

Guide to the Peck Family Papers

MS 1031



compiled by Susan Grigg

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Yale University Library
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1031

CREATOR: Peck family

TITLE: Peck family papers

DATES: 1691-1911

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.5 linear feet (10 boxes, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Papers of several branches of the Peck family in Connecticut. Half of the collection is made up of the papers of the Ambrose Peck family (1691-1911) including correspondence, diaries, account books, legal papers, photographs, and memorabilia. Noteworthy are letters on the Battle of Bunker Hill and the War of 1812, as well as diaries by Abby Ann Hyde Peck from her school days, 1824-1832, and her old age, 1874-1883. Another member of the family represented is Tracy Peck (1785-1862) an important public figure in Bristol, Connecticut, and active in the Congregational Church. The papers of Epaphroditus Peck contain lecture notes taken while he was attending Yale Law School (1903-1908) and family correspondence. Miscellaneous papers (1812-1907) of other members of the family make up the remainder of the collection.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1031>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1031>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of William H. Peck, Jr., 1962.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Peck Family Papers (MS 1031). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

AMBROSE PECK, son of Phineas, was born July 10, 1782, married Sept. 9, 1810, Eunice, daughter of Jacob Hazen. He lived in various places, Feeding Hills, Mass., Stafford Springs, Amenia, and Northeast in New York, finally returned to Franklin where his wife died in 1843, after which he lived with his son in Yantic, and there died in 1855.

From "Ancestors of John Hyde Peck," Box 4 Folder 76

* * * * *

JOHN HAZEN PECK, son of Ambrose, was born July 10, 1811, married Jan. 29, 1834, Abby Ann, daughter of Amasa Hyde. He learned the tailor's trade in Amenia, N.Y., carried it on for a year or two in Northeast, N.Y., then removed to Yantic, Conn. Giving up his trade on account of his health, he became manager of the Yantic Company's Store in 1844, resigned in 1874 and retired from business. He was made deacon of the First Church, Norwich, in 1875. Died universally loved and respected Sept. 22, 1885.

From "Ancestors of John Hyde Peck," Box 4 Folder 76

* * * * *

JOHN HYDE PECK, son of John Hazen, was born Sept. 7, 1838. He gathered and wrote this book of genealogical information.

From "Ancestors of John Hyde Peck," Box 4 Folder 76

* * * * *

JOHN HYDE PECK

Eldest son of John Hazen and Abby Ann (Hyde) Peck, was born at Norwich, Conn., September 7, 1838.

When sixteen years of age he began his career as a teacher at Franklin, Conn., the following year entered the State Normal School, from which he graduated in 1856, taught two years in Portland, Conn., and then prepared for college at Wilbraham (Mass.) Academy.

While at the Normal School and Academy he was the leader of the music, and early in his Freshman year in college he was a member of the quartet which formed the nucleus of the Glee Club of 1863. This club was the first to make a concert tour, their trip through New England arousing great interest. At the beginning of Junior year he was appointed by the faculty the leader of the college choir.

After graduation he was principal of the High School in Milford, Conn., two years, and then for thirty-one years principal of the High School in New Britain, Conn. He was president at various times of the Hartford County and State Teachers' Associations, and the Connecticut Council of Education. For a year he was Senior alderman of the city but declined a renomination.

Resigning at New Britain in 1896, he took a year of rest, and was then principal of the High School in West Hartford for nine years. After his retirement from teaching in 1906 he made his home in Hartford, devoting his time to historical study and genealogical research.

While living in New Britain he was for several years a deacon of the South Congregational Church and superintendent of its Sunday school, and in 1902 was chosen a deacon of the First Congregational Church in West Hartford.

Mr. Peck died at his home in Hartford, May 10, 1911, after a fortnight's illness from blood poisoning. He was 72 years of age.

He married in New Haven, September 1, 1863, Harriet Briscoe, daughter of Horace B. and Harriet (Briscoe) Dibble. She died in 1871 and her three sons in infancy. In 1874 he married Mrs. Sarah Frances (Marshall) Waterman, daughter of Dr. Obed and Frances Adelia (Whitney) Marshall, of Charleston, Mass., and widow of Nehemiah Waterman, of Toledo, O. By his second marriage he had two sons (B.A. Yale 1898 and Ph.B. Yale 1897, respectively), who with Mrs. Peck survive him.

From Yale College Obituary Record, 1910-1915. pp. 47-48.

* * * * *

EPAPHRODITUS PECK, 1860-1938

Father, Josiah Tracy Peck, deputy collector of internal revenue in Bristol; son of Judge Tracy Peck and Sally (Adams) Peck of Bristol, Conn. Mother, Ellen Lewis (Barnard) Peck; daughter of Theodore and Amy (Lewis) Barnard. Yale relatives include: Edson M. Peck, ex-'84 S., (brother); Tracy Peck, '61 (uncle); Tracy Peck, Jr., '95 (cousin); Josiah H. Peck, '95, and Howard S. Peck, '96 (nephews); and Seymour R. Peck, '23 (grandnephew).

Hartford Public High School; attended Yale School of Law 1880-1881 (LL.B. 1881; valedictorian; Jewell Prize; member Chi Tau Kappa); admitted to Connecticut bar 1881; engaged in practice of law in Plainville, Conn., 1881-1882 and in Bristol since 1882; general counsel Bristol Trust Company 1907-1932; prosecuting attorney, Bristol, 1895-1905, associate judge court of Common Pleas, Hartford County, 1897-1912; represented Bristol in Connecticut General Assembly 1925-1935; instructor in court procedure Yale School of Law 1903-1904, civil procedure and domestic relations 1904-1906, evidence, practice, procedure, and domestic relations 1906-1912, and procedure 1912-1913; member committee to revise the general statutes of Connecticut 1927-1930; an incorporator Bristol Hospital, Inc., 1922 (secretary and a director 1922-1938); secretary Bristol Public Library 1892-1930 and chairman board of trustees since 1931; secretary Root Company and American Piano Supply Company 1922-1927; director Bristol Savings Bank; private Bristol Company, First Regiment, Connecticut Home Guard; chairman Four-Minute Speakers and Liberty Loan Speakers' Committee 1917-1918; chief clerk Bristol Exemption Board; represented Yale Club of Bristol on Council of Associated New England Yale Clubs 1920 and chairman of club's committee for Yale War Memorial Campaign; author: *The Property Rights of Husband and Wife Under the Law of Connecticut* (1904); *The Law of Persons* (1913; second edition 1920; third edition 1930); *A History of Bristol, Connecticut* (1932); *The Loyalists of Connecticut* (1934); co-author, with Ernest L. Wismer, '08, *Digest of a Social and Religious Survey of Bristol* (1912); contributed to many periodicals and to second edition of *English and American Encyclopedia of Law*; a number of his addresses on historical subjects published in pamphlet form; member Founders

of Hartford, Bristol Bar Association, Hartford County Bar Association (member grievance committee 1932-1937), Connecticut State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Connecticut Historical Society, Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, and American Academy of Political and Social Science; had acted as Congregational delegate to many national councils, as moderator state Congregational conference, and as vice-president corporation of the National Council of Congregational Churches of the United States; member First Congregational Church, Bristol (clerk and treasurer 1887-1890, Sunday School superintendent 1890-1893, and deacon 1903-1920 and 1930-1935).

Married August 21, 1886, in Hartford, Conn., Grace, daughter of Franklin Clinton and Mary Ballantine (Mather) Brownell. Children: Margaret Winthrop (B.A. Bryn Mawr 1912), the wife of Thomas Spring MacEwan (Cornell ex-'12); Grace Brownell (died May 16, 1896); Dorothy Adams (died August 26, 1899); Mildred Atherton (Connecticut College for Women ex-'21); and Eleanor Lewis (died May 2, 1907). Mrs. Peck died January 16, 1931.

Death due to pulmonary embolism. Buried in West Cemetery, Bristol. Survived by two daughters; four grandchildren; two sisters, the Misses Ellen Amy and Eliza Jane Peck; and a brother, Miles Lewis Peck; all of Bristol.

From Yale College Obituary Record, 1937-1940. pp. 277-278.

Scope and Contents

The papers of the Ambrose Peck family of Franklin, Yantic, Norwich, and New Britain, Conn., consist mainly of correspondence, diaries, legal and financial papers, photographs, and memorabilia of four individuals: Ambrose Peck; his son, John Hazen Peck; his son's wife, Abby Ann (Hyde) Peck; and their son, John Hyde Peck. The correspondence is mainly within the family, including Hazen and Hyde relations. One unidentified letter describes the battle of Bunker Hill, and Ambrose Peck's letters to his wife report on the military situation in New London and Groton during the War of 1812. The diaries are those of Abby Ann (Hyde) Peck (from her school days, 1824-1832, and her old age, 1874-1883) and John Hyde Peck (intermittently as student, teacher, and principal, 1853-1883). The photographs show scenes of Nantucket, some with people in the middle ground, from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

The papers of the Ambrose Peck family were given to Yale University Library by William H. Peck, Jr., in 1962. Blank picture postcards were transferred to the Historical Postcard Collection. Published photographs of Yale and the Brooklyn Bridge were transferred to the Historical Picture Collection.

The letters were given to Yale University Library by Edward Ingram in January 1948. The law notebooks were given by Irving J. Wasley in February 1948.

OTHER PECKS

The papers of Henry S. and Eliza G. (Fairchild) Peck of Brookfield Center, Conn., were donated by M. Earle in 1944. The letter of Eliza J. Peck (?) was given by Edward Ingram in 1948. The pass to the U.S. Senate chambers was given by Whitman Bailey in 1945. The remaining items—all or most of which relate to the Peck family of Bristol, Conn., and their relations—were the gift of Ellen Peck in 1948. Tracy Peck and Epaphroditus Peck were also members of this family.

Arrangement

Arranged in four series: I. Ambrose Peck Family. II. Tracy Peck. III. Epaphroditus Peck. IV. Other Pecks.

Collection Contents

Series I: AMBROSE PECK FAMILY, 1691-1911

Correspondence (by recipient)		
b. 1	Abby Ann (Hyde) Peck	1839, 1844, 1860-83
b. 1	Ambrose Peck	1802-1864
b. 1	Eunice (Hazen) Peck	1802-1843
b. 1	Eunice Peck ("My Dear Child")	1865
b. 2	John Hazen Peck	1833-1843, 1868-1869, 1880-1885
b. 2	John Hyde Peck	1858-1911
b. 2	Miscellaneous and unidentified	1775, 1802-1859
Personal papers		
b. 3	Jacob Hazen, Jr.: account book for goods and labor	1783-1801
Abby Ann (Hyde) Peck		
b. 3	Journals kept while attending E. Backus's school in Franklin, Conn.	1824-1826
b. 3	Journals kept while attending the Norwich Female Seminary	1828-1832
b. 3	Autograph book with copies of poems	1830-1853
b. 3	Diaries	1874-1884
Ambrose Peck		
b. 3	Legal and financial papers	[1801?]-1838
b. 3	"Hymn on the Death of Washington," English	1803
b. 3	Copy of anthem in honor of his grandson's birthday	1852
b. 3	Dedication of <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> to John Hyde Peck, rededicated by him to William H. Peck	1843, 1911
John Hazen Peck		
b. 3	Military papers	1838
b. 3	Journal of trip to Poughkeepsie	[1838-1840?]
b. 3	Album of religious poems, some of which are in another hand and are signed "Sincerity,"	1839-1844
John Hyde Peck		

Personal papers > John Hyde Peck (continued)

b. 3	Diaries	1853-1858, 1863,1867-1869
b. 4	Diaries	1871-1872, 1878-1883
b. 4	Autograph albums	1855, undated
b. 4	Ledger and household accounts	1874-1892
New Britain High School		
b. 4	Brochure	1866
b. 4	<i>Reflector</i>	1894-1896
b. 4	Wedding announcements	1910
b. 4	Floor plans for his house	undated
b. 4	Miscellaneous papers	undated
Deeds		
b. 4	Burnham family (includes other legal papers)	1706-1820
b. 4	Hazen family	1691-1783
b. 4	Hyde family	1827-1832
b. 4	Peck family (includes other legal papers)	1699-1744, 1751-1817, 1835-1877
b. 4	Military commissions	1710-1813
b. 4	Clippings	1910-1911
b. 4	List of Connecticut nominees for election to Congress (printed, with votes for each candidate tabulated by hand)	1786[-1787?]
b. 4	"Ancestors of John Hyde Peck," English	undated
b. 5	Photographs, mainly of Nantucket	[ca. 1900?]

Series II: TRACY PECK, 1815-1865*0.5 linear feet (1 box)*

Account books		
b. 6	"Day Book No. 1," English	1817-1829
b. 6	"Book of Accounts No. 2," English	1821-1830
b. 6	"Account Book No. 4," English	1829-1848
b. 6	"Day Book No. 1," English	1836-1842
b. 6	"Book Collection Accounts No 1," English	1838-1851
b. 6	"Day Book No. 2," English	1840-1848
b. 6	"Account Book No. 3," English	1843-1852
b. 6	"Account Book No. 4," English	1847-1859
b. 6	"Collection Book No. 2," English	1847-1865
b. 6	Receipts and miscellaneous papers (removed from account books)	1815-1863, undated

Series III: EPAPHRODITUS PECK, 1873-1908*0.5 linear feet (1 box)*

Lecture notes on Civil Procedure, Yale Law School		
b. 7	Senior Class	1903-1904
b. 7	Second Year Class	1904-1906
b. 7	Charges to the Jury	1908
b. 7	Legal note	undated
Correspondence		
b. 7	28 ALS to his mother, Ellen Lewis (Barnard) Peck (Mrs. Josiah T. Peck)	1876-1881, undated
b. 7	ALS to his brother, Theodore B. Peck	undated
b. 7	ALS from his brother, Theodore B. Peck	1873 March 9

Series IV: OTHER PECKS, 1812-1907

b. 8, f. 93	Brownell, Frank C.: personal accounts, plus business accounts of the Holbrook School Apparatus Mfg. Co.	1854-1862
b. 8, f. 94	Dorcas Society, Trenton, N.J.: record and minute book	1852-1853
b. 8, f. 95	New Haven vital records, 1649-1745 (copy)	undated
b. 8, f. 96	"Notes from Keach's Metaphors," English	undated
b. 8, f. 97	Peck, Elisha: "Journal of a Cruise on the Coast of Africa in the U.S.S. Portsmouth," Peck, Eliza G. (Fairchild)	1849-1850
b. 8, f. 98	2 ALS to "Cousin Eliza" from C.F. Williams	1860-1861
b. 8, f. 99	Farm accounts with Leonard E. Elsenboss, Sr., of Brookfield Center, Conn.	1885-1886
b. 8, f. 100	[Peck, Eliza J?]: ALS from Fort Scott, Kansas, to her family [in Bristol, Conn?] English	1879
b. 8, f. 101	Peck, Gad, and William Edward Hossack: "Richards Book No. 2," showing accounts current of Gad Peck with William Hossack, especially with reference to the ship "Richard,"	1812-1815
b. 9, f. 102	Peck, Henry Smith (1834-1884): diaries	1874-1875
b. 9, f. 103	Peck, John M. L.: account books of the steamers "Continental" and "Elm City,"	1873-1874, 1876-1885
b. 9, f. 104	Peck, Julia: pass to enter the U.S. Senate Chambers	1904
b. 9, f. 105	Peck, R. A.: "Record of L[ong] I[sland] Transactions; also of Stock and Bond Transactions, etc.,"	1903-1907
b. 9, f. 106	State Fire Insurance Company: account book including records of policies and records of federal and local taxes and license fees in various Connecticut towns	1858-1868
b. 9, f. 107	Union League, Paterson, N.J., Council: minute book	1864-1866
b. 9, f. 108	Woodruff, Mary L., of Bristol, Conn.: school papers and letters	1842-1844
b. 9, f. 109	Young Men's Literary Society, Trenton, N.J.: minute book	1866-1867
b. 10, f. 110	Yonkers & New York Fire-Insurance Company: policy register for eastern Connecticut	1866-1871
b. 11	Newspaper clippings removed from the insurance company account books Oversize Material (Folio)	undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Armed Forces
Bunker Hill, Battle of, Boston, Mass., 1775
Education
Educators
Families
Law

Geographic Names

Africa -- Description and travel
Bristol (Conn.)
Connecticut
New York (State)
United States -- History -- Revolution,
1775-1783
United States -- History -- War of 1812

Genres / Formats

Account books
Diaries

Names

Peck, Abby Ann Hyde
Peck, Ambrose, 1782-1855
Peck, Epaphroditus, 1860-1938
Peck, John Hazen, 1811-1885
Peck, John Hyde, 1838-1911
Peck, Tracy, 1785-1862

Families

Peck family

Corporate Bodies

Yale Law School
Yale University -- Faculty