

**Coll. 991
Peter Vredenburgh (1869-1941) Papers
1884-1930**



Monmouth
County
Historical
Association

Processed by Kim Bedetti
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Biographical Note:

Peter Vredenburgh was born in Freehold, New Jersey on September 25, 1869, the eldest of five children of Bessie Hartshorne Williams (1844-1928) and William Henry Vredenburgh (1840-1920). Peter attended Freehold Military Institute and in 1892 graduated from Princeton College (later University). He was a track star and president of the Princeton Intercollegiate Association while at school. After graduation, he entered the legal profession and was admitted to the bar in 1895, licensed in 1898, and shortly thereafter was appointed assistant prosecutor of Monmouth County.

In 1893, Peter Vredenburgh joined Company E, Seventh Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers, National Guard where he was a second lieutenant. In 1894 he was elected the commanding officer, an office he kept until Company E was broken up during the Spanish American War (1898). Vredenburgh was made a captain in Company I, Third Regiment, National Guard and was posted in Athens, Georgia until the regiment was mustered out in 1899. He remained in the regular army where he was a captain with the 28th U.S. Volunteers. He saw service during the Philippines-American War (1899-1902), was military governor of Calca, Philippines, and later served at Fort Snelling, Minnesota and in Cuba.

After returning home in 1908, Vredenburgh resumed his law practice and his role as prosecutor, and entered politics. He was elected for two one-year terms in the New Jersey State Assembly in 1909 and 1910. Upon his father's death in 1920, he took over his law partnership with Edward G. Forman in Freehold.

Peter Vredenburgh died December 14, 1941 after falling ill. He was buried in Maplewood Cemetery, Freehold. New Jersey.

Family of Peter Vredenburg

Parents: William Henry Vredenburg (1840-1920) and Bessie Hartshorne Williams (1844-1928)

- Peter Vredenburg (1869-1941)
- Amelia (Amy) Lippincott Vredenburg (Knight) (1871-1968)
- Agnes Remsen Vredenburg (Moore) (1875-1905)
- Bessie Lawrence Vredenburg (Dawson) (1877-1949)
- William Henry Vredenburg Jr. (1884-1920)

Nephew of Peter Vredenburg (1837-1864), who was killed in the Civil War

Provenance:

The letters were part of accession 2005.30, donated by George Moss. The datebook was donated by Ed Eastman, accession 2005.08. The scrapbook was part of accession 1997.33 donated by George Moss. The Nassau club letter was accession 1998.09, also donated by George Moss.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection is made up of a scrapbook and daily calendar/journal kept by Peter Vredenburg, and a series of letters addressed to him from Fannie Ortiz.

The scrapbook was kept by Vredenburg around the years 1884-1892, and contains clippings relating to his time at Princeton College, his track competitions, his social life, and his entry into the legal profession. It also contains clippings pertaining to his family, in particular his father, William H. Vredenburg, and his career, travels, social life, and run for state senator (1884); his uncle, Major Peter Vredenburg (1837-1864), who was killed in the Civil War; and his sisters Bessie and Agnes and their social lives. Vredenburg included some clippings from earlier times, for example, the wedding announcement of his parents, and obituaries. The scrapbook ends with a series of obituaries of friends and family members including his grandfather Judge Peter Vredenburg (1805-1873), his grandmother Eleanor Brinckerhoff Vredenburg (1815-1884), and his uncle Major Peter Vredenburg (1837-1864). Lastly, Vredenburg's scrapbook contains various poems, verses, and printed images.

The daily calendar/journal was kept by Vredenburg for the year 1896, after he was admitted to the bar but before he was licensed as a counsellor, and before he left to fight in the Spanish-American War. The entries track his daily schedule, including appointments for work and with Company E of the National Guard. Inserted in the pages are a few work-related letters and a letter volunteering Company E to fight in the war.

The letters date from June 1920 to May 1921 and are love letters written by Fannie Ortiz. The series ends with a letter sent in 1930 to Peter Vredenburg from the Surrogate Court informing him that they have no records for the estate of Fannie Ortiz. Additionally, included is a 1914 letter forwarded to Peter Vredenburg from a friend concerning his membership in the Nassau Club of Princeton.

Sources:

“Peter Vredenburgh, Veteran, Dead,” *Monmouth Democrat*, December 18, 1941.

“Vredenburgh Will Seek M’Carter’s Opinion,” *Asbury Park Press*, October 7, 1908.

Folder List:

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	Scrapbook	1884-1892
2	Datebook/Journal	1896
3	Letter to Prof. V. Lansing Collins regarding Peter Vredenburgh Letters from Fannie Ortiz	1914 1920-1921, 1930