

Saunders, Peter, Family Papers

Peter Saunders Family Papers

1873-1886



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2024.094

Unit Date

1873-1886

Language

The material in this collection is in English.

Abstract

This collection contains correspondence, receipts, and leaflets belonging to Peter Saunders (1823-1904), a lawyer and farmer from Franklin County, Virginia. Additionally, three letters dated January 1884 discuss the appointment of Peter Saunders' son, Edward Watts Saunders (1860-1921), as the judge of Franklin County, Virginia. Edward W. Saunders would go on to be a member of Congress, judge of the Circuit Court, and a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals. Three letters dated 1873-1874 are from a person with the initial M addressed to a woman named Annie, possibly Peter Saunders' sister Ann M. Saunders (1825-1911), who married Col. William Preston's grandson and professor Thomas L. Preston.

Creator

Saunders, Peter, 1823-1904

Extent

0.2 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Peter Saunders Family Papers was purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in July 2021.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Peter Saunders Family Papers was completed in September 2024.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Peter Saunders Family Papers, 1873-1886, Ms2024-094, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Peter Saunders (1823-1904) was a lawyer and farmer from Franklin County, Virginia. Saunders came from a very well-known family. His grandfather was Peter Saunders, Sr., coined as the "Pioneer of Franklin County," and his father was Judge Fleming Saunders (1778-1858), who enslaved over 150 people. Peter Saunders married Elizabeth Dabney in 1855. Together they had four children. Their oldest son, Edward Watts Saunders (1860-1921), was a member of Congress, judge of the Circuit Court, and a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals. Peter Saunders had a sister named Ann M. Saunders (1825-1911) who married in 1846 to Thomas L. Preston, professor at the University of Virginia and grandson of Col. William Preston.

External Sources:

United States Federal Census, 1860.

"Fleming Saunders" entry, [findagrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com), <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/118549296/fleming-saunders>, accessed on September 27, 2024.

National Register of Historic Places, Bleak Hill, Callaway, Franklin County, Virginia, National Register #10244018, https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/033-0002_Bleak_Hill_2002_Final_Nomination.pdf, accessed on September 27, 2024.

"Ann M. Saunders" in the Virginia, U.S., Select Marriages, 1785-1940, [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/2346591:60214/), <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/2346591:60214/>, accessed on September 27, 2024.

"Anna Mariah Saunders Preston" entry, [findagrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com), https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/83199701/anna_mariah_preston, accessed Oct. 23, 2024.

"Edward W Saunders" in the Virginia, U.S., Death Records, 1912-2014, [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/255817:9278), <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/255817:9278>, accessed Oct. 23, 2024.

"SAUNDERS, Edward Watts, 1860 - 1921", Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, <https://bioguide.congress.gov/search/bio/S000077>, accessed Oct. 23, 2024.

"Edward Watts Saunders" entry, [findagrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com), <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/33419197/edward-watts-saunders>, accessed on September 27, 2024.

Scope and Content

This collection contains correspondence, receipts, and leaflets belonging to Peter Saunders, a farmer from

Franklin County, Virginia. The items in this collection dated 1874-1886 contains correspondence to Peter Saunders about his farm as well as receipts and advertisements for farm equipment from various companies, including the Lee, Taylor, and Payne Leaf Tobacco Company, the Watt and Call Sole Agents of Richmond, Virginia, and Poole and Hunt. Additionally, three letters dated January 1884 discuss the appointment of Edward Watts Saunders, Peter Saunders' son, as the judge of Franklin County, Virginia. Three letters dated 1873-1874 are from a person with the initial M addressed to a woman named Annie, who may be Peter Saunders' sister Ann Saunders Preston.

Related Archival Materials

Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives also has a letter, possibly from Ann Saunders' husband Thomas L. Preston, in the Thomas L. Preston Letter, Ms2008-041.

See also the Irvine-Saunders Family Papers, Accession 116, housed at the University of Virginia's Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Keywords

Agriculture

History of Food and Drink

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Saunders family

Preston family (Montgomery County, Va.)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged by correspondent. Each folder is arranged chronologically with undated materials at the end.

Description of Subordinate Components

Poole and Hunt Correspondence

Unit Date 1877-1882

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Lee, Taylor, and Company Correspondence

Unit Date 1882-1886

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Miscellaneous Correspondence

Unit Date 1879-1883

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Edward Watts Saunders Letters

Unit Date 1884

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Annie Letters

Unit Date 1873-1874

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)