

Collection: Gledhill Collection

Accession Number: 2015.49.01

Finding Aid

Date Range: 1815-1929

Bulk Date: 1840-1860

Creator: Henry Wilson Gledhill

Number and type of containers: 4 letter flip top boxes.

Storage Location: PCHS Library and Archives

Aid Created By: Jean O'Reilly, Volunteer

Biographical Information:

Henry Wilson Gledhill was born in Paterson, New Jersey on November 9, 1864. His parents were renowned Paterson residents, William and Mary Gledhill. At the time of Henry's birth, the family lived on the Northwest corner of Broadway and Straight Streets. His name was resultant of a houseguest staying overnight the day he was born. The Honorary Henry Wilson, who later became the Vice President of the United States under Ulysses S. Grant.

Henry's father, William Gledhill was a prominent lawyer who was a member of the New Jersey Bar Association, director of the First National Bank of Paterson and surrogate of Passaic County from 1860 to 1869.

Henry's early education was in Paterson, both public and private, Paterson Seminary School being one of the institutions he attended. Henry followed in his father's footsteps by studying law at Princeton. He was admitted as attorney-at-law in 1888 and in June 1891, counselor-at-law. He was elected Passaic County assemblyman for three terms. Henry served as chairman of the committee on banks and insurance and militia and treasurer's accounts. He served as majority leader and chairman of the committee on the revision of the laws. He was also the author of the Bicycle Baggage bill.

History was his life-long interest and he collected many documents on local history. He served as historian for the Passaic County Historical Society. He was a member of the Captain Godwin chapter of the New Jersey Sons of the American Revolution. He served as correspondence secretary with this organization until his death in 1932.

Scope and Content:

The Gledhill collection is an archival collection that consists of documents, photos and books. He maintained the collection of documents for his family, his legal practice and the Society of Useful Manufactures (SUM) documents for the society.

The collection consists of books, letters, newspaper articles, genealogical reports deeds and legal

documents. The collection also contains a large quantity of handwritten correspondence between Henry Gledhill's father William and his family members. There are references to the abolition of slavery, English grain prices and seed transactions. Much of the collection was in the possession of William Gledhill, Henry's father, who it is noted, was the first historian of the Passaic County Historical Society.

Series:

The collection is organized into folders containing like items with the same subject matter. At the writing of the finding aid, the collection has already been divided into folders. For storage purposes, the books were removed from the documents and given their own archival box.

For further inquiry into Henry Gledhill, researchers should check the Gledhill Photo Collection (2015.049.02) and the Gledhill Society for Useful Manufactures (SUM) papers (2015.049.03).