H. Partridge.	1872 [?] ("72" is written on the back)
	278	100	Page 20: Cabinet card, unidentified child	H.S. Wyer, 16 & 18 Broadway, Yonkers, N.Y.	n.d.
	278	101	Page 21A: Carte de visite, "Heinrich Günther" (surname probably Witzleben like 21B and 21C). There was a Heinrich Günther von Witzleben born in Medrow, Demmin, Germany around 1892 who may be this individual.	W. Baade, Anklamerstr. 5, Demmin (Germany); Atelier	c1892-1893
	278	102	Page 21B: Carte de visite, "Margareth V. Witzleben." There was a Margarethe von Witzleben born in Medrow, Demmin, Germany on June 3,	W. Baade, Anklamerstr. 5, Demmin (Germany); Atelier	August 1891



			1889 who may be this individual.		
	278	103	Page 21C: Carte de visite, "Ernst V. Witzleben." There was an Ernst von Witzleben born in Medrow, Demmin, Germany on April 28, 1890 who may be this individual.	W. Baade, Anklamerstr. 5, Demmin (Germany); Atelier	April 1892
	278	104	Page 22A: Carte de visite, unidentified woman	Broadbent & Phillips, 1206 Chestnut St., Philadelphia	n.d.
	278	105	Page 22B: Carte de visite, unidentified man	Broadbent & Phillips, 1206 Chestnut St., Philadelphia	n.d.
	278	106	Page 24A: Carte de visite, "William Montgomery." This is Phelps's daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery's father-in-law.	Taylor & Brown, 912-914 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia	n.d.
	278	107	Page 24B: Carte de visite, "Eliza Montgomery." This is Phelps's daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery's mother-in-law.	Taylor & Brown, 912-914 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia	n.d.
	278	108	Page 24C: Carte de visite, "Julia Mong." This <i>may</i> be Phelps's daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery's sister-in-law Julia Montgomery.	Broadbent & Phillips, 1206 Chestnut St., Philadelphia	n.d.
	278	109	Page 25: Cabinet card, "J.K. Moorhead." This may be General James Kennedy Moorhead (1806-1884).	Dobbs, 174 Liberty St., Pittsburgh, PA	n.d.
	278	110	Page 26: Cabinet card, unidentified girl. Based on similar image 46A, this is likely May Montgomery, Phelps's granddaughter by his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery.	Sarony's Imperial Portraits, 680 Broadway N.Y.	c1873-1874
	278	111	Page 27: Cabinet card, unidentified girl. Based on similar image 46A, this is likely May Montgomery, Phelps's granddaughter by his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery.	Buchtel & Stolte, 91 First Street, Portland, Oregon	c1872
	278	112	Page 28: Cabinet card,	W. Höffert, Unter	n.d.

			unidentified woman	den Linden 24 & Leipzigerplatz 12, Berlin (Germany)	
	278	113	Page 29: Carte de visite, unidentified woman	Rosch, 1513 and 1515 Olive Street, St. Louis	n.d.
	278	114	Page 30A: Carte de visite, unidentified woman	W.H. Whitehead's Parlor Gallery, 29 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh	n.d.
	278	115	Page 30B: Carte de visite, unidentified man	Taylor & Brown, 912-914 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia	n.d.
	278	116	Page 31A: Carte de visite, May Montgomery. This is John Phelps's granddaughter by his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery, who was born April 29, 1868. Matches images 7A, 45 and 48.	Wenderoth, Taylor & Brown, 912-914 Chestnut Street Philadelphia	March 1869
	278	117	Page 31B: Carte de visite, mother and baby. There is writing on the back in German.	Wilhelm Baade, Anklamerstr. 5 Demmin & Treptow (Germany)	n.d.
	278	118	Page 31C: Carte de visite. This is Phelps's grandson Russell Montgomery through his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery, born December 17, 1877. Age 15 months. Matches image 13C.	Winans, 126 High St., Jefferson City, Mo.	March-April 1879
	278	119	Page 32A: Carte de visite, "Elise Montgomery." This is Phelps's granddaughter through his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery, born May 10, 1874. Age 4. Matches image 15B.	Scholten, 920 & 922 Olive Street, Cor. 10 <sup>th</sup> Street, St. Louis, Mo.	1878-1879
	278	120	Page 32B: Carte de visite, unidentified man	Taylor & Brown, 912-914 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia	n.d.
	278	121	Page 33: Cabinet card, unidentified priest	Notman & Campbell, 4 Park Street, Boston	n.d.
	278	122	Page 34: Cabinet card, unidentified family (4 individuals). Two are older adults, one a younger adult lady dressed all in black (widow?) and the fourth is a boy.	Sarony & Co., 680 Broadway, N.Y. Napoleon Sarony, Alfred S. Campbell.	n.d.

	278	123	Page 35: Cabinet card, two unidentified young women	W. Höffert, Unter den Linden 24 & Leipzigerplatz 12, Berlin (Germany)	n.d.
	278	124	Page 36: Cabinet card, two unidentified girls	Buchtel & Stolte, 91 First Street, Portland, Oregon	1870 [?] "70" is written on the reverse
	278	125	Page 37A: Carte de visite, unidentified Asian man (possibly same man as image 14A)	Unknown	n.d.
	278	126	Page 37B: Carte de visite, May Montgomery. This is John Phelps's granddaughter by his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery, who was born April 29, 1868. Matches image 46A.	Joseph Buchtel, 91 First Street, Portland, Oregon	c1872
	278	127	Page 39: Carte de visite, "[Mr.?] J. Lubbock"	Barraud & Jerrard, 96 Gloucester Place, Portman Square W.; John Browning 63 Strand, London	n.d.
	278	128	Page 40: Carte de visite, unidentified man	Sarony's, 680 Broadway, N.Y.	n.d.
	278	129	Page 41: Cabinet card, unidentified man	Mora, 707 Broadway, N.Y.	n.d.
	278	130	Page 42: Cabinet card, "Nettie and Russell." Russell is Russell Montgomery, Phelps's grandson by his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery, born December 17, 1877.	Scholten, 920 & 922 Olive Street, Corn. 10 <sup>th</sup> Street, St. Louis, Mo.	c1879
	278	131	Page 43: Cabinet card, unidentified young woman	L. Alman, 172 Fifth Avenue Cor. Twenty Second St., New York	n.d.
	278	132	Page 45: Carte de visite, "May at 10 months old." This is John Phelps's granddaughter by his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery, who was born April 29, 1868. Matches images 7A, 31A and 48.	Wenderoth, Taylor & Brown, 912-914 Chestnut Street Philadelphia	March 1869
	278	133	Page 46A: Carte de visite, "May Montgomery." This is John Phelps's granddaughter by his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery, who was born	Joseph Buchtel, 91 First Street, Portland, Oregon	c1872

			April 29, 1868. Matches image 37B.		
	278	134	Page 46B: Carte de visite, unidentified woman	Outley & Bell, 114 N. 4 <sup>th</sup> St. St. Louis, opposite Planters House	n.d.
	278	135	Page 48: Carte de visite, May Montgomery. This is John Phelps's granddaughter by his daughter Mary Ann (Phelps) Montgomery, who was born April 29, 1868. Matches images 7A, 31A and 45.	Wenderoth, Taylor & Brown, 912-914 Chestnut Street Philadelphia	March 1869