

Biographical Category

The Hunt Family Collection

PC998.028

The Clark County Historical Society Museum and Archives

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Introduction

The Hunt Family Collection was donated to the Clark County Historical Society in 1998 by Ralph and Virginia Wedgwood.

The collection consists of biographical information about the Hunt family, copies of family records (including indentures and agreements), general information about the history of Clark County, personal correspondence, correspondence from the two Hunt brothers who fought in the Civil War, monthly and quarterly supply returns from the Civil War, other documents pertaining to the Civil War (mainly the Ohio Volunteers), and documents concerning the restoration of the Kenton Farm in the 1960s. The documents date from 1801 up through 1965. The collection fills two large Hollinger boxes, two flat oversized boxes, one shoebox sized box, and one clamshell Hollinger box consists of 200+ file folders. Photographs in the collection are located separately in the Photographic Category. The collection is arranged into 16 series as follows:

- Series 1: Hunt Family Background and Early Correspondence
- Series 2: Simon Kenton Farm/Hunt Homestead
- Series 3: Clark County General History
- Series 4: 11x14 Copies Hunt Family Related Documents
- Series 5: Supply Returns/Official Documents 1862
- Series 6: Supply Returns/Official Documents 1863
- Series 7: Supply Returns/Official Documents 1864 (January-August)
- Series 8: Supply Returns/Official Documents 1864 (September)
- Series 9: Supply Returns/Official Documents 1864 (October)
- Series 10: Supply Returns/Official Documents 1864 (November)
- Series 11: Supply Returns/Official Documents 1864 (December)
- Series 12: Supply Returns/Official Documents 1865
- Series 13: Civil War Related Documents
- Series 14: Correspondence (During Civil War)
- Series 15: Civil War Newspaper Clippings
- Series 16: Oversized Photographs and Drawings

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

Historical Sketch

The first of the Hunt family, Ralph Hunt, came to Long Island in 1652. Ralph's oldest son, Edward (b. 1656), was the father of Ralph Hunt, who had five sons with Elizabeth Osborne. His second son, Daniel Hunt (1729-1806), was the grandfather of Major William Hunt Sr. (1797-1867) and he owned and operated mills on the banks of the Raritan river in New Jersey. The community, then called "Hunt's Mills" is now Clinton, New Jersey. In 1788 Daniel was involved in Judge John Cleves Symmes' proposal to settle the Ohio land between the two Miami rivers. In 1804 Daniel transferred his Ohio properties to his second son Benjamin Van Cleve Hunt (1773-1841). Benjamin moved to Ohio in 1806 and built a brick house slightly north of the Simon Kenton Farm. In 1821 he added 1,690 acres in Clark County and in 1828 an additional 160 acres along the turnpike adjacent to his property. This became part of the route of the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad, connecting the Great Lakes to the Mississippi.

When Daniel Hunt died in 1806, Hunt's Mills was passed down to his oldest son Ralph (1765-1838), the father of Major William Hunt. In early 1828, William and his brother Ishi went to Ohio to purchase land. The following summer the rest of Ralph Hunt's family moved to Ohio where they stayed with Benjamin Hunt until they moved into their new brick home on Kenton Farm in 1832. Major William Hunt settled in Urbana, Ohio where he met Mary McCord. The couple married in 1830. William became the Urbana postmaster and was involved in buying and shipping livestock and grain from farms around Urbana to Cincinnati. After William's father Ralph died in 1838, William, his wife Mary and his five children moved to the Kenton Farm in 1842. They had six more children over the next 15 years.

In 1861, when the Civil War broke out, the Hunt family supported the Northern cause wholeheartedly. William's oldest son, Ralph Van Cleve Hunt (1831-1883) volunteered promptly and on September 9, 1861 he was captured near Antietam and imprisoned at Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. He was released in Jan 1862 and returned to duty with the Kentucky Volunteers. William's second son, William Jr. volunteered for the 17th Independent Ohio Light Artillery right out of college (at Princeton). He fought with Rosencrans at Chattanooga and thereafter down the Mississippi to New Orleans. During the war the Hunt daughters made and wrapped bandages and dressings for the Sanitary Corps and work with the Soldiers Aid Society.

After the war Ralph married Susan Gillette and moved away. William Jr. went to Texas (1866-67) to settle unfinished legal problems with his father's ex-business partner. William Sr. died in 1867 and his wife Mary stayed at the Kenton Farm until her death in 1881. In 1873 William Jr. married Laura Shellabarger. In 1877 Meta (Vote) McCord Hunt, the second youngest daughter, married Chandler Robbins (of Robbins and Myers).

In the mid-1960s the Kenton Farm (also known as the Hunt Homestead) was restored and opened for tours.

Scope and Content

The collection spans the years 1818 to 1965. Documents relating to Ralph and William Hunt's service in the Civil War make up the bulk of the collection.

Series and Folder Listing

Series	File	Description
1	1	Inventory of Hunt Papers at Wittenberg
	2	Hunt Family Genealogy and Tree (2000)
	3	Biographical Information: William Hunt and Mary McCord
	4	Photocopy of Agreement to build barn for Manuel Hunt (1830)
	5	Hunt Family Correspondence (1801-1848)
	6	William Hunt Jr. Notebook (1856)
	7	Pencil Sketches of William, Edward, and Juliet Hunt (Children of Edward (Ned) Hunt (1898)
	8	Letter from William Robbins to Edward Hunt (1950)
	9	Thank You note to Mrs. Edward Hunt (1962)
2	1	Blueprint of Kenton Farm (1926)
	2	History of Kenton Farm with yearly summaries (1926-1928), blueprints, and photographs
	3	“What went on around here at Kenton Farm” by Virginia Hunt (1958)
	4	Hunt Homestead Restoration Project (1960s)
	5	Simon Kenton Farm postcard advertisements (1960s)
	6	Simon Kenton drawing (1969) and composite photograph
3	1	“Sketches of Springfield: Account of the Early Settlement” (1852)
	2	“Yesteryear in Clark County” (1948)
	3	Ohio Grange Monthly – Magazine (Nov. 1957, July 1958)
	4	“Archaeology of Clark County” (1959)
	5	Map of Historical Places in Ohio from the Ohio Historical Society
	6	Ohio Masonic Home Dedication - 1895
4	1	(See Box for Box List – Listed by PC item number)
	1	Articles About Simon Kenton Farm
	2	Agreements for restoring and repairing Simon Kenton Farm – 1957-1958
	3	John H. James Biographical Material
	2	Beef Delivery Vouchers – August 1862 – R. Hunt
	3	Beef Delivery Receipts – Aug./Sept. 1862 – R. Hunt
	4	Correspondence and Receipts - 1861

	5	Subsistence Stores Issued – Aug./Sept. 1862 – R. Hunt
	6	Subsistence Stores Invoices – Aug./Sept. 1862 – R. Hunt
	7	Receipts – Aug./Sept. 1862 – R. Hunt
	8	Fuel and Stationary Requisitions – Dec. 1862 – R. Hunt
	9	Stores Received – Dec. 1862 – R. Hunt
	10	Provision Returns – 1862 – R. Hunt
	11	Rebel Papers Captured at Vicksburg – 1862 – W. Hunt
	12	Clothing and Camp Garrison Returns – Dec. 1862-Feb. 1863 – R. Hunt
	13	New Hires – Dec 1862-Feb 1863 – R. Hunt
	14	Stores Expended/Lost and Affidavits – Dec. 1862-Feb 1863 – R. Hunt
6	1	Subsistence Stores Returns – Jan 1863 – R. Hunt
	2	Stores Received and Transferred, Special Requisitions – Feb. 1863 – R. Hunt
	3	Officers List – Stationed at Vicksburg June 1863
	4	Report of Vicksburg Casualties – May-July 1863
	5	Springfield 17 th Ohio Battery Volunteer Enlistment Forms – Oct.-Dec 1863
	6	Unidentified Correspondence – 1863
	7	Quartermaster Reports from Convalescing Camp – 1863 – R. Hunt
	8	Letters from 17 th Infantry to Ralph Hunt – 1863
	9	Reports of Purchases – Nashville 1863 – R. Hunt
	10	Correspondence and Ordinances – 1863-64 – R. Hunt
	11	Returns – 1863-1864
7	1	Clothing and Camp Garrison Equipment Returns – Jan. 1864 – R. Hunt
	2	Chicago Mercantile Battery Returns – July 1864 – R. Hunt
	3	Chicago Mercantile Battery Returns – Aug. 1864 – R. Hunt
	4	Stores Turned Over, Receipts, Stores Expended – Aug./Sept. 1864 – W. Hunt
8	1	Receipts – Sept./Oct. 1864 – W. Hunt
	2	Discharges and New Hires – Sept./Oct. 1864 – W. Hunt
	3	Ordnance Train Report – Sept. 1864 – W. Hunt
	4	Blacksmith Report – Sept. 1864 – W. Hunt
	5	Veterinary Surgeons Report – Sept. 1864 – W. Hunt
	6	Reserve Artillery Stables Report – Sept. 1864 – W. Hunt
	7	Requests – Sept. 1864 – W. Hunt
	8	Special Requisitions – Sept. 1864 – W. Hunt
	9	New Hires – Sept. 1864 – W. Hunt

	10	Stores Transferred – Sept. 1864 – W. Hunt
	11	Stores Received – Sept. 1864 – W. Hunt
	12	Stores Expended/Destroyed – Sept. 1864 – W. Hunt
	13	Forage Issued to Public Animals – Sept. 1864 – W. Hunt
	14	Chicago Mercantile Battery Returns – Sept. 1864 – W. Hunt
	15	Ordnance Stores Returns – Sept. 1864 – W. Hunt
	16	Hires and Service Vouchers – Sept., Nov./Dec. 1864 – W. Hunt
	17	Stable Receipts – Sept. 1864
	18	Receipts
9	1	Requests for Supplies, Favors, and Services – Oct. 1864 W. Hunt
	2	Requests to Turn in Extra Supplies – Oct. 1864 – W. Hunt
	3	Ordnance Train Reports – Oct. 1864 – W. Hunt
	4	General Orders – Oct. 1864 – W. Hunt
	5	Reserve Artillery Stables Report – Oct. 1864 – W. Hunt
	6	Transferred Stores and Special Requisitions – Oct. 1864 – W. Hunt
	7	New Hires, Pay Vouchers, and Deserters – October 1864 – W. Hunt
	8	Forage Requisitions – Oct. 1864 – W. Hunt
	9	Stores Received – Oct. 1864 – W. Hunt
	10	Articles Expended, Lost, or Destroyed – Oct. 1864 – W. Hunt
	11	Veterinary Surgeons Reports – Oct. 1864 – W. Hunt
	12	Blacksmith Report – Oct. 1864 – W. Hunt
10	1	Blacksmith Report – Oct. 1864. – W. Hunt
	2	Veterinary Surgeons Report – Oct. 1864 – W. Hunt
	3	Ordnance Train Report – Oct. 1864 – W. Hunt
	4	New Hires – Sept., Nov. 1864 – W. Hunt
	5	Reserve Artillery Stable Reports – Nov./Dec. 1864 – W. Hunt
	6	New Hires and Pay Vouchers – Nov. 1864 – W. Hunt
	7	Memoranda – Nov. 1864 – W. Hunt
	8	Returns – Nov. 1864 – W. Hunt
11	1	Returns – Nov./Dec. 1864 – W. Hunt
	2	New Hires and Pay Vouchers – Nov./Dec. 1864, Jan 1865 – W. Hunt
	3	Quartermaster Returns – Dec. 1864 – W. Hunt
	4	Requisitions and Invoices for Ordnance Stores- 1864 – W. Hunt

	5	Blacksmith Reports – Dec 1864-Jan. 1865 – W. Hunt
	6	Cover Letters for Reports – Dec.1864-Jan. 1865 – W. Hunt
	7	Mammoth Stable Reports – Dec. 1864-Jan. 1865 – W. Hunt
	8	Bills and Receipts – New Orleans – 1864 – W. Hunt
	9	Equipment and Horse Requests – 1864 – W. Hunt
	10	“Instructions for making quarterly returns” – 1864
	11	Blank Muster Forms – 1864
	12	Correspondence and Reports - 1864
	13	Ordnance Returns – 1864-1865
	14	Quartermaster Returns – 1864-1865
	15	Acknowledgement Receipts and Property Returns – 1864-1865
12	1	Ordnance Train Report – Jan. 1865 – W. Hunt
	2	Quartermaster Returns – Jan. 1865 – W. Hunt
	3	Stores Transferred – Jan. 1865 – W. Hunt
	4	Stores Received – Jan. 1865 – W. Hunt
	5	Returns – April, May, June 1865 – W. Hunt
	6	Receipts for Nashville Purchases – 1865 – W. Hunt
	7	Receipts for New Orleans Purchases – 1865 – W. Hunt
	8	Correspondence and Receipts - 1865
	9	Quarterly Return – NO DATE
13	1	Roll of 17 th Ohio Battery (OVA)
	2	Springfield Zouave Guards Constitution – 1857
	3	Orders Concerning Veterans and Infantrymen
	4	Regiment Lists
	5	Empty Envelopes
	6	Travel Passes
	7	“Saved for Autographs”
	8	Autographs
	9	Business Cards
	10	Half-Way House Currency
	11	Payment Vouchers
	12	Post Office stamps
	13	Railroad Passes
	14	Entertainment Passes
	15	Confederate Currency
	16	“Civil War Letters of Petroleum V. Nasby”
	17	Statement from Cincinnati branch of Ohio Sanitary Commission - 1863
	18	William Hunt Reunion Invitation - 1868

14	1	Journal of Ralph Hunt while in Richmond Prison – 1861-1862
	2	Ralph Hunt Correspondence – 1861-1863
	3	William Hunt Jr. Correspondence – 1862-1863
	4	Letters from Home to William Hunt Jr. 1864-1865
	5	William Hunt Letters – November 1864
	6	Correspondence- Chicago Mercantile Battery – 1864
15	1	Newspaper Clippings
	2	Newspaper Clippings
	3	Newspaper Clippings
	4	Newspaper Clippings
	5	Newspaper Clippings
	6	Newspaper Clippings
16	1	Photographs and Drawings – See Box