

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

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<b>Name of collection:</b>	<b>Location:</b>
Earl, Ralph Eleazer Whiteside, Papers, 1810-1838	Manuscript boxes "E"

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<b>Size of collection:</b>	<b>N.U.C.M.C. number:</b>
1 manuscript box	<b>RLIN id:</b>

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**Sources of information on collection:**

For a biographical sketch of R.E.W. Earl, see *The American Earls*, (Storrs, Conn.: The University of Connecticut, 1972), p. 48-52.

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**Source of collection:**

Unknown. Transferred from the Gage Family, Papers, 1849-1935

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**Collection description:**

Ralph Eleazer Whiteside(s) Earl (1785?-1838) was the son of Ralph Earl (1751-1801) and Ann(e) Whiteside(s) Earl ( -1826) and received his early training in portrait painting from his distinguished father. After European training, he returned to the United States in 1815 and began to paint portraits of the heroes of the Battle of New Orleans. He became a friend and protege of Andrew Jackson (1767-1845) and married Mrs. Jackson's niece, Jane Caffery ( -1819), in 1818. From 1817 to 1829, he lived in Nashville, Tenn., and mostly painted portraits of Jackson and Jackson's friends and relatives. From 1829 to 1837, he lived in the White House where he became known as the "Court Painter" or "King's Painter." In April 1837, he moved to Jackson's estate, The Hermitage, where he died and was buried in September 1838.

The collection contains Earl's professional correspondence, concerning portrait painting, 1810-1838, and miscellaneous papers, 1816-1833. A portion of the correspondence relates to William S. Pendleton's lithographic print of a portrait of Andrew Jackson by Earl. The miscellaneous papers include: sheets from a memorandum book, 1817-1818; newspaper clippings, 1821-1829; two memorandum booklets, 1828-1829 and 1832-1833, re prints of Andrew Jackson; and receipts, 1816-1826.

See Contents List.

24 October 1975  
contents list added 30 April 1991  
revised 19 February 2010

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Ralph Eleazer Whiteside Earl, Papers, 1810-1838

Contents List

Manuscript Box

- Folder 1: Miscellaneous papers, 1816-1832
- Folder 2: Correspondence, undated; 1810-1824
- Folder 3: Correspondence, 1825-1838
- Folder 4: Correspondence of W.S. Pendleton and George Bates, 1831-1833