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Bromwell, Henry P.H. (1823-1903)

700 p.

Henry Pelham Holmes Bromwell was born on August 26, 1823, in Baltimore, Maryland. He received his early schooling in Maryland, and in 1850, he moved west to Illinois.

In Illinois, Bromwell worked as a clerk in a land office, and edited an abolitionist newspaper. In 1853, he was admitted to the Illinois Bar, and in 1856, he was elected county judge of Fayette County, Illinois. He was also a member of the electoral college in the 1860 presidential elections, and between 1865 and 1869, he was elected to Congress twice.

In 1870, Bromwell and his family left Illinois and moved to Colorado. Shortly after arriving in Colorado, he was elected to the Colorado Territorial Council.

In 1875, Bromwell served as a delegate at the Colorado Constitutional Convention. As an early supporter of the women's suffrage movement, he attempted to inject equal rights for all "persons." This attempt failed, but he was able to secure a section of the constitution by which equal suffrage could be submitted at each state election without a constitutional amendment.

In 1879, Bromwell was elected to the state legislature, and in 1881, Governor Pitkin appointed Bromwell as the state's first irrigation commissioner. As irrigation commissioner, Bromwell was able to secure passage of the law which established the irrigation system of Colorado.

Bromwell was a part-time author as well. He wrote poetry and many works on masonry. One of his better known works on masonry was Restorations of Masonic Geometry and Symbolry.

Bromwell married Emily Payne in 1860. They had three children, of which Henrietta Bromwell, their daughter, became a well known artist in Colorado. Bromwell passed away after a short illness in Denver, Colorado on January 9, 1903.

The collection contains legal material (1871-1918), literary material (1858) containing a manuscript titled, "Song of the Wahbeek" in which Bromwell recorded a number of his poems, minutes of the Masonic Publishing Company (1903), and miscellaneous material (1866-1903) including a bound volume of speeches by Bromwell as well as other members of the United States Congress.

The collection was donated in two parts. Henrietta Bromwell donated most of the materials in the collection in 1938, while Mrs. Gerald Moore donated the remaining materials in 1945.

Bromwell, Henry Pelham Holmes
(1823-1903)

Legal Material (1871-1918)

| FF | Description | Date |
|----|---|-----------|
| 1 | Abstract of Title, Lots 11 and 12, Block 65, West Denver | 1871-1918 |

Literary Material (1858)

| | | |
|---|---|------|
| 2 | Manuscript titled, "Song of the Wahbeek," by Henry P.H. Bromwell, pp. 1-20 | 1858 |
| 3 | Manuscript titled, "Song of the Wahbeek," by Henry P.H. Bromwell, pp. 21-40 | 1858 |
| 4 | Manuscript titled, "Song of the Wahbeek," by Henry P.H. Bromwell, pp. 41-60 | 1858 |
| 5 | Manuscript titled, "Song of the Wahbeek," by Henry P.H. Bromwell, pp. 61-80 | 1858 |
| 6 | Manuscript titled, "Song of the Wahbeek," by Henry P.H. Bromwell, pp. 81-100 | 1858 |
| 7 | Manuscript titled, "Song of the Wahbeek," by Henry P.H. Bromwell, pp. 101-131 | 1858 |

Minutes (1903)

| | | |
|---|--|------|
| 8 | Minutes of the Henry P.H. Bromwell Masonic Publishing Company | 1903 |
|---|--|------|

Miscellaneous Material (1866-1903)

| | | |
|-------|--|-----------|
| 9 | Photocopies of newspaper clippings from <u>The Denver Republican</u> regarding Henry P.H. Bromwell | 1903 |
| Loose | Bound speeches of Henry P.H. Bromwell and other member of the U.S. Congress | 1866-1868 |

INVENTORY
HENRY PELHAM HOLMES BROMWELL
COLLECTION #80

COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AUGUST 1984
CLARK HATHAWAY

INVENTORY: HENRY PELHAM HOLMES BROMWELL COLLECTION

INTRODUCTION:

Henry Pelham Holmes Bromwell, orator, politician, writer, and authority on masonic law and lore, was born on August 26, 1823 in Baltimore, Maryland. He was the son of Henry B. Bromwell, a veteran of the War of 1812, and Henreitta Holmes Bromwell, a descendant of Pilgrim settlers.

Bromwell received his early schooling in Maryland. In 1850 he moved west to Illinois where he worked as a clerk in a land office. He also edited an abolitionist newspaper, The Age of Steam and Fire.

Bromwell was admitted to the bar in 1853. In 1856 he was elected county judge of Fayette County, Illinois. During this time period Bromwell met and befriended Abraham Lincoln. In 1860 he served as a member of the electoral college, and thus, aided Lincoln in his campaign for the presidency. Bromwell, a man with his own political aspirations, was elected to Congress twice. He served from 1865 until 1869 in Illinois' Seventh Congressional District.

In 1870 Bromwell left Illinois and headed for Colorado. Shortly after his arrival to the Centennial State Bromwell was elected to the Colorado Territorial Council. In 1875 Bromwell served as a delegate to the Colorado Constitutional Convention. An early supporter of the women's suffrage movement he worked hard to create a constitution in which every "person" would be entitled to all the rights and responsible for all the duties of citizenship. Although he was unsuccessful in this endeavor he did secure a section of the constitution by which equal suffrage was submitted at the first state election and could be submitted at any succeeding election without a constitutional amendment. Because of his hard work and great orations during the Colorado Constitutional Convention Bromwell is often remembered as the "master-builder of the Constitution of Colorado."

In 1879 Bromwell was elected to the state legislature. In 1881 Governor Frederick Pitkin appointed Bromwell the state's first irrigation

INVENTORY: HENRY PELHAM HOLMES BROMWELL COLLECTION (Cont.)

commissioner. In this capacity he edited Bromwell's revised statutes as well as secured the passage of the law which established the irrigation system of Colorado.

A self-educated scholar in the fields of mathematics, languages, and science, Bromwell was the author of many works on masonry, among them the Restorations of Masonic Geometry and Symbolry. Bromwell's pen also created inspiring poems such as "The Tresselled Floor," "Freedom's Rising," and the "Song of the Wabeek."

Bromwell was married to Emily Payne in 1860. They had three children. Their daughter, Henrietta Bromwell, became a well known artist in Colorado. Bromwell passed away in Denver on January 9, 1903.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The collection contains speeches of Bromwell and others on reconstruction (1866-1868); a copy of Bromwell's poem the "Song of the Wahbeek" (circa 1858); an abstract of title, lots 11 and 12, block 65, West Denver; minutes, by-laws, and corporation meetings of the Henry P.H. Bromwell Masonic Publishing Company (1903); newspaper clippings from The Denver Republican (1/10/1903); and a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings on the Colorado Constitutional Convention, masonry, and Bromwell's death:

The collection provides information on the legislative and masonic activities of Henry Pelham Holmes Bromwell as well as examples of his literary work.

PROVENANCE:

The records found in the Henry Pelham Holmes Bromwell Collection came from two sources. Henrietta Bromwell donated most of the records in 1938 while Mrs. Gerald Moore donated records in 1945.

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