

**GUIDE TO THE PRATT FAMILY PAPERS
POCUMTUCK VALLEY MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY**

Scope and Content Note:

The Pratt Family came to western Mass. via Watertown and Westboro, Mass. These papers relate to the descendants of Joshua Goulding Pratt (1801-1881) of Shrewsbury and Deerfield, Mass. Many of the papers were donated by the estate of Lucy Pratt, or came from the estate of Henry Leland Clarke whose grandfather, Henry H. Barber, married Eliza Pratt in 1857.

Joshua Goulding Pratt, son of Joshua and Martha Goulding Pratt, was born in Shrewsbury, Mass., in Jan. 1801. He trained as a shoemaker and removed to Deerfield where he married Martha Arms in 1825. After spending time in Worcester County, Pratt eventually settled permanently in Deerfield where he operated a store. The couple had six children, three of whom are mentioned below. Pratt died in April 1881; his wife died in Nov. 1866.

His papers consist of correspondence, 1857-1870, and a copy of a typescript titled "Joshua Goulding Pratt and his Family."

Martha Arms Pratt, wife of Joshua Goulding Pratt, was the daughter of Aaron and Lucy Tyler Arms. She was born in Deerfield on July 10, 1796, and died in Nov. 1866.

Her papers consist of correspondence, 1815-1865, mostly from her children.

Martha Goulding Pratt, daughter of Joshua Goulding and Martha Arms Pratt, was born in Conway, MA, in 1830. She served as Deerfield's post master from 1870 until her death in 1894.

Her papers consist of correspondence, 1855-1894, much of it letters from her sister, Eliza Hapgood Pratt Barber.

James Clay Pratt, son of Joshua Goulding and Martha Arms Pratt, was born in Deerfield in 1832. He eventually ran the family store, but also worked as a newspaper editor in Massachusetts and Minnesota, and was a frequent contributor to various Greenfield newspapers writing under the pseudonym "Pocumtuck." In 1857 he married Sarah Smith, an English woman. The couple had five children, four of whom are mentioned below. James C. Pratt died in 1890; his wife died in 1930.

His papers consist of letters from family members, business/professional correspondence, photocopies and typescripts of "Pocumtuck" writings, an invitation to meet with the governor, several manuscript political essays, and a largely blank "Police Court Docket, Town of Henderson" dated 1860, from when he was a reporter with the *Henderson* [Minn.] *Democrat*.

Eliza Hapgood Pratt Barber, daughter of Joshua Goulding and Martha Arms Pratt, was born in Deerfield in March 1836. She married the Rev. Henry H. Barber in 1857; the couple lived much of their married life in Meadville, PA, Eliza Barber died in Nov., 1916.

Four items form her papers: a note from the Rev. John F. Moors, who performed her marriage ceremony, two letters written by her, and a funeral notice.

Sarah Ann Smith Pratt, daughter of Capt. Richard Smith of Sunderland, England, was born in Sept. 1838; she married James Clay Pratt in 1857. Smith wrote a number of shorth stories, seemingly influencing her children in that vocation. She died in 1930 and is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery, Deerfield.

Her papers consist of correspondence, 1860-1918, mostly letter from her children and some published and unpublished writings.

Jane Pratt, daughter of James C. and Sarah Smith Pratt, was born **Jenny Eliza Pratt** in Deerfield in 1860. After graduating from Deerfield Academy she began to work in Boston for publisher Houghton Mifflin. She later moved to Chicago and was editor of a Unitarian publication. In 1911 she returned permanently to Deerfield from the Midwest and assumed the position of post master and librarian of the Dickinson Library. Pratt was the author of numerous stories and articles. She died in 1933 and is interred at Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Her papers consist of correspondence, 1865-1915, text for a lecture on Deerfield's history, a notebook kept by Jean Udale, her early pen name, photocopies of photographs and printed notices, and a number of published stories and articles.

Grace Tyler Pratt, daughter of daughter of James C. and Sarah Smith Pratt, was born in Deerfield on Feb. 12, 1869. She graduated from Smith College and had a career as an educator and writer. She lived much of her life in Cambridge, MA., and died in Harpswell, ME, in 1916. She is interred in Laurel Hill Cemetery, Deerfield.

Her papers consist of a letter from her sister, Jenny, a playbill for "Educated" in which she appeared in a performance at "The 47 Workshop" in March 1913, and a copy of her article, "Who is Bronson Gurney?" printed in *Munsey's Magazine*, Dec. 1922.

Frank Wright Pratt, son of James C. and Sarah Smith Pratt, was born in Elgin, IL, in 1866. He married Margaret Lovell Cary of Medway, MA, in 1895. Pratt was a Unitarian minister and author; the couple lived in Canada for a number of years. He died in Feb. 1952, and was interred in Laurel Hill Cemetery, Deerfield.

His papers consist of a newspaper clipping, the program of the Godfrey Nims monument dedication where Pratt gave an address, and a printed sermon by him titled *Why Unitarians Believe in the Divinity but not the Deity of Jesus*.

Lucy Agnes Pratt, daughter of James C. and Sarah Smith Pratt, was born in Deerfield in 1874 and died unmarried in 1970 in Wellesley Hills, MA. She attended Deerfield Academy and

Wellesley College, and later taught at the Hampton Institute in Virginia. Pratt made her career as a writer of short stories and novels.

Her papers consist of correspondence, 1896-1965, including a series of letters written in 1908 by students at Forestville School, Chicago, referring to her "Ezekiel" stories published in *McClure's* magazine, a typescript of a story set in Deerfield, several published stories, and obituaries and other notices.

Martha Elizabeth Pratt Whitman, known as Elizabeth or "Patty," was the youngest daughter of James C. and Sarah Smith Pratt. Born in Sept. 1876, she married Henry George Whitman of Cincinnati in Deerfield in 1899. The couple lived much of their married life in Boston where Elizabeth Whitman died in 1930.

Her papers include copies of her wedding announcement and an 'In Memoriam' notice, several letters from her husband, and a small diary she kept from Jan. to Sept. 1900.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box 1:

Folder 1: Genealogical information on the Pratt family	(6 items)
Folder 2: Papers of Joshua Goulding Pratt	(6 items)
Folder 3: Papers of Martha Arms Pratt	(21 items)
Folder 4: Papers of Martha Goulding Pratt	(34 items)
Folder 5: Papers of James Clay Pratt	(51 items)
Folder 6: Papers of Eliza Hapgood Pratt Barber	(6 items)
Folder 7: Papers of Sarah Ann Smith Pratt	(29 items)
Folder 8: Papers of Jenny Eliza (Jane) Pratt	(51 items)
Folder 8a: Stories of Jenny Eliza (Jane) Pratt	(9 items)
Folder 8b: Papers of Grace Tyler Pratt	(3 items)
Folder 9: Papers of Frank Wright Pratt	(3 items)
Folder 10: Papers of Lucy Pratt	(40 items)
Folder 11: Papers of Martha Elizabeth Pratt Whitman	(6 items)

Box 2:

Scrapbook of published articles, stories, etc., by Jane Pratt, with table of contents and signed memorial tribute to Miss Pratt written by Mary Field Fuller.

Scrapbook of published articles, stories, etc., by Lucy Pratt.

Box 3:

Scrapbooks of newspaper writings by James C. Pratt ("Pocumtuck")