Prentiss Family
Papers, 1841-1907
MSA 189, Folders 2-8

Introduction

This collection consists of papers relating to Samuel Prentiss and family. It was donated in 1997 by Dionne Borup, Meadow Vista, California, coming from her aunt Françoise Darius Boggs, piano student under Mrs. Mary Prentiss and Miss Laura Prentiss in the years 1907-1924. Laura died in the 1960s and these papers are part of the estate left to Francoise.

Biographical Sketches

Samuel Prentiss (1782-1857) married Lucretia Houghton (1786-1855). He was born in Stonington, Conn., and they had twelve children, the ten boys all becoming lawyers. He was admitted to the Vermont Bar in 1802. He served as Montpelier's representative to the General Assembly in 1824 and 1825. He sat on the state Supreme Court 1825-1829, and was its Chief Justice 1829-1830. He was elected as a U.S. Senator from Vermont in 1830, and again in 1836, as a Whig. He resigned in 1842 to become a United States District Court judge, serving from 1842 until his death in 1857. While in the Senate his causes included suppressing dueling in the District of Columbia, abolishing slavery in the District, and opposing the annexation of Texas to the United States.

Scope and Content

The collection includes family letters, from the Senator's wife to children, assorted correspondence between the Senator's children, Masonic items belonging to son Edward Prentiss, assorted obituaries, including that of Samuel F. Prentiss and Edward H. Prentiss, sons of the Senator. There are assorted inspirational quotes pasted to 1881 diary pages. There are two pamphlets giving extensive information and appreciations for the Senator.

Inventory

MSA 189:03 <u>Prentiss family correspondence</u>

January 2, 1841, Samuel Prentiss to Edward concerning money matters, conversations between Edward and Governor Paine on Samuel's desire to leave the Senate, and on tariff and currency debates in the Senate.

August 27, 1841, Lucretia Prentiss to Edward and Laura Prentiss, condolences on the death of their child Samuel, also dealing with the prospects of a veto of a banking bill that might interrupt an impending Senatorial recess.

undated, child's letter from Edward C Prentiss to "My dear Papa".

April 15, 1860 Henry Seely to "friend Pitkin", Seely being a professor at Middlebury, Pitkin a graduating senior. Seely is giving advice on character, profession, etc, as Pitkin contemplates medicine.

October 3, 18__, E.C. [Elizabeth Cabot] Agassiz to Dr. Pitkin, writing on behalf of her husband Louis, about a trip they had taken on board the 'Hussler', and other expeditions.

December 28, 1880, Edward H Prentiss to brother Frederick, explaining his idea " an inscription becoming to the life and chacter of our dear, departed Mother."

January 28, 1881 copy of above letter.

November 18, 1898, E.H.P. [Edward] to "Cousin Julia", concerning the history of some shares owned by her Aunt Mary in the New York and Erie Bank, which had failed, and Julia's chances of getting repaid.

MSA 189:04 Samuel Prentiss Pamphlets

Hon. Samuel Prentiss-"Proceedings on the occasion of the announcement of the death of the Hon. Samuel Prentiss, of Vermont, in the District Court, October Session, 1857." Extensive appreciation and biographical material.

"Address on the Life and Public Services of the Hon. Samuel Prentiss, delivered before the Vermont Historical Society, 1882, by E. J. Phelps, Esq."

MSA 189:05 Edward W Prentiss Knights Templar, Masonic documents

12 May, 1863- Announcement to Utica Knight Templers of a reception for New York State Regiments retiring from military service, E. W. Prentiss, Recorder.

3 October, 1865- Oneida Chapter, No. 57, Royal Arch Masons, announcing Edward Prentiss was leaving the chapter.

6 October, 1865- Utica Commandery, No. 3, K. T., announcing E. W. Prentiss is a Knight Templer.

25 March, 1870 certificate announcing that Edward W Prentiss is a Master Mason.

MSA 189:06 Obituaries

25 July, 1893 eight clippings from assorted papers of the obituary of Edward H Prentiss.

Undated obituary of Samuel F Prentiss

undated obituary of Catherine Lucretia Dodge

resignation of Edward H Prentiss as Clerk of the U.S. District Court for Vermont.

Obituaries of William F Potter.

MSA 189:07 Miscellaneous

Calling cards of William F Potter of Utica, New York, along with words from a hymn

Inspirational quotes on the back of an 1881 diary pages., and other inspirational clipplings.

Note to Miss Mary Prentiss, care of E. W. Prentiss Esq., Montpelier.

MSA 189:08 Photographs

Two of the same person, one full length, taken in Peru, Indiana, the other a face taken in Utica, New York. Edward Prentiss was in a fraternal order in Utica.

Small cut out face of a young man.

Ethan Bisbee
May 1999