MS-243, Pedrick Family Papers

Collection Number: MS-243

Title: Pedrick Family Papers

Dates: 1860-1960

Creator: The Pedrick Family

Summary/Abstract
The Pedrick Family Papers were compiled over four generations beginning with William E. Pedrick (W.E.P.), who was a prominent entrepreneur in the mining industry and also a lieutenant during the Civil War. His children also participated in the mining industry and land speculation, but soon took interest in other professions such as artwork and design, as well as, electrical engineering. The collection includes blueprints, correspondence, deeds, accounting ledgers, photographs, maps, journals, diaries, and scrapbooks.

Quantity/Physical Description: 8 Linear Feet

Language(s): English

Repository:
Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:
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Preferred Citation:
[Box Number, Folder Number], MS-243, Pedrick Family Papers, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition:
Wright State University Special Collections and Archives accessioned the Pedrick Family Papers in December 1992.

Revisions:
The collection was originally processed by David Bragg in August 1994. In 2004, additions were made to the collection and the finding aid was revised by Timothy Binkley. In 2007, Mandy Reese began processing the additions to the collection. In 2012, Jeremy Katz completed the
processing of the collection and revised the finding aid to the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) format.

**Related Material:**
MS-92, Wallace Family Papers  
MS-236, Patterson Family Papers  
MS-284, Schenk Family Papers  
SC-1, Rockafield Family Papers

**Processed by:**
David Bragg, August 1994  
Additions and revisions by:  
   Timothy Brinkley, 2004  
   Mandy Reese, 2007  
   Jeremy Katz, 2012

**Arrangement:**
This collection is arranged into 5 series:

   - Series I: Family Files  
   - Series II: Business Records  
   - Series III: Correspondence  
   - Series IV: Publications  
   - Series V: Photographs and Artwork

**Biographical/Historical Note**
FIRST GENERATION
William E. Pedrick was born in Pennsylvania in 1838. For many years, he was a resident of Cleveland, Ohio. His first wife, Lizzie U. (Hough?) Pedrick, died on March 30, 1860, at the age of 16 years, 6 months, and was buried in Cleveland’s Woodland Cemetery.

From 1861 to 1864, William E. Pedrick served in the 2nd Regiment of Ohio Volunteer Cavalry and rose to the rank of Captain. He was wounded on January 25, 1864. In August of that year he was discharged on a surgeon’s certificate of disability. William Pedrick married Cornelia (Nena) on January 10, 1867. They made their home in Cleveland, where they bought and sold real estate. (Cornelia seems to have been actively involved in the real estate business. Her signature appears on many legal documents in the collection.) William founded the Cleveland Coal Company in 1865 with partners E. R. Griswold, H. E. Massey, E. B. Chamberlain, and George W. Girty. William and Cornelia attended St. Paul Protestant Episcopal Church, and were founding members of Emmanuel Chapel, a parish that broke away from St. Paul’s in 1874-1876.

After losing a legal battle that went all the way to the Ohio Supreme Court, Captain W.E. Pedrick went bankrupt in 1878. Discharge of bankruptcy was granted a year later. In 1884, the Pedrick family moved to Denver, Colorado, where William aided in the development of the lumber and cattle industries, railroads, coal mines, coke ovens, and water systems. Along with Clevelander Walter Kennard, Pedrick founded the Good Hope-Wonder Mining Company of
Colorado around 1890. Captain Pedrick also worked as a Maxwell Land Grant Company agent. The Maxwell Land Grant consisted of 1,700,000 acres located in present day southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. The U.S. government expropriated this land from Mexico after the Mexican War of 1846-1848. In 1897, William E. Pedrick sought and received letters of recommendation for the position of U.S. Consul General to Mexico. He later withdrew his name from consideration for that post.

William E. Pedrick and his wife, Cornelia, had three sons, Clinton A. (d. 3/16/1937 in Los Angeles, CA), William Leslie (Willie, Will, Billy), and Albert Hough (Bart). Cornelia Pedrick died on June 23, 1895, in Colorado. After his wife’s death, William E. Pedrick ran the Western Anthracite Coal and Coke Company from its New York City office. He died in 1916 in California.

SECOND GENERATION
The Pedrick sons all participated in land speculation for a time. William L. (Billy) Pedrick succeeded his father as President of the Good Hope – Wonder Mining Co. of Colorado and formed a business partnership called Pedrick & Schneider, Miners and Buyers of Gold, Silver and Lead Ores. Clinton A. Pedrick became an electrician and electrical contractor. He settled in California and married Estella (Louise) Motheral in 1908. Clinton later remarried a woman named Golden.

Albert H. Pedrick lost a leg, and nearly his life, as a result of an elevator accident in a Colorado hotel in 1901. After his recovery, Albert took up more artistic pursuits. He attended The National Academy of Design in New York and became an artist/draftsman. His wife, Elizabeth (Betty) French Phillips, was a nurse. She was trained in London, England, by Dame Henrietta Barnett and afterwards returned to New York to take care of a wealthy patient of a doctor she had met in England.

In 1909, Albert (Bart) and Elizabeth (Betty) moved to Buffalo, New York, where Albert worked for the Buffalo Road Roller Company. He and Elizabeth relocated to Springfield, Ohio, when that company moved and became the Buffalo Springfield Road Roller Company. They had a son, Ronald Hough (b. 1911), and a daughter, Laura Jeanne (b. September 14, 1913). The Pedricks were active in the First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Springfield, Ohio. Elizabeth died April 4, 1940.

THIRD GENERATION
Laura Jeanne graduated from Springfield Senior High School in 1930. She attended Wittenberg College, where she joined Alpha Delta Pi sorority, and became a schoolteacher. On June 24, 1939, she married John Thompson Brookhouse of Boston, MA.

After graduating from Springfield High School in 1929, Ronald moved to Cincinnati with dreams of being a newspaper writer. He worked at A & P Bakery in the early 1930’s. On July 22, 1939, he married Betty Lou Lotton (b. 1916) of Clifton, Ohio. They had two sons: David Phillips Pedrick (b. 1940) and Donald Lotton Pedrick (b. 1942). Both Ron and Betty were talented artists. Ronald Hough Pedrick died in 1995.
FOURTH GENERATION
David (Dave) Pedrick, the donor of this collection of family papers, studied at Wright State University, Sinclair Community College, Wittenberg University, U.S. Armed Forces Institute, Cleveland Institute of Electronics, and the U.S. Navy Sonar School. His work with the U.S. Navy (1958-1962) included submarine tracking during the Cuban blockade and helicopter search and recovery of U.S. space capsules launched from Cape Canaveral, FL. From 1963 to 1995, he worked for Systems Research Laboratories of Dayton, Ohio, in the field of electronics engineering.

Scope and Content
Researchers studying the Pedrick Family Papers can gain insight into many aspects of American life during the 19th and 20th century, including the Civil War, the mining industry, and the liberal arts. The collection is arranged into five series:

Series I, Family Files, contains files related to some of the Pedrick family members. It also includes much of William E. Pedrick’s Civil War material.

Series II, Business Records, contains documents related to William E. Pedrick’s court case and bankruptcy, as well as, coal and land speculation documents such as land leases and deeds, mining reports, maps, and blueprints. It also contains bank books, accounting ledgers, and other material related to the family’s various business ventures.

Series III, Correspondence, contains a mix a business and personal letters collected by the Pedrick family. This includes letters from Theodore Roosevelt concerning William E. Pedrick volunteering his "boys" for the Rough Riders. Files are arranged chronologically.

Series IV, Publications, contains various leaflets, journals, diaries, newspaper clippings, and catalogs. Files are arranged chronologically.

Series V, Photographs and Artwork, contains photographs of family members and friends, as well as the artistic work of Albert Pedrick.

Subject Terms

Persons/Families
Pedrick Family

Organizations/Corporate Names
Cleveland Coal Company
Good Hope-Wonder Mining Company
Maxwell Land Grant Company
Western Anthracite Coal and Coke Company

Places
Cleveland (Ohio)
Colorado
New York (New York)
Springfield (Ohio)

**Subjects (General)**
- Civil War
- Mining
- Elevators--Accidents

**Material Types**
- Blueprints
- Correspondence
- Deeds
- Ledgers (Accounting)
- Maps
- Photographs
- Pocket Books

**Occupations**
- Miner
- Artist
- Electrician
- Electrical Engineer

**Collection Inventory**

**Series I : Family Files**

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<td>Laura Jeanne Pedrick</td>
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<td>Clinton (Clint) A. Pedrick Correspondence</td>
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<td>W.E.P. Letters to son Bart</td>
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<td>Letters to W.E.P. from Wife and all children</td>
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<td>Family Correspondence</td>
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<td>William (Billy) Pedrick Letters</td>
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<td>Business Letters</td>
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<td>W.E.P.’s New Italian Dictionary</td>
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<td>Seattle, Washington brochure titled “Seattle Statistics”</td>
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<td>Irving K. Fannington—“Mining Market Letter” (Weekly)</td>
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<td>A.H.P. —Architecture/Art Brochures</td>
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<td>“Southern Telephone News” Periodical</td>
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<td>Ronald Pedrick—School Literature</td>
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<td>A.H.P.—Songs</td>
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<td>Laura Jeanne Pedrick—Chicago World’s Fair Brochures</td>
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<td>Laura Jeanne Pedrick—Boston University Catalogs</td>
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<td>Laura Jeanne Pedrick—Wittenburg College Literature</td>
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<td>“What the War meant to Women” by Dr. Anna Howard Show, League of Nations Leaflets</td>
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