

## Paul E. Hubbell - Professor, Pacifist, Poet

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Author: Peg Porter

*Characters - the second in an occasional series about unique and interesting Ypsilantians.*

I think I must have been about ten years old the first time I saw him, a tall gray haired man marching down our street. He carried a walking stick that he swung back and forth, up and down, like a baton. As he came nearer, I heard him speaking. Before he got much closer I went up the front walk and in the door. I was to see him many more times over the years.

**Paul E. Hubbell** was born in 1891. He grew up in the small community of Hat Creek amid the rolling hills of central Virginia. He attended Wake Forest and the University of Richmond. After completing his undergraduate studies he taught high school history. He was named a Rhodes Scholar, sailed to England, arriving in Liverpool on October 1, 1914 to begin graduate work at Oxford. Shortly after his arrival World War I began. He left Oxford and traveled to Egypt where he was awarded the British Military Recognition for civilians. He would return to the United States, sailing from Naples, and arriving in July 1916.

He joined the U.S. Army shortly after his return. World War I was one of the bloodiest of all wars. Because the United States entered the war later, this country did not suffer the terrible losses that, for example, England did. However, Hubbell's war experience made him a committed pacifist. It's impact on his life should not be underestimated. He was able to return to Oxford where he was awarded a Master of Arts in 1920. He married an English woman who was a sometimes actress. They were to have one child, named Ann. His teaching career began at Michigan State Normal College in 1923; he retired in 1958. His area of study was Modern History with a emphasis on World War I.

In his long retirement (he died in 1993) he devoted himself to writing poetry. He also contributed many letters to the editor primarily on the subject of the war in Viet Nam. He was a prolific poet, self publishing at least six books. He became known as the Poet of Grant Street. Some of his collections contain poems by his Ypsilanti neighbors and other Michigan poets. His extensive reading and study is reflected in his poetry. Occasionally he sold his books door to door. The object was not to make money but to share his work with others.

Late in life he was named a Grand Poet at a local elementary school teaching poetry and encouraging young grade school students to try their hand at verse. He apparently derived great pleasure in working with the children as he had no grandchildren of his own.

As for me, I later realized why he was speaking on his afternoon walks. He was reciting poetry. The rhythmical walk, the baton walking stick all seemed to support that theory. Someone once told me that he had heard that Hubbell had been gassed in the War. He may have been but it seems more likely that he was a man in love with words. Walking the neighborhood as the day came to an end brought him pleasure and a measure of peace.

Inventory of the Paul Edgar Hubbell Papers, 1854-1986 Hubbell was Professor emeritus of History at East Michigan University and ... [ Identification of item], Paul Edgar Hubbell Papers, David M.

Rubenstein Rare Book ...

<http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/rbmscl/hubbellpaul/inv/>

# Inventory of the Paul Edgar Hubbell Papers, 1854-1986

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Brother of Jay Broadus Hubbell (ME#5629)

Father: David S. Hubbell-who was the son of Robert Henry who was the son of Joel Hubble son of Justus

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## Descriptive Summary

### Repository

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

### Creator

Hubbell, Paul Edgar, 1891-

### Title

Paul Edgar Hubbell Papers, 1854-1986

### Language of Material

Material in English

### Extent

1.0 Linear Feet

148 Items

### Abstract

Hubbell was Professor emeritus of History at East Michigan University and brother of Jay B. Hubbell.

The collection includes family papers, correspondence, writings, and other material.

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# Administrative Information

## Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

However, collection may contain materials to which the Acknowledgment of Legal Responsibilities and Privacy Rights form applies. Patrons must sign this form before using this collection.

Also, all or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. Consequently, there may be a 24-hour delay in obtaining these materials.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

## Copyright Notice

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

## Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Paul Edgar Hubbell Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

## Provenance

The Paul Edgar Hubbell Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 1980-1986.

## Processing Information

Processed by Kimberly Sims, May 2011

Encoded by Kimberly Sims, July 2011

Descriptive sources and standards used to create this inventory: *DACS*, *EAD*, *NCEAD* guidelines, and local *Style Guide*.

This finding aid is *NCEAD* compliant.

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## Biographical Note

Paul Edgar Hubbell was Professor emeritus of History at East Michigan University and brother of Jay B. Hubbell.

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## Collection Overview

This collection consists largely of letters from Jay B. Hubbell to his brother Paul and his family discussing family matters, [Hubbell genealogy](#), careers, publications, and politics, and current events. Other items include one letter from David S. Hubbell to his son Paul; photographs of Lucinda Hubbell and Jay Hubbell; writings by or about Jay B. Hubbell; a program of the Lamar

Memorial Lectures; two volumes of GRANT STREET VERSE; a xeroxed copy of "A Tribute to Professor Kenneth Ballard Murdock, Honored Scholar of Early American Literature" from EARLY AMERICAN LITERATURE magazine; poems by Paul E. Hubbell, including one entitled "In Academici Memoriam" written in memory of his brother in 1979; a 1985 essay by Paul E. Hubbell entitled "The Making of Edward Gibbon, 1737-1778;" and clippings concerning the death of Wilburt C. Davison.

Additional papers pertain to the family of Anne Thompson Hubbell, the wife of Paul Hubbell, and include a biographical sketch of her father Dr. Kimbro Thompson, a deed for land in Carroll Co., Va. (later the site of Hillsville Academy) from Calvin Mitchell to Benjamin F. Thompson, brother of Kimbro Thompson, dated 12 March 1854; another deed for 100 acres in Surry Co., N.C., to Jesse Isaaks, signed by Governor Z.B. Vance and dated 23 January 1863 (the surveyor's report is attached); a copy of the will of John J. McMickle of Surry Co., N.C., dated 25 October 1892, which names Dr. Kimbro Thompson, his son-in-law, as executor; three compositions by Kimbro Thompson, who was also an ordained minister in the Baptist Church; four letters, one to Kimbro Thompson's brother dated 21 January 1856, one written by W.O.T. Banner to his cousin while Banner was a prisoner at Johnsons Island, Oh., dated 24 November 1864, one from J.B. Jones to Rev. Thompson dated 20 October 1868 pertaining to missionary work in western Va., and one from Mame Thompson Woodhouse, sister of Anne Thompson Hubbell, dated 26 April 1930; copies of three notes promising to pay varying amounts of money; a certification of the unfitness of Benjamin F. Thompson for military service and his discharge of November 13, 1862; tax receipt of Benjamin F. Thompson for the year 1856; a scrapbook of Lucy McMickle, wife of Dr. Kimbro Thompson, in which clippings of agricultural pointers, stories, poems, etc. have been pasted on pages which apparently were Dr. Thompson's notes on diseases and medications, recipes, poems, and copies of letters have been added; a notebook for Anne Thompson from Meredith College, Raleigh, N.C.; clippings of pictures of some of her classmates.

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## Subject Headings

These are searchable subject entries for this collection. Performing a search on these subjects in the Duke University Libraries online catalog will bring up other related research materials.

- [Baptists--Clergy.](#)
- [Davison, Wilburt Cornell, 1892-1972.](#)
- [Gibbon, Edward, 1737-1794.](#)
- [Hubbell, Jay B.\(Jay Broadus\), 1885-1979.](#)
- [Hubbell family.](#)
- [Hubbell, David S.](#)
- [Hubbell, Lucinda.](#)
- [Johnson Island Prison.](#)
- [McMickle, Lucy.](#)
- [Meredith College \(Raleigh, N.C.\)--Students.](#)
- [Murdock, Kenneth Ballard, 1895-1975.](#)
- [Scholars--Correspondence.](#)
- [Thompson, Benjamin F.](#)
- [Thompson, Kimbro.](#)
- [Scrapbooks.](#)



List of Series in Collection



Container List

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## Contents of Collection

### Container List

#### Box 1

Correspondence

Miscellany

Writings

#### Box 2

Anne Thompson Hubbell File

*(Author's note: the Ypsilanti Historical Archives has a complete set of Hubbell's published work as well as letters and academic papers.)*

*(Peg Porter is the Assistant Editor of the Gleanings and a regular contributor of articles.)*



Paul E. Hubbell's teaching career began at Michigan State Normal College in 1923.



sixth volume

# GRANT STREET VERSE



by

PAUL E. HUBBELL

\*\*\*\*\*

IN MY NINETIETH YEAR

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WITH PHOTO  
OF  
THE POET'S HOME  
1981



## **A Political Kitty**

*By Paul E. Hubbell*

Our candidate's cat has a wonderful dream  
of getting fat on butter and cream.  
Her political flair is charming to see,  
for she likes to rub against everyone's knee.

This attractive pussy has a way all her own  
and great ambition for election has shown;  
She wishes much notice from all voters there,  
I rather think that's a good campaigner's air.

Kitty gives you a lot in the line of attention;  
Her costs will be light on a government pension.  
Economy minded, please give your consent,  
elect her and you'll see your taxes carefully spent!