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A Guide to the  
William Draper Lewis, 1867 - 1949  
Papers, 1890 - 1946

3.5 Cubic ft.

UPT 50 L667

Prepared by Theresa R. Snyder  
April 1991

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**PROVENANCE**

This collection was transferred from the Law School on January 3, 1968. The loose correspondence was salvaged from a flood in the mechanical rooms of the Biddle Law Library and transferred on February 13, 1991. The collection was reprocessed in April, 1991.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

William Draper Lewis was born in Philadelphia in 1867, the son of Henry and Fannie Hannah Wilson Lewis. He attended the Germantown Academy and then Haverford College, receiving a B.S. in 1888. In 1891 he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a LL.B. and Ph.D. During his student years, Lewis lectured at Haverford College on economics and at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School on legal historical institutions. In 1892 he became editor of the *American Law Register*, one of the oldest legal periodicals of the time. He resigned these posts in 1896 when appointed Professor of law and Dean of the Law School.

As the Dean of the Law School he worked at expanding the school and in 1900 the present building on the Penn campus was erected. Aside from physical plant improvements, he advocated

for the appointment of full-time law teacher dedicated to instruction and scholarly contributions; he persuaded the publishers of the *American Law Register* to turn over the magazine to the University; he broadened the curriculum of the Law School; and he strengthened the collections of the Biddle Law Library. Ultimately these revolutionary academic, organizational, and physical facility improvements brought the Law School into the first rank of legal institutions in the United States. He served as Dean until 1914 but continued on the faculty until 1924 when the pressure of his work as director of the American Law Institute forced him to resign.

In addition to his advances in academia, Lewis made significant contributions to the field of law. In 1923 he was elected as the first chairman of the Penal Reform Society of Pennsylvania. He authored many articles, some of which include: "Federal Power over Commerce and Its Effects on State Action," "Our Sheep and the Tariff," and "Restraint and Infringement of Incorporated Rights." He edited many works among them his own editions of "Greenleaf's Evidence," "Wharton's Criminal Law," and "Blackstone's Commentaries." Lewis, the founding director of the American Law Institute, worked at publishing restatements of the common law which would serve as the authoritative compendium of the American Law as it then existed. He served as director until ill health forced his retirement in 1947.

He had become highly involved with the Progressive Party by 1912, unsuccessfully running for the Governorship of Pennsylvania. He served as the chairman of the platform committee of the first and second Progressive National Conventions in Chicago in 1912 and 1916. His liberal political attitudes were recognized in 1918 with his appointment as the chair of the commission to draft a Public Utility Regulation Law for Pennsylvania. He also served as secretary of the commission appointed in 1920 to draft a revised State Constitution. Lewis died in 1949.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection is particularly rich for researchers interested in the early career of William Draper Lewis. His association with the University of Pennsylvania is well documented. There is

very little, however, for his later years and virtually nothing on his involvement in Progressive politics or the organization of the American Law Institute.

Loose correspondence and letterpress books make up the bulk of the collection. His correspondence is largely professional in nature, but there is a good sampling of personal correspondence. The personal letters cover a range of topics including: fund raising for Haverford College, family letters, renting property in Bar Harbor ME, and other personal matters. His professional correspondence address his teaching and administrative career with the University of Pennsylvania and legal correspondence regarding particular cases. His scholarly contributions and publications are discussed in his letters. Correspondence with George Wharton Pepper proliferates. In addition to being close friends the two edited the *Digest of Decisions* together. There are many letters from George E. Nitzsche, the Registrar for the Law School, and later Recorder for the University.

Five cases constitute the legal files. They include: *Smallberger v. Pennsylvania Railroad*, *United Gas Improvement Co. v. Northwestern Ice Manufacturing Co.*, Anselmo Susanich, *Hollis v. Brown*, and the Philadelphia Election Case. There are letters, decrees, rulings, plaintiff's and appellant's points, receipts, accounts, statements, affidavits, briefs, notes, motions, arguments, and other miscellaneous paperwork associated with the legal work. There is a small group of manuscripts; the titles of which include: "The Borderlands of Federal and State Legislation," *Cases on Law of Association*, *Cases on Specific Performance*, "Fallacies of Free Trade," "How an American City Can Become a Modern Municipality," "On Free Trade," "On Fundamental Ideas," "Our Sheep and the Tariff," and "The Principles of the Two Great Parties." There are also lecture notes on all phases of law and government. Finally, there are a few speeches delivered from 1895 until 1946.

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**INVENTORY**

Box 1	Correspondence
FF 1	[1890]
FF 2	1895-1896
FF 3	1898
FF 4	1899
FF 5	1900
FF 6	Jan.-Feb. 1901
FF 7	Mar.-Apr. 1901
FF 8	May-June 1901
FF 9	July 1901
FF 10	Aug. 1901
FF 11	Sept. 1901
FF 12	Oct.-Dec. 1901
FF 13	[1901]
FF 14	Jan.-Feb. 1902

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Box 1	Correspondence (cont.)
FF 15	Mar. 1902
FF 16	Apr. 1902
FF 17	May-June 1902
FF 18	July-Dec. 1902
FF 19	[1902]
FF 20	1903
FF 21	1904
FF 22	[1904]
FF 23	Jan.-Mar. 1905
FF 24	Apr.-May 1905
FF 25	June 1905
FF 26	July 1905
FF 27	Aug. 1905
FF 28	Sept.-Dec. 1905
FF 29	[1905]
FF 30	1906
FF 31	1907-1908

Letterpress books

Dec. 15, 1891-Oct. 29, 1894

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- Box 1            Letterpress books (cont.)
- Oct. 30, 1894-Mar. 6, 1895
- Mar. 7, 1895-June 21, 1895
- June 21, 1895-Oct. 30, 1895
- Oct. 30, 1895-Dec. 7, 1895
- Box 2            Dec. 7, 1895-Jan. 11, 1896
- Jan. 3, 1898-Mar. 1899
- Mar. 13, 1899-June 26, 1901
- June 28, 1901-Apr. 3, 1903
- May 23, 1905-May 23, 1907
- May 24, 1907-June 10, 1908
- Scrapbook, 1906-1926
- Box 3            Legal
- FF 1            *Smallberger v. Pennsylvania Railroad*, 1891-1895 -- Correspondence and Subpoenas
- FF 2            *Smallberger v. Pennsylvania Railroad*, 1891-1895 -- Plaintiff' s Points
- FF 3            *Smallberger v. Pennsylvania Railroad*, 1891-1895 -- Appellant' s Points
- FF 4            *Smallberger v. Pennsylvania Railroad*, 1891-1895 -- Testimony
- FF 5            *Smallberger v. Pennsylvania Railroad*, 1891-1895 -- Notes
- FF 6            *United Gas Improvement Co. v. Northwestern Ice Manufacturing Co.*, 1891-1892 -- Memoranda and notes

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Box 3	Legal (cont.)
FF 7	<i>United Gas Improvement Co. v. Northwestern Ice Manufacturing Co.</i> , 1891-1892 -- Report of Auditor
FF 8	<i>United Gas Improvement Co. v. Northwestern Ice Manufacturing Co.</i> , 1891-1892 -- Accounts
FF 9	Susanich, Anselmo, 1891-1895 -- Receipts and accounts
FF 10	Susanich, Anselmo, 1891-1895 -- Correspondence, 1893-1895
FF 11	Susanich, Anselmo, 1891-1895 -- Insurance, 1892-1894
FF 12	<i>Hollis v. Brown</i> , 1893 -- Correspondence
FF 13	<i>Hollis v. Brown</i> , 1893 -- Lease and correspondence between Hollis and Cope
FF 14	<i>Hollis v. Brown</i> , 1893 -- Statements, affidavits, and appeal
FF 15	<i>Hollis v. Brown</i> , 1893 -- Miscellaneous notes
FF 16	<i>Hollis v. Brown</i> , 1893 -- Precedent setting cases, 1843-1885 -- notes
FF 17	<i>Hollis v. Brown</i> , 1893 -- Briefs
FF 18	Morris, Paschall H. -- Will, 1893
FF 19	Philadelphia Election Case, 1893 -- Petition
FF 20	Philadelphia Election Case, 1893 -- Correspondence, subpoenas
FF 21	Philadelphia Election Case, 1893 -- Decrees, rulings
FF 22	Philadelphia Election Case, 1893 -- Notes
FF 23	Philadelphia Election Case, 1893 -- Motions, arguments

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Box 3            Manuscripts

- FF 24            Philadelphia Election Case, 1893 -- Contestant 's and Appellee 's Paper Book, testimony and proceedings
- FF 25            Philadelphia Election Case, 1893 -- Separate Opinions
- FF 26            Philadelphia Election Case, 1893 -- Clippings
- FF 27            "The Borderlands of Federal and State Legislation"
- FF 28            *Cases on Law of Association*, 1910
- FF 29            *Cases on Specific Performance*, 1903
- FF 30            "Fallacies of Free Trade"
- FF 31            "Federal Power over Commerce"
- FF 32            "How an American City Can Become a Modern Municipality"
- FF 33            Law School
- FF 34            "On Free Trade"
- FF 35            "On Fundamental Ideas"
- FF 36            ["Our Sheep and the Tariff"]
- FF 37            ["Our Sheep and the Tariff"]
- FF 38            "The Principles of the Two Great Parties"

Lectures

- FF 39            Biddle 's Torts
- FF 40            Definitions of Remoteness -- notes

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Box 3	Lectures (cont.)
FF 41	[Complete Digest of Parson ' s Laws] -- notes
FF 42	Contracts
FF 43	Conversion
FF 44	Duties Connected with the Armies -- notes
FF 45	Estate and Trusts -- Cases
FF 46	Equity
FF 47	Evidence
FF 48	False Imprisonment
FF 49	Justification for Assault and Battery
FF 50	Loss of Service, Child and Servant
FF 51	McColloch v. Maryland
FF 52	Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Politics -- Outlines
FF 53	Pennsylvania Government
FF 54	Philadelphia Government
FF 55	Philadelphia Government -- Executive Powers
FF 56	Philadelphia Government -- Public Works
Box 4	
FF 1	Political Economy
FF 2	Rights of Things

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Box 4	Lectures (cont.)
FF 3	Stephens on Pleading
FF 4	Trespass -- Real and personal
FF 5	United States Constitution
FF 6	United States Government -- Outlines
FF 7	United States Government -- Congress
FF 8	United States Government -- Executive Office
FF 9	United States Government -- Judicial
FF 10	United States Government -- Departments
	Speeches
FF 11	1895-1929
FF 12	1934
FF 13	1944-1946, n.d.
FF 14	Miscellaneous -- Marriage License, 1982

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