OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Author: Samuel B. Pruden
Title: Samuel B. Pruden Collection
Date: 1819 – 1950
Abstract: Business and legal documents and letters, the latter including Governor John Brough, General Charles Grosvenor, Representative C.D. Martin, Ohio University President Jacob Lindley, Pruden’s Civil War experiences and Abigail Everts on slavery.
Quantity: 2.3 cu.ft.

BIOGRAPHY OF SAMUEL B. PRUDEN

Samuel Baldwin Pruden was born at Norristown, NJ, on January 17, 1798 to Silas and Rebecca Pruden. The family moved to Athens County, OH in 1815 where they became well known, one of the daughters becoming the wife of John Brough, Civil War Governor of Ohio.

Samuel married Mary Cranston, of Athens, in 1821. Being a man of unusual business capacity Pruden enjoyed a highly successful career, first in 1826 establishing a carding wool and dressing cloth firm at the Bingham Mill west of Athens for ten years. In 1836 he transferred his business to his own buildings about two miles south of Athens on the Hocking River where he built a grist mill, a saw mill, and an oil mill. In 1840 he added a salt boiling facility. The settlement he founded has long been known as Harmony.

Samuel was appointed by the State Legislature as a Trustee of Ohio University in 1851. In 1854 he was elected to the Ohio Legislature to represent Athens County and also served one term as Associate Judge on the Common Pleas bench. He also held a number of minor offices, among them that of County Surveyor, for a number of years.

Samuel and his wife raised a large family. By all appearances he was a stern father who even commanded obedience from his son Silas, a 2nd Lieutenant in the Union
Army. His oldest son, Charles, was quite active in his father's businesses. Pruden died in December of 1863.

George Blakeley was born in Athens County, OH on August 12, 1851. His parents were Harvey and Susan Blakeley. His father was born in Pennsylvania on June 19, 1803 and came to Ohio in 1844. His mother was born in New York in 1807, but it is unknown when she came to Ohio. George was the youngest of eleven children. He received his education in Athens County and received some medical training at the Columbus Medical College. He returned to Athens County and started his medical practice in Guysville. On September 15, 1880 he married Ollie M. Pruden who was born on January 18, 1862 in Athens County. Ollie was the daughter of Samuel Pruden.

Sources:

Harris, Charles H., The Harris History (Athens: The Athens Messenger, 1957)

History of the Hocking Valley, Ohio (Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Co., 1883)

Walker, Charles M., History of Athens County, Ohio (Cincinnati: Robert Clark & Co., 1869)

Whitman, Jane, 1850 Athens County Census (Jane Whitman, 1979)

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The collection contains business and legal documents of Samuel Pruden’s business enterprises. There is also personal correspondence of the Pruden family.

The correspondence includes letters written by John Brough, Governor of Ohio; Charles H. Grosvenor, Civil War General and politician; C.D. Martin, member of the US House of Representatives; Jacob Lindley, Ohio University President; Samuel Pruden, Civil War letters; and Abigail Bingham Everts of Cook Co. TX on 1860 relating to the presidential election and slavery issues.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

These records are organized into the following series:

Series I: Business Records and Papers
Series II: Civil War Letters and Essays
Series III: Pruden Family Papers
Series IV: Miscellaneous Documents
Series V: Dr. G.W. Blakeley Correspondence and
Papers
Series VI: Account Books
Series VII: Miscellaneous

Abbreviations with in content list:

ALS – Handwritten, Signed
ANS – Handwritten, Not Signed
pg(s) – page(s)
ca – circa

RELATED MATERIALS

Civil War: Charles Grosvenor Collection (MSS# 150); Joseph Alpin Martin Collection (MSS# 106); Sgt. William McDonald (MSS# 182); Brown Family Collection (MSS# 18); Nelson Van Vorhes Collection (MSS# 10); Milo Wilkerson Diary (MSS# 193).

Athens Area Businesses: Athens County Merchant Ledger; “Athens Past” Photographs; Hatch – Frost – Broadwell Family; W.H. Wakefield Collection (MSS# 164); Exra Walker Collection (MSS# 154); Johnson M. Welch (MSS# 22); Wesley Young Collection (MSS# 49).

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Restrictions: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Ohio University Libraries.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to cite the collection name, collection number, and the Ohio University Libraries, in all footnotes and bibliographical references.

Accession Number: N/A

Provenance: The Ohio University Archives received the collection
on July 14, 1965 from John W. Frazier who later moved to Largo, Florida (1966).

**Property Rights:** Ohio University retains all property rights to the collection.

**Copyrights:** Ohio University retains all copyrights unless retained by the donor, other correspondents, or other artists.

**Photoduplication:** Ohio University will entertain requests to photocopy reasonable amounts of material from the collection for the convenience of individual researchers.

**Processing:** N/A

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**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION**

*Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.*

**CONTAINER LIST**

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<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Series I:</strong> Business Records and Papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 / 1</td>
<td>Hocking Valley Salt Company, dividend sheets, 1858-1861</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hocking Valley Salt Company, dividend sheets, 1962-1865</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hocking Valley Salt Company, miscellaneous papers, 1834-1863</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bills and receipts, miscellaneous, 1831-1863</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Business papers, miscellaneous, 1825-1863</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>West Toll Bridge papers, 1834-1849</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Legal papers, miscellaneous, 1834-1891</td>
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</table>
8  Tax receipts, miscellaneous, 1835-1868

2 / 1  Bills of lading, 1849-1864

2  Receipts for colored linen and wool, and cured meats to pass inspection, State of Louisiana

3  Shares in: Ohio Telegraph Company, 1848; Marietta and Cincinnati Railroad Company, 1838; Bank of Marietta, 1838; and railroad coupons

4  Leases; from Silas to S.B. Pruden, 1822-1828

5  Surveying, 1836-1872

6  Land documents, 1889

7  Masonic Lodge papers, 1856-1861

8  Newspaper subscription receipts for: *Athens Messenger*, *Ohio State Journal*, *Home Journal*, *Ohio Statesman*

9  Ohio University papers and receipts, 1827-1859

**Series II: Civil War Letters and Essays**

10  Letter: Brough, John (Civil War Governor of Ohio), ALS, 1 pg., January 3, 1840, informing Pruden of being elected (appointed) Associate Judge

11  Letters: Brough, John
   a. ALS, November 14, 1836, 1 pg.
   b. ALS, September 6, 1838, 3 pgs.
   c. ALS, September 12, 1838, 1 pg.
   d. ALS, December 21, 1839, 3 pgs.
   e. ALS, April 20, 1840, 1 pg.

12  Letter: Brough, Achsa(h) (wife of John Brough), ALS, January 25, 1857, 1 pg.
13  Letter: Lindley, Jacob (first president of Ohio University), ANS, November 26, 1819, 1 pg., recommending Pruden


15  Essay by Pruden on the topic of public execution (ca. 1830’s), 2 pgs.

16  Essay by unknown author concerning religious court case, July 1837, 4 pgs, 1 or 2 pgs missing

2  /  17  Letter: Hough, Sabin (publisher of Banner of Re-union), Cincinnati

18  Civil War Letters: Pruden, Silas
   a. ALS, Camp Dennison, May 3, 1861, 3 pgs.
   b. ALS, Camp Dennison, May 29, 1861, 3 pgs.
   c. ALS, Camp Dennison, June 12, 1861, 4 pgs.
   d. ALS, Camp Buchanan, July 5, 1861, 4 pgs.
   e. ALS, Camp Elkwater, November 8, 1861, 3 pgs.
   f. ALS, Cincinnati, November 24, 1861, 1 pg.
   g. ALS, (Camp near Louisville), December 8, 1861, 2 pgs.
   h. ALS, Elizabeth Town, December 13, 1861, 2 pgs.

19  Notification that Samuel Pruden was elected Captain of the 4th Company, 2nd Regiment, 3rd Division of Ohio Militia

20  Samuel Pruden’s miscellaneous military correspondence, ALS, C.H. Grosvenor, July 12, 1861, 2 pgs.

**Series III**: Pruden Family Papers

21  Personal letters of Samuel Pruden, 1836, 1862
22 Personal correspondence of Samuel Pruden  
a. ALS, April 13, 1858, 1 pg.  
b. ALS, November 28, 1858, 2 pgs.

23 Funeral receipts and estate papers of Samuel Pruden’s sons, 1864-1882

24 Miscellaneous business papers of Samuel Pruden’s sons, 1864-1882

25 Letters of Charles Pruden, 1853-1873

26 Letters of Silas Pruden, 1864-1868

27 Letters of Lucy Pruden, 1886, 1891, and copy of last will, 1885

28 Printed material, miscellaneous, 1830-1873

29 Miscellaneous

**Series IV: Miscellaneous Documents**

Documents contained in canvas filer, 1822-1861

3 / 1 A-B sleeve, 1827-1857

2 C-D sleeve, 1824-1857

3 E-F-G sleeve, 1824-1859

4 H-I-K sleeve, 1823-1861

5 L-M-N sleeve, 1822-1860

6 O-P-Q-R- sleeve, 1827-1849

7 S-T-U sleeve, 1824-1859

8 V-W-Y sleeve, 1828-1858

**Series V: Dr. G.W. Blakeley Correspondence and Papers**
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<tr>
<th>Series</th>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dr. G.W. Blakeley</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. ALS, January 4, 1887, 1 pg.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. ALS, February 3, 1887, 1 pg.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Dr. G.W. Blakeley, letters, A-J, 1886-1889</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Dr. G.W. Blakeley, letters, K-W, 1886-1889</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Dr. G.W. Blakeley, miscellaneous printed material, 1873-1889</td>
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<td><strong>Series VI: Account Books</strong></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Account book (with index), 1832-1850</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Account book (&quot;Memorandum of money got of S.B. Pruden&quot;), 1855-1883</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Account book (Journal of paid accounts), 1864-1865</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Account book (Harmony, Ohio), 1865-1868</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Account book (sales of home salt), 1873-1879</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Cash book (Harmony, Ohio), 1841-1855</td>
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<td>*(Note: Cash book, 1842-1845, Stored on shelf separately)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Cash book (Harmony, Ohio; supplies and receipts), 1847-1856</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Cash book (Harmony, Ohio; supplies and receipts), 1865-1868</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Salt account (made by E.D. Volumes), 1844-1845</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Retail salt book, 1879-1882</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Sawmill ledger (Samuel B. Pruden), 1838-1848</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Time book (wages), 1861-1863</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Estray book of Canaan Township (Athens County), 1838-1871</td>
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**Series VII: Miscellaneous**

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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Letters (in book form on tissue paper), 1834-1839</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Diary book (Harmony, Ohio; Charles C. Pruden), 1850-1851</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Scrapbook, 1873-1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Regalia</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>One handmade canvas filer bearing the name S.B. Pruden</td>
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