Guide to the Elisha Wolsey Peck papers
MSS.1120

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May 06, 2013
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

Repository  
University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama

Creator  
Peck, Elisha Wolsey, 1799-1888

Title  
Elisha Wolsey Peck papers

Date [inclusive]  
1837-1887

Extent  
0.4 Linear feet

Language  
English

Abstract  
Correspondence and financial papers of this Tuscaloosa, Alabama, attorney, as well as material relating to the Alabama Constitutional Convention of 1867, of which Peck was chairman.

Preferred Citation note  
Elisha Wolsey Peck papers, University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama
Biographical/Historical note

Elisha Wolsey Peck was born on August 7, 1799, in Blenheim, Schoharie County, New York. He began the study of law in 1819. Five years later he was admitted to practice in Superior Court at Albany, New York. The following year he was admitted to the bar in Syracuse, New York; he then moved to Elyton (Birmingham), Alabama, around 1825. He married Lucy Lamb Randall (1808-1889), the daughter of Samuel (1770-1840) and Lucy Wheeler Randall (1780-1857) in Talladega, Alabama, in 1828. They had nine children: Edward Wolsey; Roscoe; Henry St. John; William; Lucey Christian; David Lamb (1842-); Lydia Elizabeth; Mary Lee; and Samuel Mintern (1854-1938).

In 1838 he moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Governor Arthur P. Bagby appointed him chancellor of the middle chancery division of Alabama in 1839. He was a candidate for representative to the Constitutional Convention of 1865 but was defeated. In 1867 he moved three times: once to Sycamore, Illinois, then to Rockford, Illinois, and finally back to Tuscaloosa. Upon his return he was elected chairman of the Military Reconstruction Convention of 1867. Later that year he was chosen as the chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, in which capacity he served until retiring in 1874. He died at his home in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on February 13, 1888.

Scope and Contents note

The Elisha Wolsey Peck papers include account books, personal and legal correspondence, election returns, invitations, meeting minutes, and receipts. These materials relate to Peck's family, finances, business, law practice, membership in the Rising Virtue Masonic Lodge, and service to Alabama during Reconstruction.

The material relating to the Reconstruction period is particularly significant, as Peck served as president of Alabama's Constitutional Convention of 1867 and was chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court 1867-1874. The papers include the text of the speech he gave to the Constitutional Convention in 1867 and 1868 election returns from various counties.

Rising Virtue Lodge material includes minutes of a meeting, resolutions, and an invitation.

The legal correspondence from 1843-1876 relate to clients Peck represented. They are arranged alphabetically by case name. There are also account books from the law firms of Ellis and Peck and Peck and Clark, ranging in date from 1830-1854.

One folder includes a notebook that belonged to David Lamb Peck. The notebook contains poetry, notes on the Bible, sketches, and computations. Another folder of miscellaneous items contains two unidentified books. One is a commonplace book containing poetry, notes on the Bible, and notes.
comparing prices of various goods. The second item consists of undated, unbound pages from an unidentified account book and contains itemized lists of goods.

Administrative Information

Publication Information
University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama 2003

Revision Description
December 2009; May 2013

Conditions Governing Access note
None

Conditions Governing Use note
None

Provenance
Separated from the Samuel Minturn Peck papers, University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama

Processed by
Donnelly Lancaster and Richard Brown, 2003; updated by Martha Bace, 2013

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note
Samuel Minturn Peck papers, W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama
Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

• Correspondence

Personal Name(s)

• Peck, David Lamb, b. 1842
• Peck, Lucy Lamb Randall, 1808-1889
• Peck, Lydia Elizabeth
• Peck, Samuel Minturn, 1854-1938

Subject(s)

• Alabama
• Civil Rights and Human Rights
• Government, Law and Politics
• Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)
## Collection Inventory

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<tr>
<td>Personal Correspondence, Incoming</td>
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<td>Ellis and Peck Account Book, 1830-1850</td>
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<td>Peck and Clark memo book, 1843-1854</td>
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<td>Minutes, resolutions, and invitations from the Rising Virtue lodge</td>
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<td>David Lamb Peck notebook circa 1850</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Unidentified Commonplace Book and Account Book Pages 1830</td>
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