

## Guide to the Prentiss Ingraham and Joseph H. Ingraham Papers, 1839-1950

**Title:** Prentiss Ingraham and Joseph H. Ingraham Papers

**Creator:** Ingraham, Prentiss, 1843-1904  
Ingraham, Joseph Holt, 1809-1890

**Extent:**

**Inclusive Dates:** 1839-1950; bulk 1868-1950

**Collection Number:** 0729

**Provenance:** Gift of Rosa Ingraham Masser, daughter of Prentiss Ingraham, 1950

**Processed by:** Betty P. Chancellor, 1981; updated Donnelly Lancaster, 2006

**Restricted:** no

**Copyright Statement:** This collection may be protected under Title 17 of the U.S. Copyright Law.

**Preferred Citation:** The Prentiss Ingraham and Joseph H. Ingraham Papers, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama.

**Reference Code:** USALM0729

**Language:** English

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### ABSTRACT

Material relating to Prentiss Ingraham and his father, Joseph Holt Ingraham, kept by PI's daughter, Rosa. Included are clippings, letters, poetry, photographs and other documents. Also a list of books by Ingraham held in the W. S. Hoole Library.

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### BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Soldier and novelist. Born near Natchez, Mississippi in 1843, the son of Joseph Holt Ingraham, novelist and Episcopal churchman. Served in the Confederate army, under Juarez against Maximilian, in the Prussian army in 1866, in Crete, and in the Cuban

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revolution in 1868-1872. Thereafter turned to writing and produced over three hundred "dime novels," as well as poetry. Married Rosa Langley in 1873.

Prentiss Ingraham was born near Natchez (Adams County) Mississippi on December 22, 1843, son of Rev. Joseph Holt and Mary (Brooke) Ingraham. He was educated at St. Timothy's Military Academy, Maryland, and Jefferson College, Mississippi, and also studied medicine at Mobile Medical College. In April 1861, at the age of 18, he left school and joined the Confederate States Army, rising to the rank of Captain.

He served in light artillery with the Withers' Mississippi Regiment, was wounded and captured at Ft. Hudson; also served on staff as a lieutenant and in Ross's brigade, Texas cavalry, commander of scouts; wounded at battle of Franklin; served after civil War in Mexico under Juarez; also in Austria, in war with Prussia; in Crete and in Africa; extensive traveler in Eastern lands; served afloat and ashore in Cuban Ten Years' War for independence, with ranks of captain of navy and colonel of cavalry; was tried as filibusterer and condemned to death by Spaniards; escaped.

Prentiss Ingraham began his literary career in London, England, in 1870, moving later to New York. He was an author of over 600 novels, possibly 1000, a dozen plays, numerous short stories and poems, and 200 books about Buffalo Bill. In his 34 years of literary activity, from 1870-1903, he produced at the rate of 1,600,000 words a year. His first long story, "Afloat and Ashore" was printed in dime novel form.

Prentiss Ingraham married Rosa Langley in 1875. They had three children, Mrs. Austin Cloe, Los Angeles, California; Mrs. Rosa I. Masser, Chicago; Langley Ingraham, Atlanta, Georgia. He died in Beauvoir, Mississippi, August 16, 1904.

His publications include: *Afloat and Ashore*, *Montezuma*, *Merciless*, *Cretan Rover*, *The Cuban*, *The Shades and Shadows of Gotham*, 1873, *Motherless*, 1876, *Without Heart*, 1878, *Merle*, 1882, *The Mutineer*, 1882, *A Knight of the Plains*, 1882, *Zuleikah A Story of Crete*, 1887, *Darkie Dan*, 1888, *In Golden Fetters*, 1888, *Cadet Carey, of West Point*, 1890, *Red Rovers on Blue Waters*, 1890, *In Satan's Coil*, 1890, *An American Monte Cristo*, 1891, *The Vagabond*, 1891, *Wandering Jew of the Sea*, 1891, *Given for Gold*, 1893, *Trailing with Buffalo Bill*, *Land of Legendary Lore*, 1899, *Girl Rough Rider*, 1903, *Satan's Slave*, 1903

#### JOSEPH HOLT INGRAHAM

Joseph Holt Ingraham was born January 26, 1809 in Portland Maine. In 1830 he sailed for New Orleans, then moved to Natchez when after some experience in business and in the practice of law he became a member of the faculty of Jefferson College in nearby

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Washington, Mississippi. While teaching he began writing tales and novels, many of which described the South through the eyes of a New Englander.

About 1849, Ingraham moved to Nashville, Tennessee and opened a school for young ladies. While there he ministered to the victims of a cholera epidemic and served as unordained chaplain to the prisoners in the State penitentiary. Because of this work and with the guidance his brother, the Rev. J.P.T. Ingraham, he decided to enter the ministry. He was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church at Jackson, Mississippi on February 8, 1852 and after serving successively as rector of St. John's Church, Mobile Alabama, and the Episcopal church at Aberdeen Mississippi, he became rector of Christ's Church, Holly Springs, Mississippi in the summer of 1858. He remained there until his death on December 18, 1860. He died from a self inflicted bullet wound which is reported to have been accidental.

His books include:

*The Southwest; By a Yankee.* Harper and Brothers, 1835; *Lafitte: The Pirate of the Gulf.* Harper and Brothers, 1836; *Burton, or the Seiges.* Harper and Brothers, 1841; *The Quadroone, or St. Michael's Day.* Harper and Brothers, 1841; *Montezuma, a Tale of the Aztecs.* Boston, H.L. Williams, 1845; *The Spectre Steamer, and other Tales.* Boston, U.S. Publishing Company, 1846; *Nobody's Son; or The Life and Adventures of Percival Mayberry.* Philadelphia, A. Hart, 1851; *The Prince of the House of David.* New York, Pudney and Russell, 1857; *The Pillar of Fire.* New York, Pudney and Russell, 1859; *The Throne of David.* Philadelphia, G.G. Evans, 1860; *The Sunny South.* Philadelphia, G.G. Evans, 1860.

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**SCOPE AND CONTENTS:**

Material relating to "Dime novelist" Prentiss Ingraham and his father, Joseph Holt Ingraham, kept by Prentiss Ingraham's daughter, Rosa. Included are clippings, letters, poetry, photographs and other documents. Also a list of books by Ingraham held in the W. S. Hoole Library.

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**CONTAINER LIST:**

Box	Folder	Description
1050	1	Scrapbooks. 1868-1904. 2 items. Items are unarranged

Newspaper clippings about the life and work of Colonel Prentiss Ingraham. Reviews of several of his works. Obituaries - Prentiss Ingraham. Letter to Miss Rosa L. Ingraham from Louis Joseph Vance.

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Newspaper clippings - works of Prentiss Ingraham, poetry, short stories, essays. Typed and mimeographed copies of poetry. One delegate certificate. A letter from William N. Manning.

- 2            Photographs  
              1886-1902. 5 items. Items are unarranged. Photographs of Prentiss Ingraham.
- 3            Lists of Works.  
              1839-1931. 2 items.
  - A.        List of novels by Joseph Holt Ingraham.
  - B.        List of cataloged books in the Rare Book Room of the University of Alabama. Books by both Prentiss Ingraham and Joseph Holt Ingraham. (out of date).
- 4            Copies of Poetry - Colonel Prentiss Ingraham  
              n.d. 2 items
  - A. Newspaper clipping
  - B. Typed copy
- 5            Newspaper Clippings  
              n.d. - 1924. 6 items. Items are unarranged.
  - A.        Clippings - reminiscences of Colonel Ingraham.
  - B.        Newspaper advertisement about the Buffalo Bill Museum, Cody, Wyoming.
- 6            Magazine Clippings  
              1931-1950. 8 items. Arranged chronologically.  
              Reviews of works by Prentiss Ingraham.