

Collection #
SC 3637

**A. N. PECKINPAUGH
COLLECTION, 1860-1983**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	3

Processed by

Joanna Reese
September 2020

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript folders, 3 photograph folders, 1 cold storage color photographs folder, 1 OVB photograph folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1860-1983

PROVENANCE: Nicholas J. Hatfield Zionsville, Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Ohio River transportation materials, SC 3081

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2019.0024

NOTES: Materials in cold storage need at least 4 hours to acclimate, so patrons should call ahead if they wish to view materials that are in cold storage.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Abraham Nicholas Peckinpaugh (1839-1912) was born on February 13, 1839 in Alton, Indiana. His parents were Nicholas (1810-1859) and Eleanor (Nellie) (Shickle, Sheckles) (1815-1889) Peckinpaugh. He had eight siblings, Mary Ann (Harrison) (1833-1863), Martha Jane (Hawkins) (1835-1865), John Isaac (1837-1925), Sarah E. (Murphy) (1843-1888), William Thomas (1848-1915), Clara Janet (Hollcroft) (1851-1911), Viola Evelyn (Boyd) (1858-1921), and George Rice (1859-1939). On the Civil War Draft Registration Records, Peckinpaugh lists his occupation as “merchant.” He married Emma Williams on October 11, 1860 in Spencer County, Indiana. She died in 1865 along with their infant son. He lived with the Murphy family when the 1870 census was recorded. Prior to the Civil War, Abraham attempted various business interests in farming and then running a general store with his brother. After the war, he became part owner of a sawmill, Peckinpaugh, Harrison, and Company (Indiana Oak Mills) in Alton, Indiana. The company also produced materials such as mantels for fine houses, furniture and wheels for cane carts. The company even purchased a warehouse in New Orleans in 1888 for excess product. In September of 1903, the Alton warehouse burned down, but the business continued operations until 1915. Peckinpaugh married Ruth Elizabeth Wilson (1840-1927) on September 7, 1874 in Saline, Missouri. They had two daughters, Wenonah Ermine (Sonner) (1878-1975) and Catharine Calhoun (Hatfield) (1880-1968). His cause of death is listed as angina pectoris on March 1, 1912. He is buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sources:

Ancestrylibrary.com

Gresham, John M. and Co. *Biographical and Historical Souvenir for the Counties of Clark, Crawford, Harrison, Floyd, Jefferson, Jennings, Scott and Washington*. Chicago, 1889

Connections Magazine, Spring/Summer 2018. “Ohio River Trade”

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The manuscripts included in this collection are mostly letters from Abraham Peckinpaugh to his wife and children and one handwritten brief family history. Also included are four company documents from Peckinpaugh, Harrison and Company sawmill. Most of the documents are written on company stationery. The photos included are of the family, their home, and the sawmill. The oldest picture in the collection is of a large steamboat from 1860. The photograph was a gift to Abraham's first wife, Emma. There is a composite panoramic photograph of the sawmill at Alton, Indiana. One picture from the sawmill collection of photos includes Curg Harrison, W.R. Dunn and Decatur Gaither, the captain of the flatboats built on site. The color photos included were taken of the Peckinpaugh house in 1983. Family photos include Abraham, Ruth, Wenonah, Catharine, and three of Abraham's brothers: George, Tom and John.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Correspondence, Abraham Nicholas Peckinpaugh, 1879-1905	Folder 1 of 2
Business Documents, Peckinpaugh, Harrison & Co., 1879	Folder 2 of 2
Composite panoramic photograph of the sawmill at Alton, Indiana, ca. 1860	OVB Photographs, Folder 1 of 1
Photographs of the Peckinpaugh House, ca. 1879	Photographs, Folder 1 of 3
Family Photographs, 1860-1917	Photographs, Folder 2 of 3
Collection of photographs from the Peckinpaugh, Harrison & Co. Sawmill, 1879-1917	Photographs, Folder 3 of 3
Exterior photographs of the Peckinpaugh Home, 1983	Cold Storage: Color Photographs, Folder 1 of 1

