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

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 32 PRENTIS Papers

1/2 box. 6 folders. 77 items. 1836-1909. Originals.

1950.9.1

BIOGRAPHY

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. Some of their children were W. T., A. B., Robert C., and Margaret J.

Bibliographical Notes

Perrin, W. H. Battle, J. H., and Kniffen, G. C. *Kentucky, History of a State*, 3d ed., 1886.

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

THE COLLECTION

The major portion of this collection is comprised of letters and essays written by James Prentis. These writings, 1861-1865(?), concern political affairs. He expressed his staunch Unionist support to his friends in Virginia and in letters to various newspaper editors. These writings address many pertinent questions and topics of the times.

The incoming letters to Prentis are all business letters with one exception. In 1865 his son, A. B. wrote his father a letter describing battles and conditions in and around Petersburg, Virginia. The 1846 business letter from Robert Triplett of Owensboro, Kentucky, details the settlement of 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

BOX 1	PRENTIS Papers	1836-1909	77 items
Folder 1a	Inventory and obituary of A. B. Prentis		2 items
Folder 1	Incoming letters to James Prentis	1836-1869	7 items
Folder 2	Incoming letters to Mrs. James (Lucy W.) from sisters, Mary E. Baugh and Rebecca E. Jones	1838-1842	10 items
Folder 3	Incoming letters to Aunt 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	27 items
	4a - Partial letters, essays, etc.	n.d.	6 items
Folder 5	Price list for tailoring	1892	1 item
Folder 6	Miscellaneous items: receipts, poem, prescription, etc.	n.d.	22 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS 32	PRENTIS Papers	1836-1909
	<p>Letters to James Prentis, 1836-1869 (7); family letters to Lucy Prentis; Petersburg, VA, 1838-1842 (10); family letters to Margaret Prentis, 1867-1909 (8); 26 letters and essays of James Prentis written to friends and newspaper editors expressing his views as a Union supporter, 1861-1867; and miscellaneous items.</p> <p>1/2 box. 6 folders. 77 items.</p> <p>1950.9.1</p>	

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Bramlette, Thomas Elliott, 1817-1875 – Relating to

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 – Relating to, 1845-1909 – Relating to
 Medicine – Prescriptions and remedies
 Politics – U.S. – Civil War, 1861-1865
 Prentis, James, 1796-1874
 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

Jeffrey 11/30/2011