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De La Hunt family papers

Title: De La Hunt family papers
Collection No: MSS.11
Extent: 0.7 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1856-1977

Abstract: The collection spans the period from the Civil War to World War II and contains correspondence, clippings, photographs, publications and miscellany related to the De La Hunt family of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Memphis, Tennessee.

Donor: Mildred Carruthers (estate agent), Memphis, on behalf of Ira De La Hunt, May 1981.

Processed by: Patricia M. LaPointe, 1981; Gerald Chaudron, 2014, 2018.

Access: Open to all researchers.

Language: English

Preferred Citation: De La Hunt family papers, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: January 2018

Biographical information

Joseph Vere De La Hunt (1856-1935), a native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, is the central member in this family collection, which also includes information on the Battle, Floyd, and Armstrong families. Joseph married Margaret F. Battle, daughter of Michael F. (d. 1899) and Mary Armstrong Battle (d. 1913), in Vicksburg on January 25, 1885. They had eight children who survived to adulthood: Joseph Purnell (d.1965), Clarence Battle (1890-1933), Edmund John, Ira De Sales, Norman G. (d. 1957), Florence Mary (d. 1977), Mary Angela and Margaret Louisa. Joseph worked on Mississippi riverboats from the age of 18, including the "Katie" and the "Issaquena" and became pilot of the "Belle of the Bends". He was then a pilot for the St. Louis, Vicksburg and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Memphis District from 1911 until 1929, retiring as a master pilot in the levee fleet.

Scope and contents

The collection spans the period from the Civil War to World War II and contains correspondence, clippings, photographs, publications and miscellany. Mary Armstrong Battle wrote and collected poetry. Among the pieces in the poetry collection is one entitled "Flowers of Memory", and the pressed bouquet which inspired it is included. There is also genealogical information on the De La Hunt, Battle and Armstrong families. The collection also contains information relating to Joseph De La Hunt's career as a riverboat captain on the Mississippi River. Included are Vicksburg newspapers on the 1878 yellow fever epidemic, including references to Memphis.

Subject terms

Armstrong, Thomas.
Battle family.
De La Hunt, Joseph Vere, 1856-1935.
Floods--Mississippi River--1920-1930.
River boats--Mississippi River.
Yellow Fever--History--Mississippi.

Inventory

Folder

Box 1

- 1 Civil War memorabilia – Thomas Armstrong, 1863-1865 and undated. Includes letter: Armstrong (9th Mississippi Infantry), camp near Shelbyville, Tenn., to sister, 1863 January 22; clippings.
 - 2 De La Hunt, Battle, Armstrong genealogy, 1856-1977. Includes correspondence, obituaries, clippings.
 - 3 Photographs, 1917, 1933, 1938 and undated. Includes images of Angela and Edmund De La Hunt, Marguerite De La Hunt, Margaret Battle De La Hunt, F.D. Battle.
 - 4 Photographs, unidentified, 1917; Galbraith Springs, Tenn., 1924, and undated.
 - 5 Business correspondence: Joseph Vere De La Hunt, 1908-1935. Includes U.S. Department of Commerce, Lighthouse Service notices.
 - 6 Documents: Michael F. Battle, deed, 1867; Clarence B. De La Hunt, radio operator license, 1923.
 - 7 Flood relief work: account by Joseph Vere De La Hunt 1927; clipping, 1937.
 - 8 Publications: *Woman's Life*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1893 December 15; *Hostetter's Illustrated United States Almanac 1894*.
 - 9 Publications: Newsletters from cruise ships: S.S. George Washington, 1925; S.S. Mohawk, 1927; S.S. Shawnee, 1928; "The U.P. Teller" (Union Planters National Bank and Trust Company), Vol. 2, No. 5, 1959 May; "Valley Line News", Vol. 2, No. 1, 1955 November/December.
 - 10 Diary, letters, cards, 1881-1943. Includes journal (Joseph V. De La Hunt?), 1915-1923.
 - 11 Ledger: Thomas J. Battle (1867-1901), 1881-1887.
 - 12 Poetry by Mary Armstrong Battle and others, 1860s-1900s.
 - 13 Riverboat items from newspapers, 1937, 1947 and undated (copies). Includes photograph of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Memphis District tugboat "De La Hunt", named after Joseph V. De La Hunt.
 - 14 Clippings: re: Vicksburg yellow fever epidemic, 1878.
- OS 1** *Madison Journal*, Delta, Madison Parish, La., 1878 September 3.
Vicksburg Evening Post, Vicksburg, Miss., 1884 September 16.
Vicksburg Herald, Vicksburg, Miss., 1878 August 31.
Vicksburg Weekly Herald, Vicksburg, Miss., 1878 October 11, pp.3-6.

Separated materials

The following material was separated from the collection and disposed of as follows:

50 cent bill, Confederate States of America, Richmond, 1863 April 6.
 Separated to Special Collections Currency collection.