

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Frederick Burritt Peck was born on August 19, 1860 in Seneca Castle, New York to Henry Jones Peck and Mary Diantha Gray Peck. He attended Canandaigua Academy under the tutelage of Noah T. Clarke from 1875 to 1880. In 1881, Peck entered Amherst College and studied geology with Professor Benjamin Kendall Emerson. Peck contracted malaria on a trip to Amboy, New Jersey in the summer of 1883, and was unable to return to school until September 1884. Graduating in 1886, Peck moved to Trinidad, Colorado where he taught mathematics and general science while investing in land. By 1890, Peck's efforts had left him empty-handed, so he returned home.

Peck once again took up teaching in 1891 in the Amherst and Smith Colleges geology departments. In 1894, Peck moved to Munich, Germany, from which he toured the German countryside on his bicycle. After graduating from the University of Munich with a Ph.D. in 1896, Peck moved back to the United States and accepted a position at Lafayette College as an Associate Professor of Geology and chair of the department. In 1901, Lafayette offered him a full professorship. Peck remained at Lafayette until his death in 1925.

While at Lafayette, Peck strove to build up the Department of Geology, despite a fire in Pardee Hall in 1897 that destroyed most of the department's holdings. Beginning in 1898, Peck served as an assistant geologist to the United States Geological Survey for eleven years. In 1899, Peck took part in a geological survey expedition sponsored by the Union Pacific Railroad Company to Wyoming. Peck was named the expedition's "referee" on General Geology, and he was accompanied by two Lafayette students from the class of 1899, Asher Seip and Hervey Woodburn Shimer. In 1918, Peck was involved with the committee that petitioned Lafayette's Board of Trustees for a significant faculty pay raise. That same year, he spent time working for the United States Army searching for precious minerals to be used in the war effort. During his tenure at Lafayette, Peck served as a Fellow in the Geological Society of America, an Associate Geologist for the Pennsylvania Geological Survey, and a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, and the American Association of University Professors. Peck was also a prominent member of the Brainerd Union Presbyterian Church of Easton during his time at Lafayette.

In 1900, Peck married his sister's college roommate, Cora Horton on June 11, 1901 in Binghamton, New York. On November 2, 1904, Cora Peck gave birth to Mary Gray Peck, who would be the Pecks' only daughter. Peck suffered a nervous breakdown in 1921. He continued to be plagued with ill health until his death from heart failure on November 2, 1925. He is buried with his wife in the West Avenue Cemetery in Canandaigua, New York.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Frederick Burritt Peck Photographic Collection contains more than 350 images and negatives documenting Peck's travels and endeavors. Included are photographs depicting the 1899 Union Pacific Railroad Company's Fossil Field Expedition; a Silverton, Colorado mining operation; a Boston Consolidated Mining Co. copper mill in Garfield, Utah; the New York City harbor; the Delaware Water Gap; and many vivid landscapes of the American West. Also included are approximately a dozen negatives showing various scenes from Peck's experience in the West.

The highlights of the collection are the three leather-bound photograph albums of the Fossil Fields Expedition. Images in all three albums are captioned, and almost all of those in the first two albums are dated and copyrighted by Ulysses Grant Cornell of the University of Nebraska. The photographs track the Expedition from its beginning in Laramie, its travels across the Wyoming plains, and the many geological and archaeological sites along the way.

## **ITINERARY OF THE FOSSIL FINDING EXPEDITION**

- 7/19 - The expedition convenes in Laramie, WY at the University of Wyoming's main campus
- 7/21 - The expedition moves west in three wagon trains to Fox Creek.
- 7/24 - Leaving Fox Creek, the expedition travels north to the coal fields of Carbon County. By evening, they reach Rock Creek.
- 7/27 - The expedition spends two days searching for dinosaur fossils in Aurora (the site of Professor Othniel Charles Marsh's famous excavations).
- 7/29 - The trains move towards the Freezeout Mountains near Medicine Bow.
- 7/?? - At some point during the trip, the group spends time in the Grand Canyon of the Platte River.
- 8/10 - Professor Peck returns to Laramie en route back to Lafayette.

## **INVENTORY**

### **Box 1**

- Album: Union Pacific Railroad Company Fossil Field Expedition by U.G. Cornell; 1899
- Album: Union Pacific Railroad Company Fossil Field Expedition by U.G. Cornell (cont.); 1899
- Album: Various images, including Colorado, Pennsylvania, and New York

### **Box 2**

- Album: Union Pacific Railroad Company Fossil Field Expedition; 1899
- Folder 1: Snapshots – 27 day trip images, 12 seaside images, 14 New York City construction images, 11 New York City harbor images
- Folder 2: Landscapes – 31 images, 7 negatives
- Folder 3: Colorado – 4 postcards, 11 commercial images
- Folder 4: Western – 16 unidentified images, 1 Peck image, 5 Rancho Inglesia images, 3 Soyopha images, 4 negatives
- Folder 5: Boston Consolidated Mining Co. Copper Mill – 3 interior images; c.1908
- Folder 6: Misc. – 1 envelope addressed to Peck at Lafayette College with notes, 1 Germany image 1893, 1 Lafayette paleontology image, 1 Arizona image
- Folder 7: Oversized – 1 large western landscape

### **Box 3**

- Folder 1: Oversized images - 5 western landscape images
  - Image A – “Grout & St. Claire Photo”, map of San Pedro mines on back
  - Image B – “Grout & St. Claire, Silverton, CO”