

Wheeler H. Peckham Family Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2007

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78035774>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007061>

Prepared by Connie L. Cartledge

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Collection Summary

Title: Wheeler H. Peckham Family Papers

Span Dates: 1815-1910

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1842-1868)

ID No.: MSS35744

Creator: Peckham, Wheeler H. (Wheeler Hazard), 1833-1905

Extent: 800 items

Extent: 2 containers

Extent: .8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78035774>

Summary: Lawyer. Chiefly correspondence to Wheeler H. Peckham from his father, Rufus W. Peckham, Sr., and brother, Rufus W. Peckham, Jr., relating to family, personal, and business matters, political affairs, and the travels of Rufus W. Peckham, Sr.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Peckham family.

Peckham, Rufus W., 1809-1873. Rufus W. Peckham papers.

Peckham, Rufus Wheeler, 1838-1909. Rufus Wheeler Peckham papers.

Peckham, Wheeler H. (Wheeler Hazard), 1833-1905.

Organizations

New York (State). Supreme Court.

United States. Supreme Court.

Subjects

Courts--New York (State)

Places

New York (State)--Politics and government.

Titles

Wheeler Hazard Peckham papers

Occupations

Judges.

Justices, State--New York (State)

Justices, U.S. Supreme Court.

Lawyers.

Provenance

The papers of the Wheeler H. Peckham family were given to the Library of Congress by Rufus Wheeler Peckham III in 1955. A small addition was given in 1967 by Mrs. Henry A. Peckham.

Processing History

The papers of the Wheeler H. Peckham family were cataloged circa 1967. The collection was reprocessed and a finding aid created in 2007.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Wheeler H. Peckham family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Wheeler H. Peckham are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Wheeler H. Peckham Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| Date | Event |
|-----------------|---|
| 1833, Jan. 1 | Born, Albany, N.Y. |
| circa 1841-1849 | Attended Albany Boys' Academy, Utica, N.Y. |
| 1851 | Attended Union College, Schenectady, N.Y. |
| 1852-1853 | Traveled in Europe |
| 1853 | Studied law, Albany Law School, Albany, N.Y. |
| 1854 | Admitted to bar Made a partner in his father's firm, Peckham and Tremain, Albany, N.Y. |
| 1855 | Married Anne A. Keasbey |
| 1856-1857 | Traveled in Europe |
| 1857-1859 | Resided in Dubuque, Iowa |
| 1859-1864 | Resided in St. Paul, Minn. |
| 1864 | Returned to Albany, N.Y. Law partner with George M. Miller and John A. Stoutenburg, New York, N.Y. |
| 1873 | Assisted in prosecution of William M. Tweed and associates |
| 1884 | Appointed district attorney in New York by Governor Grover Cleveland |
| 1892-1894 | President, Association of the Bar of the City of New York |
| 1894 | Nominated to United States Supreme Court by President Grover Cleveland |
| 1905, Sept. 27 | Died, New York, N.Y. |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Wheeler Hazard Peckham family span the years 1815-1910, with the bulk of the material dating from 1842 to 1868. The papers are arranged alphabetically by type of material and topic.

The majority of the collection consists of correspondence to Wheeler H. Peckham written by his father, Rufus W. Peckham (1809-1873), lawyer in Albany, New York, United States congressman from New York, and judge of the New York

Court of Appeals; his brother, Rufus Wheeler Peckham (1838-1909), lawyer in Albany, associate justice of the New York Supreme Court, and justice of the United States Supreme Court; and his business associates. Most of the letters relate to social, financial, legal, and political matters, including secession by the South from the United States and the state of the country during the Civil War. Included are letters of Rufus W. Peckham, Sr., to his wife, Isabella, 1838-1847, pertaining to domestic concerns and his travel experiences. The early correspondence also includes a few letters from Isabella's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Lacey, and her sister, Kate, who lived in Jackson, Louisiana. The business correspondence to Wheeler Peckham ranges mostly from 1857 to 1861; his associates were located mainly in Dubuque, Iowa; St. Paul, Minnesota; St. Louis, Missouri; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Wheeler H. Peckham moved to Dubuque from Albany in 1857 for health reasons.

Other papers in the collection relate to Wheeler H. Peckham's finances, mostly 1858-1869, and his unsuccessful nomination to the United States Supreme Court in 1894. His brother Rufus Wheeler Peckham was nominated to the same bench in 1895 and assumed his duties as associate justice in 1896.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|------------------|--|
| BOX 1 | Correspondence |
| BOX 1 | 1838-1865 (34 folders) |
| BOX 2 | 1868-1873, 1888-1890, 1904, undated (12 folders) |
| BOX 2 | Financial papers, 1858-1869, 1889, undated (11 folders) |
| BOX 2 | Miscellany, 1904-1909, undated |
| BOX 2 | Supreme Court, nomination of Wheeler H. Peckham, 1894 (5 folders) |
| BOX 2 | Tributes and funeral notices, 1906-1910 |
| BOX 2 | Will, Samuel Worthington, 1815 |