MSS.0116. Hamner family collection finding aid
Hamner family collection finding aid

Title: Hamner family collection
Collection No: MSS.0116
Extent: 0.45 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1852, 1861-1865

Abstract: The majority of this collection is composed of original correspondence between James H. Hamner, a Confederate soldier, and his mother, Mrs. C. M. Stacy, during the Civil War. The letters were written in various places in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi, dating from December 12, 1861 – February 28, 1865.

Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: Hamner family collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis

Publication date: 2023 January


**Biographical Information**

James H. Hamner was a native Memphian, born ca. 1840, who fought under Nathan Bedford Forrest’s command in the Civil War. He was wounded at Fort Donelson, Tennessee, but nursed back to health by his mother in West Point, Mississippi. Still crippled by his wound, Hamner served as an ordinance officer with Forrest through the remainder of the war. After the war Hamner worked on the *Memphis Appeal* for forty years, then retired to the Amarillo, Texas area where he edited a county seat newspaper. He died sometime after World War I.

**Scope and contents**

This collection contains the original correspondence between James H. Hamner and his mother during the Civil War. In letters to his mother, Hamner describes the rigors of life in the Confederate Army and gives details of the battles in which he was engaged in (including Franklin, Murfreesboro, and Chickamauga) and his duties as an ordinance officer. Mrs. C. M. Stacy’s letters go into great minutiae about the conditions on the home front in the South during the war. She voices the fears and prejudices of her class in her estimation of the Union occupation troops and their activities. In this collection, there is also an original employment contract for Mrs. Stacy to teach school in 1852, and an introduction to the correspondence by John H. Hamner’s daughter, Laura V. Hamner, entitled “Attic Treasures.”

**Subject terms**

Civil War, U. S., 1861-1865
Personal correspondence.
Forrest, Nathan Bedford, 1821-1877
Fort Donelson (Tenn.)

**Processing information**

This collection was acquired by the West Tennessee Historical Society which received a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for processing.

**Inventory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>Folder 1</th>
<th>Original letters; Hamner and Stacy correspondence, 1862 January 7-1863 April 11 (7).</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OS 1</td>
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<td>Original letters; Hamner and Stacy correspondence, 1861 December 12-1863 August 10 (7).</td>
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<td>Folder 2</td>
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<td>Original letters; Hamner and Stacy correspondence, 1864 M. (May?) 11-1865 February 28 (10).</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Typed copies of original letters; Hamner and Stacy correspondence, 1861-1865 (56 pages).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Typed document; “Attic Treasures” by Laura V. Hamner, circa after 1916 (95 pages).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Document; employment contract for Mrs. C. M. Stacy; 1852. Typed copy of employment contract.</td>
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