

Elisha Franklin Paxton papers

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1808, 1845-1981

Title Statement

Elisha Franklin Paxton papers Elisha Franklin Paxton papers WLU.Coll.0273

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

WLU.Coll.0273

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/160

Unit Date

1808, 1845-1981

Unit Date

1853-1863

Language

English

Creator

Paxton, Elisha Franklin

Creator

Paxton, Elizabeth White

source

Paxton, Matthew W., 1857-1935

source

Paxton, Robert Owen, Dr.

Extent

0.5 Linear Feet 1 box

Repository

Washington and Lee University, University Library Special Collections and Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Matthew White, Jr. and Robert O. Paxton.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Elisha Franklin Paxton Papers (WLU Coll. 0273), Special Collections and Archives, James G. Leyburn Library, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va.

Biographical / Historical

Elisha Franklin Paxton was born on March 28, 1828 in Rockbridge County, Virginia to Elisha Paxton and Margaret "Peggy" McNutt Paxton. He graduated from Washington College (now Washington and Lee University) in 1843 and studied law at the University of Virginia. He practiced law in Ohio before marrying Elizabeth Hannah White in 1854 and moving back to Lexington.

Paxton was an officer in the Rockbridge Rifles, a Rockbridge County (Va.) militia company formed in the wake of John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry, Va. in 1859. He was a strong proponent of secession and when Virginia voted to exit the Union in the spring of 1861, Paxton marched to war as an officer with the Rockbridge Rifles company. The company became attached to the 27th Virginia Infantry, later a part of Stonewall Jackson's Brigade. Paxton, ascended the ranks ultimately achieving full command of the Stonewall Brigade as a brigadier general. He was killed on May 3, 1863 during the Battle of Chancellorsville (Va.).

Scope and Contents

The Elisha Franklin Paxton Papers are comprised primarily of the personal correspondences, business and military papers of Elisha F. Paxton between 1845-1863. The core of the personal letters are written from Paxton to his wife Elizabeth White Paxton during their courtship in the 1850s and during the American Civil War, 1861-1863, while he served as an officer in the Confederate States Army's 27th Virginia Infantry, a member of the staff of General Stonewall Jackson, and general in command of the Stonewall Brigade of the Army of Northern Virginia. There are numerous items in this collection pertaining to his death including obituaries, recollections and reflections of his life and character. Other letter writers include his brother James Gallatin Paxton, Matthew White, Samuel F. Jordan, James G. Hamilton, William A. Glasgow, and William McCorkle, each from or connected to Rockbridge County. Other highlights of the collection include various reports written by Paxton as a member of Lexington's Franklin Society and Library Company which shed light on his perspectives on topics such as Secession. There is also a printed broadside for the sale of land at Rockbridge Baths, Virginia, in 1860.

Related Materials

Paxton Family Collection (WLU Coll. 0562)

Keywords

Debates and debating -- Societies, etc.

Chancellorsville, Battle of (Virginia : 1863)

Paxton, Matthew W., 1857-1935

Confederate States of America. Army. Stonewall Brigade

Confederate States of America. Army. Rockbridge Rifles

Confederate States of America. Army, Virginia Infantry Units, 27th

Paxton, Matthew W., 1857-1935

Paxton, Robert Owen, Dr.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence written to Elisha F. Paxton

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4445

Unit Date 1845 November 13-1860 December 25

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

Correspondence written by and to Elisha F. Paxton

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4446

Unit Date 1862-1863

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Letter of Resignation

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4451

Unit Date 1862 January 11

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Dispatch to Elisha F. Paxton from Stonewall Jackson

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4448

Unit Date 1862 June 11

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Letters between Elisha F. and Elizabeth Paxton

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4452

Unit Date 1853 June 17-1854 July 23

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Letters between Elisha F. and Elizabeth Paxton

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4453

Unit Date 1857 June 8-June 17

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Letters between Elisha F. and Elizabeth Paxton

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4454

Unit Date 1860 June 27-1861 December 13

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Letters between Elisha F. and Elizabeth Paxton

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4458

Unit Date 1862 January 1-November 15

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This file also includes a letter written by Elizabeth to Elisha.

Letters between Elisha F. and Elizabeth Paxton

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4459

Unit Date 1863 January 17-April 20

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Letters between Elisha F. and Elizabeth Paxton

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4460

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Military Papers

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4461

Unit Date 1859 November 23-1863 December 18, undated

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Financial Papers

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4462

Unit Date 1808, 1832, 1845, 1858, 1861

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Receipts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4463

Unit Date 1850 October 8-1860 January 2, undated

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Debate Papers

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4464

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Note Fragments

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4465

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Empty Envelopes

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4466

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Empty Envelopes

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4467

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Petitions endorsing Judge Brockenbrough

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/4468

Unit Date circa 1862

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Letters concerning death of Elisha F. Paxton

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/34323

Unit Date 1863-1864

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Letters concerning death of Elisha F. Paxton

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/34324

Unit Date 1871, 1885, 1893, 1897

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Papers about Elisha F. Paxton

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/34325

Unit Date 1916 March 5-1981 February 14

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Papers about the death of Elisha F. Paxton

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/34326

Unit Date circa 1930s-1950, 1978-1979 undated

Mixed Materials [35101206599164] 1 (box)

Container 22 (folder)