Titus, William; Papers mss120

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
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Summary Information

Repository: M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Title: William Titus Papers
ID: mss120
Date [inclusive]: 1828-1914
Physical Description: 0.20 cubic ft.
Physical Location: The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material: English.
Abstract: The William Titus Papers contains a wide range of activities generally focusing on Titus' personal businesses including land ownership and his representation of clients before the US War Department's Pension Office. The collection also contains personal correspondence as well as some records from his role as warden of the Auburn Prison.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, William Titus Papers, 1828-1914. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as Titus Papers).

Biographical Sketch

William Titus Esq. was born in Sempronius, N.Y. in 1803. Titus served many roles in the Cayuga County region, both as a businessman and public servant. He acted as warden of Auburn Prison from 1852 to 1854. He also worked as postmaster of Hannibal Centre, N.Y. and Auburn, N.Y. Titus was active in politics in Cayuga County and served as a New York State Assemblyman in 1845. Politically, he was known as a Barnburner Democrat. He owned two mills: one in Hannibal Centre, N.Y. and the other in Moravia, N.Y. He was also an officer of the Southern Central Railroad.
Scope and Contents

The papers of William Titus, Esq. span the years 1828 to 1914. The bulk of the collection, however, dates from the years 1837 to 1877. The collection consist of business, legal and personal correspondence, court and legal records, receipts, lists and advertising circulars. Much of the material relates to Titus' private business ventures into land ownership, his work as a lawyer, representing clients in dealings with the United States War Department's Pension Office during the late 1830's and early 1840's. Materials include government records explaining policies of pension distribution, numerous land deeds representing the transfer of property to Titus or indicate the ownership of other people. In addition, the collection contains some documents listing election results and correspondence addressing voting support from 1853 and 1867. Two documents address Titus as postmaster in Hannibal Centre, N.Y. in 1862 and Auburn, N.Y. in 1866.

There is correspondence and other materials relating to Titus' role as warden of Auburn Prison from 1852-1854, as well as of correspondence between Titus and New York State's Executive Branch regarding prisoners and a roster of prison guards and keepers and a description of events and requests occurring within Auburn Prison on unspecified dates. There is also personal correspondence including one from Titus' sister, Betsy A. Titus and another from a nephew, signed Richard.

Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is organized by the format of the records.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Revision Description
Encoded in EAD by Blair Williams 2014

Processing Information
Processed in 2009 by Julia Hughes.

Access
Access to this record group is unrestricted.

Copyright
The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

Acquisition Information
All items in this manuscript group were purchased by the University Libraries, M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives in 1970 from Knoblauch's.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Public Servants
- Criminal Justice and Prisons
- Business and Industry
- United States. Record and Pension Office
- Landowners
- Prison wardens
- Local elections--New York (State)--New York.
- Correspondence
- property records
- government records
- elections
- Titus, William
- Auburn Prison
Cayuga County (N.Y.)

### Collection Inventory

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<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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<tr>
<td>Auburn Prison, 1852-1854</td>
<td>Box 1 (William Titus Papers)</td>
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<td>Legal, Political and Civil Service Work, 1838-1868</td>
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<td>Personal Correspondence, 1853-1868</td>
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<td>Court Documents, 1828-1877</td>
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<td>Private Business Papers, 1841-1914</td>
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