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HAMMAT FAMILY PAPERS, 1822-1862

Accession Number: 40

Processed By: Cora P. Teel; word-processed document typed by Amanda Quait, 1998.

Date Completed: September, 1974

Location: Special Collections Department

This collection was acquired from the late Giles Hammat by Dr. Elizabeth Cometti, of Marshall College.

Linear feet of shelf space: ½ ft.

Literary rights: assigned to Marshall University.

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Explanatory notes:

Bx refers to “box” in which papers are filed.

Fd refers to “folder”.

CONTENT AND SCOPE OF THE COLLECTION

The Hammat Family Papers consist primarily of correspondence between members of the Giles and Samuel Hammat families of Wood (later Pleasants) County, (West) Virginia and their relatives in Virginia and Missouri, between 1829 and 1860. Included in this portion of the papers are letters from Samuel B. Hammat to his brother John; they describe his journey down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers during the winter of 1846-1847. Also of interest are the letters written by various relatives describing their settlements in Missouri in the 1840's and 1850's.

Miscellaneous financial papers dating from 1822 to 1862 are also included; itemized store accounts make up the bulk of these documents.

HAMMAT FAMILY

The Hammat family originated in Loudon County, Virginia, before the Revolutionary War. At least two Hammat brothers, Giles and Samuel, migrated to the western-most counties of Virginia in the late 1830's. Another brother, Edward, remained in Leesburg, Virginia.

By 1832, Samuel and Giles were established in that part of Wood County, Virginia, which is now in Pleasants County, West Virginia. Samuel Hammat served as one of the first commissioners of the county court when the new county was formed in 1851, and Giles Hammat served on the first grand jury.

Giles Hammat had at least three children: John W., Richard, and Samuel B. He died in 1862.

Samuel Hammat married twice: first to Winifred Howell in 1811, then to Ellen Gale in 1832. With the latter, he had the following children: Mary Ellen, George S., John E., James W., Samuel C., Thomas C., and Robert G. Hammat.*

*Part of the biographical information was obtained from *The History of Pleasants County, West Virginia*, by Robert L. Pemberton (St. Mary's, West Virginia: The Arcade Press, 1929).

HAMMAT FAMILY PAPERS, 1822-1862

I. Correspondence

Bx 1 Correspondence

Fd 1 Correspondence - Giles Hammat, 1833-1853 6 items

July 6, 1833 - Baltimore: Letter from an acquaintance, Joseph Barnett, inquiring about cholera and discussing his plans to come out to Wood County by way of Wheeling.

Fd 2 Letter - Samuel Hammat, 1829 1 item

April 20, 1829 - Leesburg, Virginia: Letter to brother Giles, inquiring about why he hasn't written. Expects to be in Ohio in the summer. Remarks about the hard winter and slow business. Gives news of the family and local elections.

Fd 3 Correspondence - Samuel Hammat, 1845 1 item

March 22, 1845 - Leesburg, Virginia: Letter from William Shafer inquiring about the possibility of purchasing clay owned by Hammat in order that Shafer may pursue his trade as a potter.

Fd 4 Letters - Edward Hammat to Giles Hammat, 1837-1847 2 items

June 29, 1857 - Leesburg, Virginia: Letter discusses crops; complains about farming. Inquires about some land for sale in Wood County.

Fd 5 Letter - Edward Hammat to Samuel Hammat, 1836 1 item

September 17, 1836 - Leesburg, Virginia: Letter discusses high prices of grains and livestock; talk of friends who have moved south and west, and of his own desire to leave. Comments on land and crop speculation; about the upcoming presidential election; and the untrustworthiness of the Whigs.

- Fd 6 Letters - Edward Hammat to John Hammat, 1858-1859 2 items
- Sept. 29, 1858 - Leesburg, Virginia: Wants John to go south with Joseph Norris to look at his land and try to get a good price for it, but tells John he must pay his own way.
- Fd 7 Letters - S. B. Hammat to Giles Hammat, 1845-46 2 items
- Feb. 8, 1846 - Ravenswood, (West) Virginia: Samuel writes his father about his plans for the summer, comments about his past failures. Plans to visit as soon as possible.
- Fd 8 Letters - S. B. Hammat to John Hammat, 1845-1849 7 items
- October 3, 1846 - Cincinnati, Ohio: Writes his mother about his trip down river and his plans to remain on the boat during the coming winter.
- Sept. 25, 1859 - Lewis County, Missouri: Discusses poor crops and hard times; proposes to go further south. Comments on advisability of bringing suit for the land in Wood County: "You can do as you like...I am tired of Law. I have a house full of children to feed clothe and send to school and it is one man's work to keep the corners up without any more..."
- Fd 9 Correspondence - John Hammat, 1846-1860 4 items
- Sept. 28, 1860 - Winchester, Virginia: Letter from Watson discussing politics: "Yancy...is the greatest speaker that wears hair, though as big a villan as our nation can afford." He also invites John to the laying of the cornerstone of the University of the South.
- Fd 10 Letters - Richard Hammat, 1845, n.d. 2 items
- Jan. 12, 1845 - Mill Wood, Lincoln County, Missouri: Writes to his cousin, John Hammat, to give family news. He describes the land they have settled on in Missouri, describes the trip out, and tells John he has a girl picked out for him when he comes out.

Fd 11 Letter - Mary Hammat, 1845 1 item

May 31, 1845 - Coolspring: Letter to her nephew describes her visit with friends and relatives; writes of the affliction in her area of “adults...with the Bilious Fever and the children with the Scarlet Fever...” Wants him to sell some of her things and send her the money so she can purchase finery for her anticipated lengthy stay.

Fd 12 Letters - Margaret Hammat, 1843 1 item

April 29, 1843 - Millwood, Lincoln County, Missouri: Letter to her aunt, Mary Hammat, describing her mother’s recently completed settlement in Missouri. Sends messages to various friends and relatives remaining in (West) Virginia.

Fd 13 Correspondence - Mary Hammat, 1843 1 item

July 1, 1843 - New Glasgow Amherst City, Virginia: Letter from her sister, Nancy Thomas, relates family news. Tells Mary to come to Madison when she comes to visit, since Nancy will be going there in the fall.

Fd 14 Letter - Eddie Hammat, 1859 1 item

Feb. 15, 1859 - Perryville, Missouri: Letter to an unidentified brother describes the farm he has bought in partnership with Mr. Ellis, also comments on tight money and gives local market prices. Relates news of his family and inquires about friends.

II. Legal and Financial Papers, 1822-1862

Bx 2 Legal and Financial Papers

Fd 1 Bond - Giles Hammat, 1834 1 item

Fd 2 Deed and Agreements, 1822-1857 2 items

Fd 3 Account Book - John W. Hammat, 1838-1858 2 items

Fd 4	Accounts Against Giles Hammat, 1845-1857	7 items	⁶
Fd 5	Accounts - John W. Hammat, 1846-1859	7 items	
Fd 6	Notes - John W. Hammat, 1858-1859	2 items	
Fd 7	Promissory Note - Giles Hammat, 184_	1 item	
Fd 8	Statement - Giles Hammat Estate, 1862	2 items	
Fd 9	School Documents - 1860-n.d.	2 items	
Fd 10	Verse	1 item	