De La Hunt family papers

Title: De La Hunt family papers
Collection No: MSS.11
Creator: De La Hunt family
Extent: 0.5 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, December 1981; Gerald Chaudron, April 2014.
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: De La Hunt family papers, Preservation and Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: April 2014
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 Memphis Districts Corps of Engineers 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. One file contains information from Vicksburg newspapers on the 1878 yellow fever epidemic, including references to Memphis.

Subject terms

SUBJECTS:
Floods--Mississippi River--1920-1930.
River boats--Mississippi River.
Yellow Fever--History--Mississippi.

NAMES:
Armstrong, Thomas.
Battle family.
De La Hunt, Joseph Vere, 1856-1935.
De La Hunt family.
Inventory

Box 1

Folder

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  De La Hunt family photographs, 1917, 1924 and undated. Includes images of Angela De La Hunt, Margaret Battle De La Hunt but most unidentified.


5  Documents: Michael F. Battle, deed, 1867; Clarence B. De La Hunt, radio operator license, 1923.

6  Flood relief work: account by Joseph Vere De La Hunt 1927; clipping, 1937.


10 Poetry by Mary Armstrong Battle and others, 1860s-1900s.


12 Clippings: Vicksburg Herald, Madison Journal, re: Vicksburg yellow fever epidemic, 1878; Vicksburg Evening Post, 1884 September 16