

Gibson Lamb Cranmer Papers regarding Statehood and Other Material, 1787-1895, undated A&M 2848

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Title Statement

Gibson Lamb Cranmer Papers regarding Statehood and Other Material, 1787-1895, undated A&M 2848

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A&M 2848

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

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Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/955

Unit Date

1787-1895, undated

Unit Date

1822-1881

Language

English

Abstract

Papers regarding West Virginia statehood and the history of Wheeling and Ohio County compiled by Judge Gibson L. Cranmer (1826-1903) of Wheeling, West Virginia, who served as secretary of the Wheeling Convention that repudiated Virginia's secession from the United States in 1861. Series 1 includes manuscript narratives and correspondence describing events of the West Virginia statehood movement, written by eyewitnesses at the request of Gibson L. Cranmer. Manuscript authors include John S. Burdett, John S. Carlile, Daniel Frost, Lewis Ruffner, and Benjamin Wilson. Series 2 includes Cranmer's handwritten notes, drafts of articles, copies of documents, and letters solicited by him regarding the history of Wheeling and Ohio County, West Virginia. See Scope and Content Note for details and contents list.

Extent

0.4 Linear Feet 5 in. (2 document cases, 2 1/2 in. each)

Physical Location

West Virginia and Regional History Center / West Virginia University / 1549 University Avenue / P.O. Box 6069 / Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3536 / URL: West Virginia & Regional History Center

Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Biographical / Historical

Judge Gibson Lamb Cranmer (20 February 1826-1903) was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. He went to Wheeling, [West] Virginia at age 17 to study law with his relative, Daniel Lamb, Esq. He then moved to Springfield, Illinois, and practiced law. On 22 May 1849, Cranmer was married to Oella Zane, daughter of Daniel Zane. In 1850, he returned to Wheeling. He served as president of the Antietam National Cemetery Association at the time that the burial ground was turned over to the national government. He was also judge of the Municipal Court of Wheeling for 8 years.

Cranmer was a member of the General Assembly of Virginia from Ohio County during the session of 1855-1856. He was a delegate to and secretary of the First Wheeling Convention. He was made secretary of the First Session of the Second Wheeling Convention, and was clerk of the House of Delegates of the "Restored Government of Virginia." Cranmer was also the custodian of the manuscript proceedings, journals, and other documents of the two Conventions. Cranmer's home on Wheeling Island was flooded in 1884, which likely destroyed all of the manuscripts. It is possible that the Convention proceedings were shipped to Alexandria, Virginia, in the 1860s, but if that is the case, they have been lost. For more information on the proceedings, see *How West Virginia was Made*, by Virgil A. Lewis, [Charleston, W. Va., News-Mail Company, Public Printer], 1909.

Scope and Contents

Papers regarding West Virginia statehood and the history of Wheeling and Ohio County compiled by Judge Gibson L. Cranmer (1826-1903) of Wheeling, West Virginia, who served as secretary of the Wheeling Convention that repudiated Virginia's secession from the United States in 1861.

Series 1. West Virginia Statehood Papers; 1861-1864, undated; box 1. This series includes manuscript narratives and correspondence describing events of the West Virginia statehood movement, written by eyewitnesses at the request of Gibson L. Cranmer. Manuscript authors include John S. Burdett, John S. Carlile, Daniel Frost, Lewis Ruffner, and Benjamin Wilson. 34 items, 76 leaves in box 1. Note that each original item in box 1 (except those in folders 11 and 12) is accompanied by a typescript description. Transcripts for the original items in box 1, folders 1-3, 6-7, and 10-12 are in folder 13.

Series 2. History of Wheeling and Ohio County, West Virginia Papers; 1787-1895, undated; box 2. This series includes Cranmer's handwritten notes, drafts of articles, copies of documents, and letters solicited by him regarding the history of Wheeling and Ohio County, West Virginia.

For additional information on the history of Wheeling and Ohio County, West Virginia, see

History of Wheeling City and Ohio County, West Virginia and Representative Citizens, edited and compiled by Gibson Lamb Cranmer (Wheeling, WV: Wheeling Genealogy Society, [1994], or Chicago, Ill.: Biographical Publishing Company, 1902). Content from some of the manuscripts in this collection was used in the book.

Keywords

Barbour County (W. Va.)
Canada
Chambless
Jackson County (W. Va.)
Kanawha County (W. Va.)
Logan County (W. Va.)
Mason County (W. Va.)
Monongalia County (W. Va.)
Ohio County (W. Va.)
Putnam County (W. Va.)
Randolph County (W. Va.)
Richmond (Va.)
Roane County (W. Va.)
Taylor County (W. Va.)
Tyler County (W. Va.)
Uniontown (Fayette County, Pa.)
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Campaigns
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
Upshur County (W. Va.)
West Virginia -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
West Virginia - Politics and government - 1861-1865.
West Virginia
Wheeling (W. Va.)
Wood County (W. Va.)
African-Americans. SEE ALSO Coal miners - African Americans.
Confederate States of America - secession crisis.
Philippi, Battle of, Philippi, W. Va., 1861
Postal service
Secession
Slavery
Enslaved persons
Transportation
West Virginia. Convention (1861 : Wheeling)
West Virginia. Convention (1863 : Wheeling)
Confederate States of America
Cumberland Road
Armstrong, Ned.

Basil, Ben.
Brown, James H.
Burdett, John S.
Carlile, John S. (John Snyder), 1817-1878
Cranmer, Gibson L. (Gibson Lamb), 1826-1903
Duvall, George W.
Flesher, A.
Frost, Daniel Marsh, 1823-1900.
Harnsborough, Mayor.
Haymond, Jonathan.
Horton, W.
Lamb, Daniel.
Letcher, John, 1813-1884
McCausland, John, 1836-1927
McComas, Judge.
Park, J.A.
Patrick, Dr.
Roberts, L.A.
Ruffner, Lewis, 1797-1883.
Scott, J.F.
Smith, Col. B.H.
Smith, Joseph.
Summers, Judge.
Tompkins, Charles H., 1830-
Turner, F.P.
Ward, Everett.
Wilson, Benjamin, 1825-1901
Wise, Henry A. (Henry Alexander), 1806-1876
Wise, O. Jennings.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1. West Virginia Statehood Papers, Box 1

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148115

Unit Date 1861-1864, undated

Manuscript Narrative of Passage of Ordinance of Secession (contains autograph manuscript narrative by Gibson L. Cranmer regarding the scene at the passage of the Ordinance of Secession by Special Convention in Richmond; 1 p.; for transcript, see box 1, folder 13)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148117

Unit Date 1861

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Manuscript Narrative of Separation of West Virginia from Virginia (contains autograph manuscript concerning the breaking away of West Virginia from Virginia after passage of the Ordinance of Secession 17 April 1861, and describing unrest in Pruntytown and Grafton; 18 pp.; for transcript, see box 1, folder 13)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148118

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Burdett Letters (contains three autograph letters from John S. Burdett, Pruntytown, [West] Virginia [to Gibson L. Cranmer?]; 8 pp.; for transcript, see box 1, folder 13)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148119

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Manuscript Narrative of Passage of the Robertson Resolution (contains autograph manuscript account by Gibson L. Cranmer regarding the passage of the Robertson Resolution by the General Assembly of Virginia upon the subject of the coercion of a state; 2 pp.; no transcript)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148120

Unit Date 1861

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Manuscript Narrative of Firing on Fort Sumter (contains autograph manuscript by Gibson L. Cranmer regarding the firing on Fort Sumter, 13 April 1861; 1 p.; no transcript)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148121

Unit Date 1860s

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Manuscript Narrative Regarding General Wise (contains autograph manuscript account by Gibson L. Cranmer regarding General Wise's invasion of Jackson County, [West] Virginia, during the Civil War; 2 pp.; for transcript, see box 1, folder 13)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148122

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Daniel Frost Letter and Narrative (contains a manuscript letter from Daniel Frost to Cranmer with an autograph manuscript narrative regarding the early days of West Virginia; 9 pp.; for transcript, see box 1, folder 13)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148123

Unit Date 1862

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

A. Lane Letter (contains autograph letter from A. Lane, Brockwayville, PA to John S. Carlile regarding secession and statehood; 1 p.; no transcript)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148124

Unit Date 1861

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Ohio County Secession Votes List (contains autograph manuscript entitled "List of persons who voted direct for the Secession of the State of Virginia in Ohio County."; 3 pp.; no transcript)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148125

Unit Date ca. 1861

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

L. Ruffner Letter (contains autograph letter from L. Ruffner, Wheeling, to G.L. Cranmer regarding military service of [West] Virginians during the Civil War; 8 pp.; for transcript, see box 1, folder 13)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148126

Unit Date 1864

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

B. Wilson Letter (contains autograph letter from B. Wilson, Richmond, to "Judge" [Cranmer?] regarding events leading up to Ordinance of Secession; 2 pp.; for transcript, see box 1, folder 13)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148127

Unit Date 1861

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Manuscript Fragment Regarding Votes on Secession and Eastern/Western Virginia Divisions (2 pp.; for transcript, see box 1, folder 13)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148128

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Inventory and Transcripts (includes partial inventory of the collection, and transcripts for the original items in folders 1-3, 6-7, and 10-12)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148129

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 13 (Folder)

Series 2. History of Wheeling and Ohio County, West Virginia Papers, Box 2

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148116

Unit Date 1787-1895, undated

Manuscript Notes Regarding the History of Wheeling and Ohio County, West Virginia (3 items)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148130

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Notes on the vote on the Ordinance of Secession in Ohio County (1 of 3 on two pages)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148140

Notes on "Old Stage Coach Days" (2 of 3 on two pages)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148141

Notes on the Panhandle and Kentucky Railroad (3 of 3 on two pages); notes on "An Incident" involving an Irishman assisting a slave who ran away from William Chapline; and letter to Cranmer from A.A. Howell reminiscing on the "Stage Companies running East on the National Road" (the Howell letter describes the National Road Stage Company and the Good Intent Stage Company from 1841-1853, and describes the former company's efforts in its contract to carry the U.S. mail)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148142

Notes on "An Incident" involving an Irishman assisting a slave who ran away from William Chapline

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148143

Letter to Cranmer from A.A. Howell reminiscing on the "Stage Companies running East on the National Road" (the Howell letter describes the National Road Stage Company and the Good Intent Stage Company from 1841-1853, and describes the former company's efforts in its contract to carry the U.S. mail)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148144

Manuscript Notebook (likely written by Cranmer, the notebook includes manuscript extracts, notes, and citations on a wide variety of American and world history people and events, such as early American battles and Dutch history; 1 item)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148131

Unit Date undatd

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Manuscript Notes (7 items)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148132

Unit Date 1881, undated

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Histories of Lieutenant John Jolliffe Yarnall, Charles Hammond, and Revolutionary War hero Major Robert Kirkwood

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148145

Manuscript copy of muster roll for Captain William Irvine's company of Virginia Militia light infantry (1815)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148146

Notes on the history of Presbyterianism in Wheeling

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148147

Letter from Isaac Craig to Cranmer regarding Major Isaac Craig (1881) which includes extracts from the Major's letters (1793); and notes on Ohio County in the War of 1812

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148148

Manuscript Notes and Notebook (includes miscellaneous manuscript notes and a notebook with entries regarding Wheeling history; 15 items)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148133

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 3a (Folder)

Manuscript Notes (6 items)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148134

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 3b (Folder)

History of Fort Henry, by Cranmer

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148149

Bundle of 12 leaves of notes on various topics related to Wheeling and Ohio County, including "History of Louis Wetzel's Gun" and "The Race Course"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148150

Manuscript copy of an article from The Hesperian, a magazine published in Columbus Ohio in 1838, regarding the lack of wagon roads in the late 1700s (original and copy)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148151

Bundle of 4 leaves of transcripts of book excerpts regarding the building of a log cabin (original and copy)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148152

Original Items (3 items)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148135

Unit Date 1787, 1830, post-1882

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 3c (Folder)

One piece of ephemera from the Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly (post-1882)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148153

Copy of the 1806 act incorporating Wheeling into Ohio County (1830)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148154

Manuscript document regarding military response to Native American activities in Washington County, PA (1787)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148155

Manuscripts and Correspondence (10 items)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148136

Unit Date 1846-1887

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Manuscript biographical sketch on George Washington

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148156

Notes on the flood of 1832

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148163

Notes on a slave of Noah Zane who escaped to Canada then returned with Zane's help

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148157

Zane family genealogy

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148158

Notes on industry before and during the age of steam

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148159

History of a Westminster Confession of Faith book belonging to the Fleming and McNabb families

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148160

Correspondence regarding ships built during the War of 1812

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148161

Three miscellaneous notes

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148162

Manuscripts and Correspondence (7 items)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148137

Unit Date 1822-1895, undated

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 4a (Folder)

Copy of the bylaws of the Northwestern Bank of Virginia (1822)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148164

Manuscript transcription of a 1782 letter from Ebenezer Zane regarding preparations to defend Fort Henry, including reference to the powder supply (1882)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148165

Typescript and manuscript biographical sketches of Daniel Lamb and Charles Hammond (undated)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148166

Typescript narrative about a trip from New York to St. Paul to the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, 39 pp. (undated); and other material. The narrative includes detailed descriptions of travel on the Pennsylvania Railroad and the "St. Paul and Milwaukee Railroad", scenery, St. Paul, and the fair, as well as a mention of Lizzie Borden's acquittal

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148167

Ohio Civil War Cemetery Address (contains a bound speech probably given at a memorial service for Civil War soldiers somewhere in Ohio; 1 item)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148138

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)