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## Prentis Papers (MSS 32)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
 Department of Library Special Collections  
 Western Kentucky University  
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 32 PRENTIS Papers**

1 box. 8 folders. 98 items. 1836-1909. Originals, typescripts.

1950.9.1

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

James Prentis (1796-1874), son of Mr. and Mrs. William Prentis, lived in Petersburg, Virginia, until 1845. His father was a printer and one of the editors of the *Virginia Gazette* and *Petersburg Intelligencer*. James was educated at William and Mary College as a lawyer, but he never practiced. He came to Hancock County, Kentucky in 1845 and bought acreage upon which the town of Lewisport was founded. James engaged in the mercantile business with some of his children. His wife was Lucy W. Baugh (1800-1865), and they had ten children, including William T., Archibald B., Robert C., and Margaret J.

Bibliographical Notes

Perrin, W. H. Battle, J. H., and Kniffen, G. C. *Kentucky, A History of the State* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., 1886.

Crittenden, Henry Huston. *The Crittenden Memoirs*, 1926.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

The major portion of this collection is comprised of writings by James Prentis, 1861-1871, concerning political affairs. A staunch Unionist, Prentis expressed his opinions in letters and essays to friends in Virginia and to various newspaper editors. He wrote about slavery, the folly of secession, Lincoln's confiscation laws, and the aftermath of war, including the legal fate of Jefferson Davis. He also wrote a reply to his son Archibald when the latter expressed sympathy with the secessionist cause.

The incoming letters to Prentis are all business letters with one exception. In 1865, his son Archibald wrote his father a letter describing battles and conditions in and around Petersburg, Virginia. An 1846 business letter from Robert Triplett of Owensboro, Kentucky, refers to an action against the May estate.

Family letters addressed to Lucy W. (Baugh) Prentis are from her sisters Mary E. Baugh and Mrs. Rebecca E. Jones of Virginia. Letters received by daughter Margaret

Prentis concern family matters and are from a niece, Eva (Mrs. Shelton Chieves) and from a cousin, M. Jennie Jones, both of Virginia.

### ***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>PRENTIS Papers</b>	<b>1836-1909</b>	<b>98 items</b>
Folder 1a	Inventory; obituary of Archibald B. Prentis		2 items
Folder 1	Incoming letters to James Prentis	1836-1869	7 items
Folder 2	Incoming letters to Mrs. James (Lucy H.) Prentis from sisters, Mary E. Baugh and Rebecca E. Jones	1838-1842	10 items
Folder 3	Incoming letters to Margaret Prentis	1867-1909	8 items
	3a - From Eva (Mrs. Shelton) Chieves	1867-1909	5 items
	3b - From M. Jennie Jones	1875, 1876	2 items
	3c - Unsigned letter	1868	1 item
Folder 4	Letters, essays, etc. of James Prentis	1861-1871,	21 items
	4a – Partial letters, essays, etc.	n.d.	7 items
Folder 5	Price list for tailoring	1892	1 item
Folder 6	Miscellaneous items: receipts, poem, prescription, etc.	n.d.	22 items
Folder 7	Typescripts of selected James Prentis letters and essays in Folder 4	1861-1862, n.d.	12 items

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS PRENTIS Papers 1836-1909  
32

Letters to James Prentis, 1836-1869 (7), of Petersburg, Virginia and Hancock County, Kentucky; family letters to his wife Lucy Prentis, Petersburg, Virginia, 1838-1842 (10); family letters to daughter Margaret Prentis, 1867-1909 (8); letters and essays of James Prentis written to friends and newspaper editors expressing his political views, 1861-1871; and miscellaneous items.

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**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Baugh, Mary Elizabeth, 1813-1876  
 Bramlette, Thomas Elliott, 1817-1875 – Relating to  
 Chieves, Eva Baugh (Prentis), 1848-1929  
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Claims, 1900  
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Petersburg, Virginia, 1865  
 Crittenden, Alexander P., 1816-1870 – Relating to  
 Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889 – Relating to  
 Economic conditions – Virginia, 1830s-1840s  
 Essays, 1861-1867  
 Grant, Ulysses Simpson, 1822-1885  
 Hancock County, 1845-1909 – Relating to  
 Jones, M. Jennie  
 Jones, Rebecca Eppes (Baugh), 1816-1844  
 Medicine – Prescriptions and remedies  
 Politics – U.S. – Civil War, 1861-1865  
 Prentis, Archibald Baugh, 1825-1897  
 Prentis, James, 1796-1874 – Correspondence  
 Prentis, Lucy H. (Baugh), 1800-1865 – Letters to  
 Prentis, Margaret Jane, 1837-1916 – Letters to  
 Reconstruction (Post-Civil War Period), 1867  
 Ruffin, Edmund, 1794-1874 – Relating to  
 Secession – Opposition to, 1861  
 Slavery, 1861  
 Social life and customs – Virginia, 1830s-1840s  
 Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874 – Relating to  
 Triplett, Robert, 1794-1853

Jeffrey 11/30/2011