

Houster Family Papers

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1842-1941

Title Statement

Houster Family Papers Guide to the Houster Family Papers MS 00246

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS 00246

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/2241

Unit Date

1842-1941

Language

English

Extent

0.60 Linear Feet

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

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Acquisition Information:

Purchase.

Processing Information:

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Preferred Citation:

Houster Family Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Biographical Information:

Henry F. Houster was born on June 24, 1837 in Cambria TWP, Niagara, NY and died October 29, 1862 in Sandy Hook, Washington, MD. He was buried at Mount View Cemetery, Pekin, Niagara, NY. His father was Jacob "Isiah" Houster, born August 4, 1802 and his mother Belinda Gould, born February 2, 1809 in NY.

On September 18, 1861, he enlisted, at Lockport; mustered in as private, Battery M, 1st Regiment, Light Artillery, October 14, 1861, to serve three years. He was appointed corporal, October 14, 1861; sergeant, February 6, 1862; and died, October 29, 1862, at Sandy Hook, Maryland. Politically, he affiliated with the Democratic party.

Scope and Contents

Papers of the Houster Family, primarily of Henry Houster (1837-1862) and Harriet (Hattie) Houster (1842-1931) of New York State. The collection was held by Harriet Houster. After her death, her sister Sarah Houster owned it.

The collection includes the papers of Henry F. Houster, a Democrat who enlisted in the Union Army in 1861. It also contains the papers of several Houster family members. Henry F. Houster's papers (1840s-1862) include political speeches and literary manuscripts written before the Civil War. During the war, Henry wrote and received several letters and he also wrote several political essays and produced a handwritten newspaper, the Camp Barry Herald.

Other family members' papers consist of correspondence and financial documents.

Keywords

New York (State)--Social life and customs

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Niagara County, NY

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Sources

Custodial History:

This collection was formerly identified as Mss. Acc. 2009.264.

Collection was held by Harriet Houster. After her death, her sister Sarah Houster owned it.

Arrangement of Materials:

Organized into two series: Series 1: Houstater Financial Documents and Series 2: Houstater Correspondence and Writings; Newspapers; Envelopes.

Description of Subordinate Components

Houstater Financial Documents

Unit ID id63972

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/197798

Unit Date 1836-1944

Scope and Contents

This series contains Houstater family bills, bonds, deeds, mortgages, taxes, wills and related documents.

Bills, Receipts and Related Records

Unit ID id60381

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/197803

Unit Date 1862-1931

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Various bills related to the Houstaters including a receipt for the transport of Henry's Houstater's body as well as an itemized bill for his funerary expenses.

Bonds

Unit ID id60377

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/197804

Unit Date 1859-1923

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Several bond documents related to the Houstater family including Harriet Houstater's own Bond paperwork.

Deeds and Land Surveys

Unit ID id60375

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/197805

Unit Date 1836-1943

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Documents related to lands owned by the Houstaters (Jacob Houstater and Martin Wolfe).

Mortgages and Payments

Unit ID id60382

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/197806

Unit Date 1862-1944

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Mortgages for the Houstaters and receipts of payment. Includes Jacob Houstater and Harriet Houstater as well as families related to the Houstaters.

Taxes and Payments

Unit ID id60376

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/197807

Unit Date 1842-1935

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (folder)

Scope and Contents

City documents regarding the Houstater's taxes. Many tax receipts from Jacob Houstater's property are included dated 1842-1888.

Wills and Related Records

Unit ID id60373

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/197808

Unit Date 1857-1938

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 6 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Contains several wills of family members Jacob Houstater, Chauncey Keep, Frances E. Lord and Genevieve Pike. Some are official legal documents and one is handwritten.

Houstater Correspondences and Writings; Newspapers; Envelopes

Unit ID id63973

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/197799

Unit Date 1862-1931

Scope and Contents

Contains letters and writings from various members of the Houstater family as well as their envelopes. Also includes several newspapers held by the family from the Civil War Era.

Correspondence

Unit ID id60383

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/197809

Unit Date 1857-1906

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 7 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Letters, telegrams and postal cards from Henry Houstater at Camp Barry to his family and letters to him during the Civil War are included. The telegram with the news of Henry's death to the family is available. Harriet Houstater also wrote a love letter entitled "What Hattie Thinks of Billy."

Removed Envelopes

Unit ID id63974

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/197810

Unit Date 1862-1906

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 8 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Contains the envelopes that held the letters contained in this collection.

Henry Houstater's Writings

Unit ID id60387

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/197811

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Many of these do not include dates. This folder contains various political essays with a clearly Democratic affiliation. One expressed dissatisfaction with the election of Lincoln and called for the election of Stephen Douglas.

Camp Barry Herald

Unit ID id60386

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/197812

Unit Date 1861-1862

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents

The Camp Barry Herald was a small paper produced by Henry Houstater. The pieces included are handwritten and feature news from the Civil War, poetry and art. One article recounts the death of a comrade in battle. Another imagines what United States would look like with Union victory and Lincoln's death.

Newspapers

Unit ID id60384

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/197813

Unit Date 1862-1864

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Newspapers collected by the Houstaters during the Civil War. The majority are affiliated with the Democratic party. Newspapers include: 1862 Lockport Daily Union (issues dated March 13, March 28, April 7, April 9, September 8, October 1, November 18); Niagra Democrat and Union from 1864; and two 1862 issues of the Lockport Chronicle.

Removed Envelopes Continued

Unit ID id63975

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/197814

Unit Date 1862-1906

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Removed envelopes continued.