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Procter-Pendleton Papers (MSS 26)

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BIOGRAPHY

Benjamin Franklin Procter (Nov. 26, 1849-Nov. 30, 1944) was born in Procter Mill, a community in Logan County, Kentucky. His educational background included attendance at Cottage Home, a noted common school near Russellville, Kentucky. Later he attended Bethel College in Russellville following which he studied law and gained admittance to the bar in 1873. In the same year, he moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky, where he read law in the office of Judge Thomas Henry Hines. In 1875 Procter was elected City Attorney, retaining that office for two terms; from 1884 to 1887, he served as Warren Circuit Court Commissioner; and also, he served for a period as County Attorney of Warren County. Although Procter’s law practice was large and varied, he handled many railroad cases.

Procter married Lila Pendleton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Pendleton of Upland, Pennsylvania, on November 9, 1876. Miss Pendleton was born in Russellville, Kentucky, on August 25, 1850. She did not attend college because of the Civil War upheaval but was taught at home by her mother. The Procters built one of the finest homes in Bowling Green at 1408 Chestnut Street, and they were considered on of the city’s outstanding families. Mrs. Procter died November 27, 1932. She and her husband had no children.

James Madison Pendleton was born in Spottsylvania County, Virginia, on November 20, 1811. His parents migrated to Christian County, Kentucky, when he was one year old. He attended school, periodically, beginning at age nine or ten. As a young man, Pendleton aided his father on the farm. In 1830, he received his license to preach for the Baptist Church and began preaching in September 1831. A month later, he started studying under Robert Anderson, a Baptist minister in Russellville, Kentucky. Pendleton moved to Hopkinsville, Kentucky, in 1833 to study at the Academy, while continuing to fulfill his preaching appointments. In 1837 he moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky, to serve as minister and remained there until 1857, with the exception of a few months which he spent in Russellville in 1850.

Pendleton married Catherine Stockton Garnett of Glasgow, Kentucky, in 1838. They were the parents of five children: Letitia, John M., Fannie, Lila and Garnett.
From 1857 to 1862, Pendleton resided near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and in addition to his preaching activities, he taught at Union University in Murfreesboro. Pendleton then ministered to the church in Upland, Pennsylvania from 1866 to 1883. Following his retirement, he returned south to live with his children and their families and devoted much time to writing. Among his literary achievements were: *Church Manual*, 1868; *Christian Doctrines*, 1878; *Notes of Sermons*; and *Reminiscences of a Long Life*, 1891. Pendleton died in 1891 and was buried in Fairview Cemetery in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Bibliographical Notes


THE COLLECTION

The correspondence of B. F. Procter mainly deals with the building of a colonial house and his efforts to retain this property, as well as his other real estate holdings, in the late 1930s. Correspondence in 1933 with officials of Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky, relates to the possibility of Procter, a staunch Baptist, giving the college some property contingent upon their raising the money to cover the debt on it. The legal papers mostly pertain to this same property. Other documents include legal papers which Procter drew up for a member of the Shaker society at South Union, Kentucky; a typescript copy of H. R. Bill #6276 passed in 1917, which paid Procter for materials impressed of his father during the Civil War; and a paper which was written about Bowling Green’s sewer system. Correspondents include Leonard Doolan, John A. Logan, Garland D. Sledge, C. Ernest Procter, and Leslie Waggener.

The collection of Lila Pendleton Procter includes a few personal letters, travel diaries, talks made to the Ladies Missionary Society of the First Baptist Church in Bowling Green, and Stockton family genealogy.

The Pendleton papers include a few letters written to J. M. Pendleton during the years 1886 to 1889, but most of the collection pertains to his religious activities of Pendleton during his career as a Baptist preacher. Many sermons, chiefly ones delivered at Upland, Pennsylvania, are in the collection. Other items are a travel journal which describes the trip Pendleton made to Philadelphia to attend the Baptist Triennial Convention in 1844; some lecture notes and a class book from his teaching days at Union University in 1857; papers of Garnett concerning the estate settlement of J. M. Pendleton; and a copy of the remarks delivered at Garnett Pendleton’s funeral service.
### SHELF LIST

**SERIES I**  
**PROCTER-Pendleton Papers**  
1860-1941  
106 items

**BOX 1**  
**PROCTER-Pendleton Papers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder 1</th>
<th>Letters</th>
<th>1927-1941</th>
<th>46 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1a</td>
<td>Outgoing letters of B. F. Procter</td>
<td>1927-1941</td>
<td>31 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1b</td>
<td>Procter, Carson, and Dinwiddie records</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1c</td>
<td>Letter regarding real estate</td>
<td>1929</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1d</td>
<td>Partial, unsigned, or undated letters</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>13 items</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder 2</th>
<th>Incoming letters to B. F. Procter</th>
<th>1894-1941</th>
<th>37 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2a</td>
<td>Incoming letters</td>
<td>1894-1928</td>
<td>10 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2b</td>
<td>Incoming letters</td>
<td>1930-1941</td>
<td>21 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2c</td>
<td>Partial, unsigned, or undated letters or papers</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>7 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder 3</th>
<th>Correspondence and papers</th>
<th>1899-1932</th>
<th>17 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3a</td>
<td>Correspondence of Lila Pendleton Procter</td>
<td>1899-1932</td>
<td>6 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3b</td>
<td>Talks of Mrs. Procter to Ladies’ Missionary Society, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>7 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3c</td>
<td>Stockton genealogy</td>
<td>1860</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d</td>
<td>Diaries containing travel incidents and memo book listing letters received in 1932</td>
<td>1895-1904; 1932</td>
<td>3 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Folder 4 | Procter legal papers, deeds, etc. | 1889-1935 | 19 items |

| Folder 5 | Letter regarding gift of B. F. Procter to Georgetown College | 1933 | 6 items |

| Folder 6 | H. R. Bill #6276, Relief bill for B. F. Procter | 1917 | 1 item |

| Folder 7 | Shaker will and papers (Hilton) | 1896-1900 | 6 items |

| Folder 8 | Paper written about the history of Bowling Green’s sewage system | 1890-1931 | 1 item |

| Folder 9 | Poems and tree puzzle | n.d. | 5 items |
Folder 10  Clippings, printed items, etc. n.d. 16 items
Folder 11  Photographs (11) and negatives (1) n.d. 12 items

SERIES II  PROCTER-Pendleton Papers 1844-1921 187 items

BOX 1  PROCTER-Pendleton Papers
Folder 1  Pendleton, James Madison - Papers 1852-1912 10 items
  1a - Correspondence 1866-1889 7 items
  1b - History of Upland Baptist Church 1852-1912 1 item
  1c - Deed – Rutherford County, Tennessee 1859 1 item
  1d - Character sketch of J. M. Pendleton n.d. 1 item
Folder 2  Journal regarding trip to Triennial Convention in Philadelphia, April 11, 1844 - May 10, 1844 1844, 1857 2 items
  Class book and lecture notes, Union University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 1857
Folder 3  Notebook - Texts and themes of sermons preached in Upland, Pa. 1865-1883 and themes of sermons published in *Baptist Visitor* 1856-1883 1 item
Folder 4  Sermons 1847-1876 67 items
Folder 5  Sermons 1878-1883 94 items
Folder 6  Pendleton, Garnett - Papers 1899-1921 12 items
  6a - Papers regarding estate settlement of J. M. Pendleton 1899-1921 8 items
  6b - Remarks made at Garnett’s funeral service 1921 2 items
  6c - Commission of Henry Pendleton 1905, and Pendleton genealogy 1905 2 items

BOX 2  Scrapbook of J. M. Pendleton - Clippings chiefly of his sermons 1860-1890 1 item
and addresses. Indexed (203 p.)

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS  PROCTER-Pendleton Papers  1844-1941
26

Correspondence and legal papers, 1894-1941, of Benjamin Franklin Procter, 1848-1944, a Bowling Green lawyer; and correspondence, 1899-1932, speeches, diaries, and Stockton genealogy of Lila Pendleton Procter, 1850-1932. Correspondence, sermons, 1866-1889, journal, and notebook of James Madison Pendleton, 1811-1891, a minister of the First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, from 1837-1857.

3 boxes. 17 folders. 356 items. 1945.14.1

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Baptists – Clergy
Baptists – Sermons, 1847-1883
Bowling Green – Economic conditions, 1930s
Bowling Green – Sewerage, 1890-1931
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Confiscations
Diaries, 1895, 1904 – Procter, Lila (Pendleton), 1850-1932
Genealogy – Pendleton family
Genealogy – Procter family
Genealogy – Stockton family
Georgetown College, 1933
Journals, 1844 – Pendleton, James Madison, 1811-1891
Lawyers
Logan, Marvel Mills, 1875-1939 I,1,2b
Owen, Ruth (Bryan), 1885-1954 I,1,2a
Pendleton, Garnett, 1855-1921
Pendleton, James Madison, 1811-1891
Procter, Benjamin Franklin, 1849-1944
Procter, Lila (Pendleton), 1850-1932
Religion – Relating to, 1847-1883
Scrapbooks, 1860-1890 – Pendleton, James Madison, 1811-1891
Shakers – South Union, Ky. – Legal papers, 1896-1900
Union University – Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 1857
U.S. Congress – House, 1917
Warren County – Deeds, 1899-1935
Warren County – Land – Transactions (Sales, Purchases, Transfers), 1930

Jeffrey  11/08/2011