Prentis Papers (MSS 32)

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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

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

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.

1/2 box. 6 folders. 77 items.

1950.9.1

**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