

Guide to the James Graham Phelps Stokes Papers

MS 1587



compiled by Diane E. Kaplan and Katherine M. Lewis

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1587

CREATOR: Stokes, James Graham Phelps, 1872-1960

TITLE: James Graham Phelps Stokes papers

DATES: 1889-1910

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.5 linear feet (6 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist primarily of correspondence of James Graham Phelps Stokes and Rose Harriet Pastor Stokes between 1903 and 1910. Correspondents include personal friends, family members, and colleagues active in social reform work and the Socialist Party. Invitations to speaking engagements and arrangements for public appearances are the subjects of many of these letters.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1587>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1587>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The papers were purchased from Charles Apfelbaum, 1990.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

James Graham Phelps Stokes Papers (MS 1587). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

James Graham Phelps Stokes was born in New York City on March 18, 1872. He was the son of Anson Phelps and Helen Louise (Phelps) Stokes. Family members included leaders in New York society, who had derived their fortune from the Phelps-Dodge Company and subsequent railroad and real estate holdings. The family had a long history of interest in religious and philanthropic activities and had been particularly active in the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the American Bible Society, and the American Tract Society.

Stokes was educated at the Berkeley School in New York City and entered Yale's Sheffield Scientific School as a member of the class of 1892. While at Yale he was director of the Cooperative Society and a member of the executive board of the YMCA. After graduation he spent a year traveling and then entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia with the class of 1896. In medicine he hoped to combine his religious and scientific interest to become a medical missionary. While a medical student he served as an ambulance surgeon at Roosevelt Hospital, which covered Hell's Kitchen, and from this experience he came to be interested in the environmental influences on disease. Stokes perceived that the roots of the conditions in Hell's Kitchen were intimately related to the great disparities of wealth in American society.

Upon graduation he had to forego his desire to enter the missionary field to replace his ailing father in the family business. Eventually he served as president of the Nevada Company and the Nevada Central Railroad and, after 1927, as a member of the board of directors of the Phelps-Dodge Company. Stokes combined his entry into business with a year of study of political science at Columbia. But, in the years after 1897, settlement house work became the focus of his life. He served on the board of directors of the University Settlement and immersed himself in the study of life on the Lower East Side.

After serving in the Spanish-American War, Stokes returned to reform work. He served on innumerable boards, including those of the Outdoor Recreational League of New York, the Prison Association of New York (he eventually became a state inspector of prisons and a delegate to the International Prison Congress of 1905), the League of Political Education, the Citizens' Union, the New York State Conference of Charities and Correction, the New York Child Labor Committee, and Tuskegee Institute. He also was a founder and chairman of the board of trustees (1897-1917) of Hartley House, a settlement house on West 46th Street.

After 1902 he lived at the University Settlement. It was here that he met Rose Harriet Pastor, a former cigar worker and militant reporter for the *Jewish Daily News*, who would become his wife in the much publicized marriage of the "Millionaire and the Factory Girl." At this time Stokes was evolving a collectivist philosophy which he called "Omnilism," one which looked "primarily to the Well-being of the Whole which Others and Self are but parts" and called for dedication to the advancement of the whole. This philosophy and his activist wife led him to politics and socialism.

In 1904 Stokes was a presidential elector on the Populist ticket, and in 1905, running on the Municipal Ownership League ticket headed by William Randolph Hearst, he was nearly elected president of the Board of Alderman of New York City. He joined the Socialist Party in 1906 and was a founder of the Intercollegiate Socialist Society, serving as its president from 1907 to 1917. In 1907 he renounced the concept of philanthropy in favor of the collective ownership of capital for the public welfare, and in 1908 he was elected to the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party. In the same year he ran for the New York State Senate on the Socialist ticket. He also was one of the participants in the 1909 meeting on the status of the Negro, which led to the calling of the National Negro Congress and the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of colored People (NAACP). In 1912 he ran for mayor of Stamford, Connecticut, on the Socialist ticket, and in 1916 he helped edit *The Socialism of Today*.

The question of American intervention in World War I split the Socialist Party. Stokes promoted the war effort as a founding member of the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy. His wife opposed the war and moved towards communism. Their ideological split led to a divorce in 1925. In the years after the war, Stokes became progressively more conservative and increasingly centered his attention on veterans and on cultural and philanthropic activities. In 1926 he married Lettice Lee Sands. He devoted his later years to the study of religions and published two books on Christianity and the religions of the East. Stokes died in New York City on April 8, 1960.

Extracted from: *Biographical Dictionary of Social Welfare in America*, (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press), 1986.

Scope and Contents

The James Graham Phelps Stokes Papers consist primarily of incoming letters addressed to James Graham Phelps Stokes and to his wife Rose Harriet Pastor Stokes between the years of 1903 and 1910. Very few outgoing responses are included in these papers. While obviously not a complete record of the period, the papers help document Stokes's social reform activities and his increasing involvement in the Socialist Party, as well as the early years of his marriage and the popularity of both husband and wife as speakers and writers. The papers augment collections of James Graham Phelps Stokes Papers at Columbia University and of Rose Pastor Stokes Papers in the Manuscripts and Archives Department and in the Tamiment Library.

The papers, which were purchased from Charles Apfelbaum in 1990, are arranged in two series: I. JAMES GRAHAM PHELPS STOKES FILES, 1889-1910 and II. ROSE PASTOR STOKES FILES, 1904-1910.

Both series include correspondence, as well as small quantities of bills and receipts, writings, and memorabilia. Letters addressed to both husband and wife are arranged in the files of James Graham Phelps Stokes, as are all letters from members of the Stokes family.

Series I, JAMES GRAHAM PHELPS STOKES FILES, is the larger of the two series, with correspondence and general files comprising the bulk of the series. Correspondents include personal friends, family members, and colleagues active in social reform work and the Socialist Party. In addition to incoming letters, the files also may include records of committees on which Stokes served, brochures and other printed material concerning charitable and political organizations, program announcements, and clippings. These files include numerous invitations to speak with subsequent details concerning arrangements.

Among the larger files are those for the National Conference of Charities and Corrections and the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor. For the former there are records kept by Stokes as treasurer and for the latter there are materials relating to the finances of Hartley House and monthly statistical reports concerning the work of the association's Department of Relief. Other letters concerning Stokes's interest in the settlement house movement will be found in the files for various settlement houses. Housing conditions are the subject of Robert W. De Forest's letters, while the eight hour working day is discussed in correspondence with Commissioner Sherman of the New York State Department of Labor. A smaller number of letters relating to Stokes's business and the Nevada Company is included in the file for James McCulloch.

While Stokes was active in politics as a candidate supporting William Randolph Hearst, there is little in these files on the subject. The files for the New York American and the New York Journal are relevant, while letters from William Earl Dodge Stokes comment on his nephew's political decisions, including his membership in the Socialist Party.

Series II, ROSE PASTOR STOKES FILES, is similar in content to that for her husband, though smaller in quantity. The bulk of this material concerns speaking engagements and writings. There are few exchanges with personal friends; there does not appear to be any correspondence with members of the Pastor family, though there are a number of unidentified letters.

Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I. James Graham Phelps Stokes Files, 1889-1910. II. Rose Pastor Stokes Files, 1904-1910.

Collection Contents

Series I: JAMES GRAHAM PHELPS STOKES FILES, 1889, 1896–1910, undated

1.75' (4 boxes)

The files in this series are arranged by record type. The files of correspondence and general files, which appear at the beginning of the series, are arranged alphabetically by personal or corporate name.

Correspondence/general files		
b. 1, f. 1	Ab - American E	
b. 1, f. 2	American M - Ay	
b. 1, f. 3	Adler, Felix	1903-1905, undated
b. 1, f. 3	Adler, Helen	
b. 1, f. 4	Ajax Committee English	1903-1904
b. 1, f. 5	Armstrong Association	1902-1904, 1906
b. 1, f. 6	Ba - Ber	
b. 1, f. 7	Bes - Bu	
	Bamford, Frederick Irons See: box 3, folder 66	
b. 1, f. 8	Bhárati, Bábá Premánand	1903-1904
	Blatch, Harriot Stanton See: box 1, folder 18	
b. 1, f. 9	Ca - Ch	
b. 1, f. 10	Ci - Cu	
	Casson, Herbert See: box 2, folder 49 See: box 2, folders 47	
b. 1, f. 11	Charity Organization Society of the City of New York	1903-1905
b. 1, f. 12	Chautauqua Institution	1907
b. 1, f. 13	Chicago Commons	1903-1904
b. 1, f. 14	Contemporary Club	1906, undated
b. 1, f. 15	D	
b. 1, f. 16-17	De Forest, Robert W.	1903 January- Dec, undated

Correspondence/general files (continued)

b. 1, f. 18	E	
b. 1, f. 19	F	
	Fitzgerald, Susan W. See: box 4, folder 94 See: box 3, folders 62	
b. 1, f. 20	G	
b. 1, f. 21	Had - Han	
b. 1, f. 22	Har - Hu	
b. 1, f. 23	Hadden, Alexander	1903-1904
b. 2, f. 24	Hammond, Emily	undated
	Hartley House See: box 2, folders 50-51	
b. 2, f. 25	Henry Romeike, Ltd.	1902, 1904, 1906
b. 2, f. 26	Holme, Sara	1904
	Hoyt, Ethel Phelps Stokes See: box 3, folder 79	
b. 2, f. 27	I	
b. 2, f. 28	<i>Independent</i> English	1903-1904
	International Peace Congress See: box 2, folder 42	
b. 2, f. 29	J	
	Johnson, Alexander See: box 2, folder 46	
b. 2, f. 30	Ka - Ke	
b. 2, f. 31	Ki - Ku	
b. 2, f. 32	Kelly, Edmond	1906-1907, undated
b. 2, f. 33	Knopf, S. A.	1905-1907
b. 2, f. 34	L	
b. 2, f. 35	Lanier, Sidney	1907
b. 2, f. 36	League for Political Education	1905-1907
b. 2, f. 37	League of American Sportsmen	1907, undated

Correspondence/general files (continued)

b. 2, f. 38	Leeds, John B.	1906-1907
b. 2, f. 39	Lemon, Courtney	1907
b. 2, f. 40	M	
b. 2, f. 41	McCulloch, James	1907
b. 2, f. 42	Mead, Edwin D.	1902-1904, undated
b. 2, f. 43	Na - New Jersey	
b. 2, f. 44	New York - Nu	
b. 2, f. 45	National Arts Club	1904-1905
b. 2, f. 46	National Conference of Charities and Correction	1904-1905, 1907, undated
b. 2, f. 47	New Era Club	1904-1905, 1907, undated
	New York, City of Tenement House Department See: box 1, folder 17	
b. 2, f. 48	New York, State Department of Labor	1906
b. 2, f. 49	New York <i>American</i> ; New York <i>Journal</i>	1904, 1907
b. 2, f. 50	New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor	1901-1903 September-Oct, 1905, undated
b. 2, f. 51	New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1901-1903 September-Oct, 1905, undated
	New York <i>Journal</i> See: box 2, folder 49	
b. 3, f. 52	New York <i>World</i>	1905-1907
b. 3, f. 53	O	
b. 3, f. 54	Ovington, Mary White	1904
b. 3, f. 55	P	
	People's Institute See: box 5, folder 151	
b. 3, f. 56	Port Chester Women's Club	1905-1906, undated
b. 3, f. 57	Q	

Correspondence/general files (continued)

b. 3, f. 58	Ra - Ri	
b. 3, f. 59	Ro - Ry	
b. 3, f. 60	Raritan Club	1906-1907
b. 3, f. 61	Reynolds, Stephen Marion	1909-1910, undated
b. 3, f. 62	Richmond Hill House	1903-1907, undated
b. 3, f. 63	Riedell, John William	1904, 1906-1907
b. 3, f. 64	Riordan, Raymond	1904-1905, undated
b. 3, f. 65	Robbins, Jane E.	1903-1904, undated
	Rood, Grace See: box 3, folder 56	
b. 3, f. 66	Ruskin Club	undated
b. 3, f. 67	Sa - Sh	
b. 3, f. 68	Si - Sp	
b. 3, f. 69	St - Sy	
	Socialist Party (United States)	
b. 3, f. 70	General	1904, 1906-1907, 1910
b. 3, f. 71	New Jersey locals	1904, 1906-1907
b. 3, f. 72	New York City committees, locals	1905-1909, undated
b. 3, f. 73	New York State committees, misc. locals	1906, 1907
	Ruskin Club See: box 3, folder 66	
b. 3, f. 74	Other locals	1906-1907
	Society for Ethical Culture See: box 1, folder 3	
b. 3, f. 75	Soubiros, A.	1906, undated
b. 3, f. 76	Spargo, John	1906, undated
b. 3, f. 77	Stokes family: general	1906, undated

Correspondence/general files (continued)

b. 3, f. 78	Stokes, Anson Greene Phelps	1905-1907, undated
b. 3, f. 80	Stokes, Helen Louisa Phelps	1905-1906, 1910, undated
b. 3, f. 81	Stokes, Olivia Phelps	1906, undated
b. 4, f. 82	Stokes, Rose H. Pastor	1904-1905
b. 4, f. 83	Stokes, William Earl Dodge	1905-1906
b. 4, f. 87	Tarbell, Ida	1904, undated
b. 4, f. 84	Straight Edge Industrial Settlement; "Straight Edge Movement"	1905-1907
b. 4, f. 85	Ta - Th	
b. 4, f. 86	Ti - Ty	
b. 4, f. 88	Thomas, Elizabeth H.	1907
b. 4, f. 89	Tiffany and Co.	1905
b. 4, f. 90	Topper, William	1903-1904, undated
b. 4, f. 91	Tucker, Preble	1902, 1904
b. 4, f. 92	U	
b. 3, f. 79	Stokes, Ethel V. Phelps	1906, undated
	University Settlement Society of New York	
b. 4, f. 93	Eldridge Street Branch; McDougal Street Branch	1903, 1905, undated
b. 4, f. 94	West Side Branch A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1903, 1905, undated
b. 4, f. 95	V	
b. 4, f. 96	Vedanta Society	1905-1906
b. 4, f. 97	Wa - Wh	
b. 4, f. 98	Wi - Wy	
b. 4, f. 99	Wald, Lillian D.	1904-1905
b. 4, f. 100	Walling, Anna Strunsky	1906
b. 4, f. 101	Walling, William English	1906-1907, undated
b. 4, f. 102	Weeks, Rufus	1906-1907

Correspondence/general files (continued)

b. 4, f. 103	West Side Neighborhood House A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1903-1904
b. 4, f. 104	Weyl, Walter	1905, 1907
b. 4, f. 105	Wilshire, Gaylord Wilshire, <i>Mary Wilshire's Magazine</i> Wolbarst, Abraham L. See: box 2, folders 47 Women's Club of Port Chester See: box 3, folder 56	1905-1906
b. 4, f. 106	X - Y - Z	
b. 4, f. 107	Unidentified	1903-1908, undated
b. 4, f. 108	Bills and receipts: domestic	1903, 1905-1907, undated
b. 7	Genealogical records See: box 3, folder 66	
b. 4, f. 109	Memorabilia	1889
b. 4, f. 110	Printed matter	1896, 1903, 1905-1906, undated
b. 4, f. 111	Writings	1897, 1904-1910, undated

Series II: ROSE PASTOR STOKES FILES, 1904-1910, undated

.75' (2 boxes)

The files in this series are arranged by record type. The files of correspondence and general files, which appear at the beginning of the series, are arranged alphabetically by personal or corporate name.

Correspondence/general files

b. 5, f. 112	A	
b. 5, f. 113	Alumnae Association of the Girls' High and Normal Schools of Philadelphia	1906-1907
b. 5, f. 114	American Academy of Political and Social Science	1906, undated
b. 5, f. 115	B	
	Barnum, Gertrude See: box 6, folder 177	
b. 5, f. 116	Barrows, C. ("Aunt Isabel")	1907
b. 5, f. 117	C	
	Cahan, Abraham See: box 5, folder 124	
b. 5, f. 118	Charles H. Kerr and Co.	1904, 1907
	Conger-Kaneko, Josephine See: box 6, folder 158	
b. 5, f. 119	D-E	
b. 5, f. 120	F	
b. 5, f. 121	G	
b. 5, f. 122	H	
b. 5, f. 123	Henry Street Settlement	1910
b. 5, f. 124	I-J	
b. 5, f. 125	<i>Jewish Daily Forward</i> English	1907
b. 5, f. 126	K	
b. 5, f. 127	Kiefer, Daniel	1906-1907
b. 5, f. 128	L	
b. 5, f. 129	Lee, Algernon	1907
b. 5, f. 130	Levien, Sara	1907
b. 5, f. 131	M	

Correspondence/general files (continued)

b. 5, f. 132	N-O	
b. 5, f. 133	National American Women Suffrage Association	1909
b. 5, f. 134	O'Sheal, Shaemas	1910
b. 5, f. 135	P	
	People's Institute See: box 5, folder 151	
b. 5, f. 136	Phelps, Mary	1910, undated
	Pike, Violet See: box 6, folder 177	
b. 5, f. 137	Pultz, Alfred	1910
b. 5, f. 138	Q	
b. 5, f. 139	R	
b. 5, f. 140	Rauh, Flora	1905-1906, undated
b. 5, f. 141	Rauh, Ida See also: box 6, folder 177	undated
b. 5, f. 142	Rivkin, Mamie	1909
	Rowe, L. S. See: box 5, folder 114	
b. 5, f. 143	Rutnam, S. C. Kanaga	1908
b. 5, f. 144	Sa - Sl	
b. 5, f. 145	Sm - Su	
	Samuels, Adelaide See: box 6, folder 177	
b. 5, f. 146	Sanford, Mary R.	1909, undated
b. 5, f. 147	Serge, Anna	1905-1906
b. 5, f. 148	Shelley, Marie C.	1905-1906
b. 5, f. 149	Simpson, Daisy Simpson, M. S.	1905-1906, undated
b. 5, f. 150	Slosson, Edwin E.	1906, 1908
b. 5, f. 151	Smith, Charles Sprague Smith, Isabelle Dwight	1905-1906, 1908, 1910, undated
b. 5, f. 152	Smith, Hyacinth	undated

Correspondence/general files (continued)

Socialist Party (United States)

b. 6, f. 153	National Committee	1908, 1910
b. 6, f. 154	New York City locals	1907, 1909, 1910
b. 6, f. 155	New York State locals	1907-1910
b. 6, f. 156	Pennsylvania State Committee	1906, 1910
b. 6, f. 157	Miscellaneous locals	1907
b. 6, f. 158	<i>Socialist Woman</i>	1907
b. 6, f. 159	Starr, Ellen G.	1905-1906
b. 6, f. 160	Stewart, Laura	1906, undated
	Stokes family See: box 3, folders 77-83	
b. 6, f. 161	T	
b. 6, f. 162	Taylor, Annie B.	1908-1910
b. 6, f. 163	Thayer, Gladys	1910, undated
	Trautmann, Mary E. See: box 6, folder 176	
b. 6, f. 164	U	
b. 6, f. 165	United Hebrew Charities of the City of New York	1905-1906
b. 6, f. 166	Untermeyer, Minnie	undated
b. 6, f. 167	V	
b. 6, f. 168	Wa - Wh	
b. 6, f. 169	Wi - Wo	
b. 6, f. 170	Walling, Anna Strunsky	1907
b. 6, f. 171	Weislander, S.	1906-1907
	Welch, Eunice See: box 5, folder 131	
b. 6, f. 172	Wentworth, H. Lucetta	1905-1906
b. 6, f. 173	White, James T.	1906, undated
b. 6, f. 174	Wilson, J. Stitt	1906-1907, undated
b. 6, f. 175	Women's Club of Glen Ridge, New Jersey	1907, undated

Correspondence/general files (continued)

b. 6, f. 176	Women's Health Protective Association of New York	1906-1907, undated
b. 6, f. 177	Women's Trade Union League	1905-1910, undated
b. 6, f. 178	Younger, Maud See also: box 6, folder 177	1906-1907
b. 6, f. 181	"Miriam" English	1908, undated
b. 6, f. 179	Z	
	Unidentified	
b. 6, f. 180	General	1905-1909, undated
b. 6, f. 182	"Yetta" English	1905-1907, undated
b. 6, f. 183	Bills and receipts: domestic	1905-1908, undated
b. 6, f. 184	Memorabilia	1904, undated
b. 6, f. 185	Printed matter	1904
b. 6, f. 186	Writings	1904-1905, 1910, undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Radicalism
Socialism
Social settlements -- United States

Names

De Forest, Robert W. (Robert Weeks),
1848-1931
Hearst, William Randolph, 1863-1951
Stokes, James Graham Phelps, 1872-1960
Stokes, Rose Pastor, 1879-1933

Corporate Bodies

National Conference of Charities and
Correction (U.S.)
New York Association for Improving the
Condition of the Poor
Socialist Party (U.S.)