

C Paxton, William McClung (1819-1916), Papers, 1760-1915  
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#### INTRODUCTION

Business and personal correspondence, miscellaneous papers and genealogical material.

#### DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by an unknown donor.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William M. Paxton was a prominent resident of Platte County where he practiced law and real estate brokerage. He was also the author of several books of poems, and three large volumes, *The Marshall Family*, *The Paxton Family*, and *The Annals of Platte County*.

#### FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 Undated correspondence regarding a variety of subjects. Detailed material on the Ambler, Marshall, Calvert, and Chesley genealogies. The Marshall family includes Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall.
- f. 2 Calling cards.
- f. 3-5 Undated correspondence on a variety of matters including an account of the United States economic situation.
- f. 6-7 Undated correspondence on Samuel, Skillman, Forsythe, McClanahan, Brady, Duke, Goodwin, and Jones genealogies. Also land deals, debts, and wills.
- f. 8-14 Correspondence, 1846-1865, and miscellaneous papers concerning business matters, financial conditions, legal and religious matters, slave sales (f. 9), and Civil War (f. 11-12).
- f. 15-27 Correspondence, 1866-1878, largely focusing on legal, business, and financial transactions. Also includes an interesting analysis of the political course of the United States, (f. 19), a discussion of contemporary religion (f. 22, 25), and descriptions of land deals.
- f. 28 Undated postal cards.
- f. 29 Correspondence of 1879 concerning business matters. Also a plan for an expedition to settle Indian territory.
- f. 30-33 Correspondence, 1880-1883, concerning business matters. A thorough analysis of contemporary poetry by George D. Dunn, a comment on the relevance of the church, and genealogical information are included.
- f. 34-45 Correspondence, 1884-1892, concerning genealogy of the Marshall

- family. Discussion of a temperance movement, a possible third party move for prohibition, and general comments on society are emphasized. There is also an extensive analysis of the medical practice of the period (f. 41, 42). Land transactions are important in this section.
- f. 46-61 Miscellaneous correspondence, 1893-1906. In addition to business transactions, there is a political comment on the national fiscal policy (f. 51, 56). The discussion of Platte County history and important family genealogy is also included.
- f. 62-63 Correspondence, 1907. Extensive correspondence between Paxton and Ella Park Lawrence over the Park College (Parkville, Missouri) controversy.
- f. 64-69 Correspondence, 1908-1915, largely personal letters about Paxton's literary talents, his contributions to Platte County, and related material. Business correspondence composes only a minor portion of this period.

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