

C Pritchett Family, Papers, 1753-1984
4013 .6 linear feet

PARTIALLY DIGITIZED in Civil War collection

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

The Pritchett Family Papers consist of correspondence, published volumes, genealogical information, legal documents, and various miscellaneous materials of Carr Waller Pritchett, Henry Smith Pritchett, and Ida Pritchett.

DONOR INFORMATION

The Pritchett Family Papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Mary Paige Cubbison on December 22, 2005 (Accession No. 6095).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Carr Waller Pritchett was born on September 4, 1823, in Henry County, Virginia. His family migrated to Missouri in 1836, and they settled in Pleasant Hill. He was a lifelong educator who earned a degree in Astronomy from Harvard, established the Pritchett School Institute in Glasgow, Missouri, and the Morrison Observatory in Fayette. He taught at Central College, now Central Methodist University, and served with the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington D.C. during the Civil War when his home in Fayette was threatened by Confederate soldiers and "bushwhackers." He died in Independence, on March 18, 1910.

Carr's son, Henry Smith Pritchett, was born on April 16, 1857, near Fayette. Like his father, Henry was a lifelong educator who earned a PhD in Astronomy from the University of Munich. He served as the President of the Massachusetts Institute for Technology for six years before becoming the first President of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. He retired to Santa Barbara, California, where he died on August 28, 1939.

Henry's daughter, Ida W. Pritchett, followed in her father and grandfather's footsteps. She earned a PhD from Johns Hopkins University and spent eight years there as a laboratory assistant. During this time, she assisted in the creation of an anti-toxin for gaseous gangrene. During World War I, Ida was partially responsible for the manufacture and shipping of this anti-toxin to Europe. Later in life, Ida became a noted photographer. She retired to New Hampshire where she died on December 30, 1965.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Pritchett Family Papers are comprised of personal correspondence from Carr Waller Pritchett and Henry Smith Pritchett along with the diary of Ida Pritchett during her time at college. Wills and other legal documents, biographies and genealogical information for the Waller and Pritchett families are also included. The collection is arranged chronologically, and then by type of material. Miscellaneous correspondence

contains letters from various writers, both inside and outside of the family, and spans the life of Carr Waller Pritchett.

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1-11 Carr Waller Pritchett
 - f. 1 Correspondence, 1849-1857
 - f. 2 Correspondence, 1858-1859
 - f. 3 Correspondence, 1864 **[DIGITIZED]**
 - f. 4 Correspondence, 1865-1867
 - f. 5 Correspondence, 1870
 - f. 6 Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1847-1910
 - f. 7 Legal Documents, 1753-1863
 - f. 8 Biography and Autobiography, 1904-1984
 - f. 9 Genealogy, n.d.
 - f. 10 Pritchett School Institute and Morrison Observatory Materials, 1864-1954
 - f. 11 Account Book, 1857-1858
- f. 12 Henry S. Pritchett, Miscellaneous, 1893-1945
- f. 13 Henry S. Pritchett, Inaugural Addresses to University of Munich, 1895 and MIT, 1901
- f. 14 Henry S. Pritchett, Book, *What is Religion?*, 1906
- f. 15 Ida W. Pritchett, Diary, 1911-1915

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