Finding Aid for the Griffith Family Papers, 1845-1973

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Griffith Family Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1845-1973
Collection number: 2060
Creator: Griffith family
Extent: 117 boxes (58.5 linear ft.) 1 oversize box

Abstract: Griffith Jenkins Griffith (1850-1919) engaged in mining operations in Mexico. In 1882, he purchased Los Feliz Rancho near Los Angeles, and acquired extensive real estate in the city. In 1896, he donated most of his ranch to the city for a public park, and in 1912 provided money for the construction of an astronomical observatory on Mt. Hollywood. His son, Van Griffith, became president of the Los Angeles Park Board, and was manager of the Griffith Park Transportation Company. He was also a member of the Los Angeles Police Commission and an ombudsman for Mayor Fletcher Bowron. His wife, Constance Griffith, served on the Los Angeles board of directors of the League of Women Voters and on the state board. The collection contains manuscripts, documents, photographs, glass negatives, newspapers, maps, clippings, magazines, books, and miscellaneous memorabilia of the Griffith family, including Griffith J. Griffith, his son Van, and Van's wife, Constance Griffith, including material in the Citizens Research Institute, the Los Angeles city police commission, the Griffith Trust Fund, and the League of Women Voters.

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Restrictions on Access
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Gift of Mrs. Van Griffith, 1975.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Griffith, 1976-77.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Griffith Family Papers (Collection 2060). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 4233097

Biography
Griffith Jenkins Griffith was born on January 4, 1850 in Glamorganshire, South Wales; attended Fowler Institute, New York City; came to California in 1873; engaged in mining operations in Mexico; in 1882 purchased Los Feliz Rancho near Los Angeles, and acquired extensive real estate in the city; in 1896 donated most of his ranch to the city for a public park, and in 1912 provided money for the construction of an astronomical observatory on Mt. Hollywood; died on July 6, 1919; his son, Van Griffith, became president of the Los Angeles Park Board, and was manager of the Griffith Park Transportation Company; he was also a member of the Los Angeles Police Commission and an ombudsman for Mayor Fletcher Bowron; his wife, Constance Griffith, served on the Los Angeles board of directors of the League of Women Voters and on the state board.

Scope and Content
Collection contains manuscripts, documents, photographs, glass negatives, newspapers, maps, clippings, magazines, books, and miscellaneous memorabilia of the Griffith family, including Griffith J. Griffith, founder of Griffith Park in Los Angeles. Also contains papers of his son Van, and Van's wife, Constance Griffith, including material in the Citizens Research Institute, the Los Angeles city police commission, the Griffith Trust Fund, and the League of Women Voters.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.
Subjects
Griffith family--Archives.
Griffith, Griffith J.--Archives.
Griffith, Van--Archives.
Griffith, Constance--Archives.
Civic leaders--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources.

Items Removed from Collection
64 glass negatives and 14 photographic negatives of aviators and aircraft [in small metal box].
[Items have not been placed in a box that can be requested. Consult Manuscripts Librarian for access.]

Papers Relating to Aviation, [1910-1932]

Aero Club of California, [1910-1913]

Box 1, Folders 1-2
2 minute books, June 7, 1910-June 7, 1913.

Scope and Content Note
Includes:
By-laws, 1909, 1911.
Articles of Incorporation, April 2, 1910.
Termination of affiliation with Aero Club of America, July 14, 1916.

Box 1, Folders 3-14
Correspondence bills, membership applications, and miscellany, 1909-1913.

Box 2, Folders 1-17
Correspondence bills, membership applications, and miscellany, 1909-1913.

Box 2, Folders 18-21
Local aviation meetings of 1910, 1911-1912, and 1913.

Box 30
Scrapbook of clippings re local aviation meets, 1912-1913.
Framed Certification of Articles of Incorporation of Aero Club of California, 1910.

Box 29
Framed photograph of aviator Frank Champion.
171 copper plates for photographs published in Aviation magazine.

Box 5, Folders 1
Clippings and correspondence re aviation and Griffith Aviation Park, 1912.
Physical Description: (in envelope)

Box 29
Correspondence with Harold E. Morehouse, 1962-1963, and various items as listed on the folder.

Box 5, Folders 2

Books, [1910-1932]

Box 5, Folders 3-4
| Box 5, Folders 3 | **Handbook. Aero Club of America, 1911.**  
Scope and Content Note  
Advance copy and another copy. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 6</td>
<td><strong>Hoagland, Roland, W., ed. The Blue Book of Aviation.</strong> Los Angeles: The Hoagland Company, 1932.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6</td>
<td><strong>Hubbard, T.O’B., and others. The Aeroplane.</strong> London: Longmans, Green &amp; Company, 1911.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6</td>
<td><strong>An account of the exercises on the occasion of the presentation of the Langley Medal... May 6, 1913...</strong> Washington, D.C.: the Smithsonian Institution, 1913.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8</td>
<td>8 miscellaneous publications of the U.S. Geological Survey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 1</td>
<td>10 miscellaneous brochures and pamphlets.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Magazines, [1910-1930]

| Box 3, Folders 1 | **Aviation** (January-November 1911). Los Angeles, Aviation Publishing Company.  
Scope and Content Note  
vol.1, no.1-11. |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Box 9 | **Aeronautics** (January-September and November-December 1909; January-October and December 1910; April-December 1911; January-March, July and September-November 1912; May-December 1913; January-October 1914; March-July 1915).** New York: Aeronautics Press, Incorporated.  
Scope and Content Note  
vol.4, no.1-5.  
vol.5, no.1-3, 5-6.  
vol.6, no.1-6.  
vol.7, no.1-4, 6.  
vol.8, no.4-6.  
vol.9, no.1-6.  
vol.10, no.1-3.  
vol.11, no.1, 3-5.  
vol.12, no.5, 6.  
vol.13, no.1-6.  
vol.14, no.1-12.  
vol.15, no.1-8.  
vol.16, no.1-6, 8.  
vol.17, no.1-2. |
Box 10-11


Scope and Content Note
vol.1, no.10.
vol.2, no.1-2.

Box 11


Scope and Content Note
vol.1, no.1-8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18-26.
vol.2, no.2-5, 18-26.
vol.3, no.1-6, 9, 11-17, 19-26.
vol.4, no.1-2, 4-7, 9, 14-16, 19, 20, 22-26.
vol.5, no.1-3, 6-9, 11-19, 21-25.

Box 11


Scope and Content Note
vol.2, no.1-7, 10, 11.

Box 11

Aero (December 10, 1910; October 21, November 11, 18, 1911). St. Louis: Aero Publishing Company.

Scope and Content Note
vol.1, no.10.
vol.3, no.3, 6, 7.

Box 11

Flight (June 17, 1911). London: the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom.

Scope and Content Note
vol.3, no.24.

Box 12


Scope and Content Note
vol.1, no.10-12.
vol.2, no.1-12.
vol.3, no.1-12.
vol.4, no.1-5, 7-9.
vol.5, no.1-3, 5-8.

Box 13, Folder 1


Scope and Content Note
vol.1, no.2, 3.
Fly (December 1910; October-December 1911; January, March-April, June, August, September, November, December, 1912; April 1913). Philadelphia: Aero Publishing Company.

Scope and Content Note
vol.3, no.2, 12.
vol.4, no.1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11.
vol.5, no.1-2, 6.


Scope and Content Note
vol.3, nos. 4-7.


Scope and Content Note
vol.1, no.1-3.


Scope and Content Note
vol.1, no.4.


Scope and Content Note
vol.29, no.1.

Aerial Age (June 1913).

Scope and Content Note
vol.2, no.1.

Aerial Age (August 2, October 11, 1915; March, 20, April 3, 1916).

Scope and Content Note
vol.1, no.20.
vol.2, no.4.
vol.3, no.1, 3.

Aeronautics (May-July 1911; December 1913).

Scope and Content Note
vol.8, no.5, 6.
vol.9, no.1.
vol.13, no.6.

Aero Club of America Bulletin (February/March, April 1912).

Scope and Content Note
vol.1, no.2 (2 copies), 3 (5 copies).

Aviation (July 5, 1930).

Scope and Content Note
vol.29, no.1.
Findings Aid for the Griffith Family Papers, 1845-1973

Box 14

*Flying* (November 1912; November 1913; March-April 1914).
Scope and Content Note
vol.1, no.10.
vol.2, no.10 (2 copies).
vol.3, no.2-3.

Box 14

*Western Flight* (June 21, 1913).
Scope and Content Note
vol.1, no.2.

Papers re Griffith J. Griffith, [1896-1967]

Box 15, Folder 1

Autobiography and biographical accounts, ca. 1903-1937.
Box 15, Folder 2

Note
(Chapter 4 by Griffith)

Box 15, Folder 2

Box 15, Folder 2

Correspondence and clippings, 1905-1950, including letter from Leo Tolstoy to Griffith, April 3/16, 1910.
Box 15, Folder 3

Ringbinder of research material compiled by Marion Bowen re Griffith and Rancho Los Feliz, 1937-1950.
Box 15, Folder 4

Legal documents re Griffith, including naturalization papers, 1877, copy will filed 1919, correspondence and papers re estate and gifts of property to the City of Los Angeles, 1896-1931.
Box 15, Folder 5

Articles and clippings re Griffith's park gifts, 1924-1967.
Box 15, Folder 6

Correspondence re Greek Theatre, 1913-1914.
Box 15, Folder 7

Correspondence re Hall of Science and Observatory, 1913-14.
Box 29

11 photographic prints.
Box 29

2 glass negatives of Griffith.

Los Feliz Rancho History, [1845-1973]

Box 16, Folder 1

Abstract of title, 1845-1887.
Box 16, Folder 2-3

Miscellaneous deeds and legal papers including abstract of title, schedule of deeds and field notes, 1871-1896.
Box 16, Folder 4

Pictures and articles re 2 adobe buildings, ca. 1912-1921.
Box 30

2 framed pictures of adobe buildings.
Box 16, Folder 4

Box 29

Printed map of the Old Spanish and Mexican Ranchos of Los Angeles County.

Griffith Park, [1917-1970s]

Box 17, Folder 1-4

Miscellaneous correspondence, clippings and magazine articles, 1922-70s.
Box 17, Folder 5

Clippings and correspondence re Park Commission and 1928 National Park Convention, 1917-1939.
Box 17, Folder 6

Box 17, Folder 7

Clippings and correspondence re Park Water System and fire protection, 1898-1957.
Box 17, Folder 8-11

Clippings, correspondence and papers re controversial decisions, 1916-1964.
Box 17, Folder 12

Clippings re proposed projects not authorized, 1953-1963.
Box 17, Folder 13-20

Clippings, brochures, correspondence and miscellany re features of Griffith Park, 1931-1964.
Box 17, Folder 21

7 photographs of Griffith Park.
| Box 29 | 6 Architect’s drawings (Sketches 1-6) of proposed entrance to Mt. Hollywood Road, n.d. |
| Box 18, Folder 1 | Correspondence, copy minutes, dedicatory program and miscellany, 1912-1962. |
| Box 18, Folder 2 | Clippings, 1930-1975. |
| Box 18, Folder 3-4 | Correspondence, clippings and papers re development proposals, 1951-1969. |
| Box 18, Folder 5 | 2 photographic prints. |
| Box 29 | Architect’s sketch of Theatre. |
| Box 18, Folder 1 | Correspondence, copy minutes, reports and agreement and miscellaneous papers, 1912-1962. |
| Box 18, Folder 2 | Miscellaneous pictures and sketches. |
| Box 18, Folder 3 | Brochures and programs, ca. 1912-1955. |
| Box 18, Folder 4 | Clippings, 1930s-1960s. |
| Box 18, Folder 5-7 | Griffith Observer (February 1937-December 1975). |
| Box 18, Folder 8 | Resolution by City Council on twentieth anniversary of Observatory, 1955. |
| Box 18, Folder 9 | 3 photographic negatives and 1 print. |
| Box 29 | 1 photographic print. |
| Box 20, Folder 1-8 | Correspondence and clippings re park system and personalities, 1891-1970s. |
| Box 20, Folder 9 | 11 photographic prints of various parks. |
| Box 31 | 2 albums, photographs of various parks, 1911-1913. |
| Box 21, Folder 1-6 | Griffith Observer (February 1937-December 1975). |
| Box 21, Folder 1-6 | Griffith park coster plan, 1969. |
| Box 22-24 | Correspondence, legal papers and clippings, 1946-1960. |
| Box 25 | Copy minutes, September 1930-December 1931 (gaps). |
| Box 26 | [No further description available]. |
| Box 26 | Physical Description: (30 items) |
| Box 27, Folder 2 | Reports of 1934 Los Angeles County Grand Jury. List of proposed grand jurors, 1934. |
| Box 27, Folder 2 | Physical Description: (Bound volume) |
Box 27, Folder 3  Final Report of 1936 Los Angeles County Grand Jury.
Box 27, Folder 4  List of jurors, roster, notes of evidence, clippings, interim and final reports, 1949 Los Angeles County Grand Jury.
Box 27, Folder 5  Clippings and final report, 1951 Los Angeles County Grand Jury.
Box 27, Folder 6  Clippings and final report, 1952 Los Angeles County Grand Jury.
Box 27, Folder 7-12  Clippings, correspondence, various lists and miscellaneous items re County Grand Juries, 1937-71, n.d.
Box 27, Folder 13  Clippings and ephemera re the grand jury system, 1937-1971.
Box 30  Photographic print of 1950 Grand Jury.
Box 28, Folder 1-6  Correspondence, reports, clippings and papers re1950 County Grand Jury.
Box 28, Folder 7  Correspondence, clippings and papers re1955 Federal Grand Jury.

Miscellaneous Publications, [1912]

Box 28, Folder 8  *Sports* (February 22, March 2, 1912).

Scope and Content Note
vol.1, no.1-2.

Memorabilia and Miscellaneous, [1922-1955]

Box 30  Resolution, Board of Park Commissioners to retiring Board President, 1930.
Box 30  2 certificates of appointment of Van M. Griffith as member of Board of Park Commissioners, 1922, 1927.
Box 30  Plaque awarded to Van M Griffith as Foreman of the 1955 Federal Grand Jury of Southern California.

Constance Griffith Papers, [1951-1953 and n.d.]

Box 33  League of Women Voters study, Civil Liberty & Security (1952), Review of LWV Study & Action (1953).
Box 34  Civil liberties studies approved, challenged, August 14 and 21, 1951.
Box 36  Foundation of Freedoms Institute, March 1, 1952, Controversy over UNESCO
Box 37  Foundation Freedom Institute and kit, controversy over UNESCO resignations, 1952-1953.
Box 38  Constance Griffith letters, 1943-1949.
Box 50  Silverlake unit.
Box 51  Politics -- state & local government.
Box 68  Personal papers.
Box 97-99  University extension classes.

[League of Women Voters, 1947-1963]

Box 41  Los Angeles, 1947-1948.
Box 43  1948-1949.
Box 44  1949-1950.
Box 45  1950-1951.
Box 46  Los Angeles, 1951-1952, mental health, miscellany -- civil liberties.
Box 47  Los Angeles, 1954-1963.
Box 48  Los Angeles, 1940-1953.
Boxes 53-58, 64-65  [No further description available].
Boxes 60, 63  Local government study.
Box 70-72  Local, 1941-1951.
Box 83-85  1945-1951.

[Miscellaneous, v.d.]

Box 32  Van Griffith correspondence, papers, clippings.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Beverly Hills-Wilshire separation, 1941-1943.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Clippings re civil liberties, 1946-1953.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Education, housing, health, structure of government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Silverlake, 1947-1951, community survey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Removal of Van [Griffith] as police commissioner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>Clippings &amp; articles on early aviation, 1920s-1930s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Clippings &amp; pamphlets about parks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Unidentified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>Los Angeles county &amp; city.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>Citizens Research Institute -- seal &amp; address cards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74,77</td>
<td>Local government, 1952.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69,75</td>
<td>Fundamentals of government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>Unidentified [&quot;1 letter from Norris Poulson&quot;].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-88</td>
<td>Photograph of Griffith J. Griffith, printed material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>[No further description available].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>Publications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92-94,100-104</td>
<td>Citizens Research Institute.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105-106</td>
<td>Parks, Griffith trust fund, elections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109-117</td>
<td>Print blocks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>Articles of incorporation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Physical Description:** (1 item)