

Library Company of Philadelphia

**MSS**

**BROTHERHOOD OF THE UNION COLLECTION**

1850-1980

(bulk 1850-1853)

.75 linear feet, 2 volumes, 3 boxes

Manuscript Volumes	<i>Lippard's Diary</i> <i>Record</i>
Box 1	Correspondence and Documents
Box 2	Correspondence and Documents (small flat file)
Box 3	Oversized

September 2012

## **Descriptive Summary**

### **Repository**

Library Company of Philadelphia  
1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-5698

### **Call Number**

MSS

### **Creators**

Lippard, George (1822-1854) and Brotherhood of the Union

### **Title**

Brotherhood of the Union Collection

### **Inclusive Dates**

1850-1980 (bulk 1850-1853)

### **Quantity**

.75 linear feet (2 manuscript volumes; 3 boxes)

### **Language of Materials**

Materials are in English.

### **Abstract**

The collection holds two manuscript volumes, correspondence, official documents, membership certificates, and photographs relating to the Brotherhood of the Union, a secret charitable fraternity founded by George Lippard in 1850 and which continued to operate after his death into the late 20th century. The collection includes materials not only from Lippard but also from other members of the Union. The collection also contains materials related to Lippard and his family, such as leaves from the family bible.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Restrictions to Access**

The collection is open to researchers. It is on deposit at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and can be accessed either through the reading room at the Library Company or through the reading room at the Historical Society at 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA. If accessing the collection through the Historical Society, see their website, <http://www.hsp.org/>, for reading room hours.

### **Acquisition Information**

Gift of the Brotherhood of the Union, 1994.

## Processing Information

The papers of the Brotherhood of the Union Collection were deposited with the Library Company and processed in 1994. The collection was re-processed in 2010 in connection with the online component of the Library Company's exhibition *Philadelphia Gothic: Murders, Mysteries, Monsters and Mayhem Inspire American Fiction, 1798-1854* located at <http://www.librarycompany.org/collections/exhibits/gothic.htm>. This reprocessing included updating the finding aid and sending certain items for conservation treatment. Because of the small size of the collection the papers have been kept as a limited number of series; however, all documents have been described at the item level.

## Preferred Citation

This collection should be cited as: [indicate specific item or box here], Brotherhood of the Union Collection (MSS), The Library Company of Philadelphia. For permission to publish materials or images in this collection, contact the Coordinator of Rights and Reproductions, Library Company of Philadelphia, 1314 Locust St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-5698. Please include complete citation(s) when making a request. See the Library Company's website, <http://www.librarycompany.org/>, for further information.

## Online Catalog Headings

### Subject Names

Able, Charles  
Billbrough, Sarah Lippard  
Brotherhood of the Union  
Capron, Eliab W.  
Drake, O. L.  
Ehrmann, G. J.  
Lippard, George (1822-1854)  
Macfarlane, William  
Stevens, James M.  
*The White Banner* (1851)  
Wilson, John H.

### Subject Topics

Brotherhoods.

Initiations (into trades, societies, etc.).

Labor movement.

Labor union--United States

Secret Societies.

Secret Societies – Pennsylvania.

Secret societies--Rituals.

### **Subject Places**

Over twenty-nine states, including:

Arkansas

Connecticut

Delaware

District of Columbia

Florida

Illinois

Iowa

Kentucky

Maryland

Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota

New Jersey

New York

Pennsylvania

Tennessee

Virginia

Wisconsin

### **Document Types**

Letters, manuscripts, official documents, membership certificates, manuscript volumes and photographs.

## Related Collections

In addition to this collection, the Library Company of Philadelphia also has numerous books written by George Lippard and other materials of the Brotherhood of the Union on deposit from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. These materials may be accessed through the reading room of the Library Company of Philadelphia.

The Joseph Jackson Papers located at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania include various items relating to Lippard. HSP 1466.

The Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore has a letter from Edgar Allan Poe to Lippard. Available online at <http://www.eapoe.org/people/lippardg.htm>;

See also "The Guide to Research on George Lippard (1822-154) in Philadelphia Area Libraries," located online at <http://www.librarycompany.org/gothic/GuidetoResearchonGeorgeLippard.pdf>

## Biographical/Historical Notes

George Lippard (1822-1854) was born in West Nantmeal Township, Pa., and raised in Philadelphia, Pa. He attended the Classical Academy in Rhinebeck, N.Y., until he chose to give up his studies to return to Philadelphia. He was, at that time, penniless and homeless, factors that would color his world view in his adult life. Lippard began to study law when he was fifteen years old and apprenticed in a law firm in Philadelphia, but he would never practice.

Lippard ultimately became one of the best-selling novelists of his time, publishing numerous books including his gothic horror novel *The Quaker City: or The Monks of Monk Hall* (1844) which sold more than 60,000 copies in its first year. He was also an active lecturer, delivering addresses based on his series on the Revolutionary War, "Legends of the Revolution." He was also the author of several periodicals, including one of his last works, *The White Banner* (1851).

Lippard founded the Brotherhood of the Union in 1850 as a secret charitable organization that advocated cooperative economic and social activities among men. His vision was to create a fraternity of men who advanced the interests the common worker, such as shorter workdays and other labor reforms, and by 1854 the Brotherhood had lodges in over twenty-three states. Sometime after Lippard's death the Brotherhood was renamed the Brotherhood of America, and it remained in operation for over 100 years thereafter, finally disbanding in the late 20th century.

Despite his economic and social successes, Lippard's private life was tragic. In 1847 he married Rose Newman in a well-publicized outdoor ceremony overlooking the Wissahickon River in Philadelphia, Pa. They had two children, Mima and Paul, but both of their children as well as Rose herself would die by 1851. Lippard himself was never healthy, and in 1854, he, too, died, at the age of 32 from tuberculosis.

## Collection Overview

The Brotherhood of the Union Collection contains manuscript volumes, correspondence, official documents, membership certificates, and photographs relating to the creation and operation of the Brotherhood of the Union and its founder George Lippard. It also contains some personal items relating to Lippard and his family, such as leaves from the Lippard family bible. The collection is organized into three series: Manuscript Volumes; Box 1: Correspondence and Documents; Box 2: Correspondence and Documents (small flat file); and Box 2: Oversized.

Manuscript Volumes (1852-1877) contains two bound volumes with handwritten entries. The first is entitled *Lippard's Diary* (1852-1869) and contains detailed records relating to the membership of the Brotherhood of the Union, including passwords, convocation minutes and programs, printed circulars, dates of charts for circles of the Union, by state, expenses and receipts. The early entries date from 1852 and are in Lippard's hand as the Supreme Washington of the Brotherhood; subsequent entries were entered by Lippard's successors until 1869. Two loose items were removed from the volumes to Box 1, Folder 8, and Box 3, Folder 7 on 2/4/2010.

The second volume is entitled *Record* (1859-1877) and is primarily minutes of meetings, resolutions and financial records, mostly of the Supreme Circle of the Brotherhood of the Union. Some printed documents are affixed to the later pages of the volume, including printed versions of the governing laws of the Brotherhood.

Box 1: Correspondence and Documents (1850-1980 (bulk 1850-1853)) contains correspondence between members of the Brotherhood, some of which are on printed circular letters. Other materials relating to the Brotherhood include guides, or "keys," to the proceedings of the Brotherhood, membership certificates, resolutions of the Supreme Circle of the Brotherhood, and photographs of Lippard's houses and grave. Items relating to Lippard and his family include two documents written by his sister Sarah Lippard Bilbrough, which include a genealogical history of the Lippard family with a short biography of Lippard. This box also contains a reprint of an article about Lippard written in 1955.

Box 2: Correspondence and Documents (ca 1890); small flat file) contains a fragile thirty-five page handwritten document by an unknown author that gives an account of the early history of the Brotherhood between 1850 and 1854, including the names of members in each state circle.

Box 3: Oversized (1850-1930 (bulk 1850-1853)) contains oversized items from both the Manuscript Volumes and from Box 1. Items from the Manuscript Volumes include an oversized printed membership certificate removed from *Lippard's Diary*. Items from Box 2 include oversized correspondence between Lippard and other members of the Brotherhood, the Charter of the Brotherhood of the Union, and a prospectus for Lippard's book of short stories, *The White Banner*. Other items include photographs of Lippard's homes, although the locations of these houses are not identified.

## Brotherhood of the Union Collection

### Manuscript Volumes (1852-1877)

Volume	Author	Description	Date
Volume 1  Spine Title: <i>Lippard's Diary</i>	Brotherhood of the Union	MS records of the Brotherhood of the Union, with MS and printed leaves tipped in. 227, [156] p. 4to. Created by George Lippard as the Supreme Washington of the Brotherhood; his successors in this position continued to use this as a record book. Two loose items removed; now housed as single items in Box 1, Folder 8, and Box 3, Folder 7.	1852-1869
Volume 2  Spine Title: <i>Record S.C.B.J.(H.F.) C. of A.</i>	Brotherhood of the Union	MS record book of the Brotherhood, with printed ephemera laid in. Includes minutes of meetings, resolutions, and financial records, mostly of the Supreme Circle. [650] p. Fol.	1859-1877

## Brotherhood of the Union Collection

### Box 1 Correspondence and Documents (1850-1980)

Except for the first item (which is a reprint of an article not included in the accession) these items are arranged in ascending chronological order.

Folder	Author	Description	Date
Folder a	Butterfield, Roger	Reprint: "George Lippard and his Secret Brotherhood," <i>The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography</i> .	July 1955
Folder 1	Lippard, George	"Key to figure [216] of the B.G.C.," [s.a.]. MS. 6 p.	[undated]
Folder 2	Lippard, George	"Key to figure [231] of the B.G.C.," [s.a.]. MS. 18 p.; one sheet of blue paper laid in.	[undated]
Folder 3	Lippard, George	ALs to [William] Macfarlane. [1] p.	Oct. 30, 1850
Folder 4	Brotherhood of the Union	Printed membership certificate; inscribed by George Lippard for Eliab W. Capron. [1] p. Also cataloged in WolfPAC.	Feb. 20, 1851
Folder 5	Wilson, John H.	Printed circular letter; inscribed by John H. Wilson for William Macfarlane. [1] p. Also cataloged in WolfPAC.	Feb. 22, 1851
Folder 6	Lippard, George	ALs to William Macfarlane. [2] p.	Mar. 3, 1851
Folder 7	Lippard, George	ALs to James M. Stevens. [2] p.	May 30, 1851
Folder 8	Brotherhood of the Union	Resolutions of the Supreme Circle. MS. [2] p. Removed from Manuscript Volumes: <i>Lippard's Diary</i> , p. 11, removed 2/4/2010.	Oct. 5, 1852
Folder 9	Lippard, George	ALs to [William] Macfarlane. [2] p.	May 19, 1853
Folder 10	Lippard, George	Printed circular letter; inscribed by George Lippard to William Macfarlane. [1] p. Also cataloged in WolfPAC.	Aug. 4, 1853
Folder 11	[Unknown author?].	Envelope with letterhead of Brotherhood; inscribed in unknown hand: "Withdrawal card, Chas. S. Abel."	1860
Folder 12	Bilbrough, Sarah Lippard	"A Leaf from Grandfathers [sic] Bible." MS. 12 leaves. Note: Sarah Bilbrough was George Lippard's sister.	[ca. 1890?]
Folder 13	Bilbrough, Sarah Lippard	"These few lines were written ...." [ca. 1890?]. MS. [2] leaves.	[ca. 1890?]
Folder 14	[Unknown author]	Photograph of G.J. Ehmann conferring the G.E.W. Degree. 1 item.	1973
Folder 15	[Unknown author]	Photographs of George Lippard's grave, with transcriptions. 4 items.	1980
Folder 16	Brotherhood of the Union	United Circle, No. 107 [stationery]. Gift of Ric Ben-Safed, 2012. 1 item.	[189-?]

**Brotherhood of the Union Collection**

Box 2            Correspondence and Documents (ca. 1920), small flat file

Folder 1	[Unknown author?].	“Just when and how George Lippard instituted ...”. MS. [35] leaves; in pencil on brittle paper.	[ca. 1920?]
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**Brotherhood of the Union Collection**

Box 3

Oversized (1850-1980)

These items are arranged in ascending chronological order.

<b>Folder 1</b>	Brotherhood of the Union	Charter. Printed broadside. Inscribed by George Lippard. [1] p. Also cataloged in WolfPAC.	Sep 11, 1850
<b>Folder 2</b>	[Unknown author]	Prospectus for <i>The White Banner</i> . Printed text, with lithographed signature of Lippard. [4] p. Also cataloged in WolfPAC.	Jan. 28, 1851
<b>Folder 3</b>	Lippard, George	ALs from George Lippard to William Macfarlane, on printed circular letter. [4] p. Also cataloged in WolfPAC.	Jan. 20, 1852
<b>Folder 4</b>	Lippard, George	ALs from George Lippard to William Macfarlane, on printed circular letter. [4] p. Also cataloged in WolfPAC.	Oct. 18, 1852
<b>Folder 5</b>	Lippard, George	Printed circular letter; inscribed by George Lippard to James M. Stevens. [1] p. Also cataloged in WolfPAC.	Aug. 25, 1852
<b>Folder 6</b>	Lippard, George	ALs from George Lippard to William Macfarlane, on printed circular letter. [4] p. Also cataloged in WolfPAC.	May 17, 1853
<b>Folder 7</b>	Brotherhood of the Union	Printed membership certificate; inscribed by O.L. Drake and others for Charles Able. [1] p. Removed from Manuscript Volumes: <i>Lippard's Diary</i> , between front cover and first page on 2/4/2010. Also cataloged in WolfPAC.	Apr. 13, 1860
<b>Folder 8</b>	[Unknown author]	Photographs of homes of George Lippard. 4 items. [Locations not identified.]	[1930s?]

