

PEARCE COLLECTION
MS COLL 5
1830-1920

Historical Society of Kent County Manuscript Collection

Finding aid written by: Amanda Tuttle-Smith

Accession Number: 2017.005

Language: Material entirely in English

Use: Records are open for research. Copyright, including literary rights, belongs to the author(s) or their legal heirs.

Citation Style:

Related Materials:

Scope and Content Note: Papers belonging primarily to James Alfred Pearce (1840-1920), formerly a chief justice of the Circuit Court in Kent County. Judge Pearce was educated at Washington College and Princeton University, from which he graduated in 1859. Between 1859 and 1864 he taught school at Washington College and studied law at the office of Brown & Brune of Baltimore. In 1864 he began practicing law and in 1867 was elected State's Attorney for Kent County. He served on the Board of Visitors and Governors of Washington College. The collection includes various pieces of correspondence to Pearce primarily on business and legal matters. A large number of receipts and account records are also in the collection, said to be taken from his account book. A few early documents are copies or may have belonged to family members. The collection also contains minutes of the Vestry of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Chestertown, of which Pearce was registrar from 1864-1876. A transcript of a resolution of the Circuit Court upon the death of Pearce is also in the collection. The second archival box contains three account books that belonged to J.A. Pearce with dates ranging from 1830 to 1860 and 1873 to 1888. Name index in largest account book.

General Terms:

- Account Books - Historic
- Attorneys
- Chestertown - Maryland - History
- Emmanuel Episcopal Church
- Kent County Circuit Court
- Lawyers
- Legal Records
- Washington College
- Land Deed

Personal Names:

Pearce, James Alfred
Eckels, James
Hanson, George
Hanson, Lavinia
Blend, Theodorick
McLean, William
McLean, Margaret
Wilmer, P
Hanson, Alexander
Cuff, Tom
Spencer, William
Whittington, John
Peacock, Hannah
Hanson, George

Box 1

1. Resolution in memory of James Alfred Pearce
2. Trustee James Pearce, sale of George Hanson's Estate, 1845
3. Letter, to James Pearce from Earle, discussing the sale of property, in Centreville, 1843
4. Complaint, Bill of complaint Lavinia Hanson in reference to will of her father, 1843
5. Minutes, Vestry minutes from Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1870,1,2,3,6
6. Letter, To Comptroller of the currency from James Pearce- 30 January 1894
7. Agreement, Between Lavinia Hanson, Pere Wilmer, and Alexander Hanson-1844
8. Statement by Pearce as to Tom Cuff's competency to make a will-1838
9. Account, Dinner at Judge Pearce's from members of the bar-1909
10. Letter, to Pearce from L.D. Stark regarding land- 1875
11. Photocopy, Land Record, William Pearce to Sydrack Whitworth in Cecil County-1703
12. Indenture, Between William Spencer and James Pearce, "Partnership" in Kent County-1810
13. Deed, Capt. John Whittington to John Whittington, Hannah Peacock, D. Whittington-1878
14. Notes, of payment- 1838, 1840
15. Receipt, For sale of George Hanson's Estate- 1852
16. Legal Document, Bills of Complaint regarding the estate of George Hanson-1845
17. Letters, To James Pearce concerning Hanson estate- 1844
18. Bills, Pertaining to case of Lavinia Hanson-1833 & Booklet, Money rec. by Hanson-1827-1832
19. Papers, Loose papers from JAP's Account Book- 1873-1894
20. Records, Legal record, agreement between J. Robinson and G. Wiest- 1878
21. Papers, Loose papers, correspondence.
22. Three account books that belonged to Pearce- 1830 to 1860 and 1873 to 1888. There is a name index in the larger account book