

Title: Martineau, John and Peter Collection

Reference Code: Mss-0894

Inclusive Dates: 1845, 1947

Quantity: 000.03 cu. ft.

Location: Sm Mss

Abstract: Brothers John and Peter Martineau (originally spelled “Martino”) were born in New York in 1793 and 1802 respectively. John studied medicine in England and worked as an artist in France (where he apparently changed the spelling of his last name to “Martineau”). He eventually returned to the U.S., and he and Peter took up civil engineering as a profession. They both worked on the Erie Canal as well as some canal work in Huntsville, Alabama. They returned to New York, where John died in 1838.

Peter continued his engineering work at several locations in the eastern U.S. before he and his wife relocated to Indiana in 1837 and engaged in the mercantile business until 1844. They returned to New York for a short time before they journeyed to Wisconsin in 1845. Initially, they settled in Racine, but Peter purchased a large 255-acre plot just north of Milwaukee (which eventually became part of Lake Park). Consequently, the Martineaus moved to Milwaukee, where they spent the rest of their lives. Peter passed away in 1874.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of a biography of John and Peter Martineau done by descendant Charles N. Kurtz (1947); a letter (and typed copy) from W.E. Dunbar to Peter Martineau regarding the purchase of land north of the North Point Light House (1845); and three cards of introduction given to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Martineau.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English