

A0437

Edson-Russ Family Papers, 1856-1900

1 folder (14 items)

Processed by Michelle Fullenkamp, May 2010

REPOSITORY

Missouri History Museum Archives

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DONOR INFORMATION

Papers were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Haugh of Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1987.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Hull Tower (1802-1880) and his brother Cotton Tower (1795-1881) married into the Edson family in Hardin County, Kentucky. Cotton Tower married Hannah Edson (1798-1873) in 1816, and Hull Tower married Hannah's sister Sarah Edson (1801-1887) in 1821. Hull and Sarah Tower eventually moved to Oakland, Oregon, and at least seven of their children also took up residence in the territories of Washington, Oregon, and California. Cotton and Hannah Tower took up residence in Leavenworth, Crawford County, Indiana.

Daniel Edson (born 1802; brother of Sarah Edson Tower and Hannah Edson Tower) and his wife, Rachel, had a daughter named Sylvia (born 1833). Sylvia (sometimes referred to as Sylva) married Henry M. Russ on April 7, 1852. Sylvia and Henry's son, Charles W. Russ (born 1867), married Nancy Ludla (born 1868) in 1887.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Collection consists primarily of correspondence to Rachel and Daniel Edson from the families of her brothers Cotton Tower (in Indiana) and Hull Tower (in Oregon). Collection also includes an issue of the *Bethany Weekly Union*, April 3, 1862; a receipt of Henry M. Russ, March 1, 1856; and an undated document listing births in the Russ family from 1867 to 1906.

- 1856 March 1 Receipt of Henrey M. Russ [Henry M. Russ] for his state, county, and road tax in Ewington, Effingham County, Illinois. Signed John G. Gamble.
- 1859 Feb Letter signed James B. Tower, Leavenwoth [Leavenworth], Ind., Crawford Co., to his aunt and uncle, Daniel and Rachel Edson. Discusses poor crops and religious revivals. Mentions many family members, including Wesley Tower, Ambros Tower, Robert [Robert Tower], and Mary Collins. He is the youngest son living at home with Julianne Patrick.
- 1862 April 3 Issue of the *Bethany Weekly Union* (Bethany, Missouri) (4 pages). Daniel Edson's name is handwritten across front page.
- 1863 Sept 15 Letter signed Hull and Sarah Tower, Oregon, to his brother and sister, Daniel and Rachel Edson. Discusses state of crops and Civil War. Mentions that "there are a few of the Coperheds [Copperheads] mixed among us but a large majority or Oregon and California are Strong Union." Comments on the number of churches and religious revivals. Their family connections in Oregon have grown to 37 family members. Mentions that Lafayett [Lafayette Tower] is an exhorter and Daniel [Daniel Tower] is a preacher in the United Brethren Church.
- 1864 March 15 Letter signed Hull and Sarah Tower, Oakland, Oregon, to brother and sister, Daniel and Rachel Edson. Discusses crops and recent scarlet fever epidemic. Mentions that they have had four grandchildren born: Abigail Smith, Harriet Powers, and Hannah Debaun have a son and Jane Ferguson has a daughter. Edwin Debaun [Hannah's husband] is thinking about moving to Walla Walla country.
- 1868 April 15 Letter signed Hull and Sarah Tower, Oakland Oregon to his brother and sister, Daniel and Rachel Edson. Mentions William Ferguson, Fanny Camel and other acquaintances. Discusses religion, revivals, and family health.
- 1874 October 16 Letter signed Hull and Sarah Tower, Oakland, Oregon, to brother and sister, Daniel and Rachel Edson. Mentions health of Daniel [Daniel Edson]. Discusses state of crops and religion. Mentions children's addresses:
Sarah J Ferguson, Walla Walla Sitty, Washington Territory
Daniel E. Tower, Walla Walla Sitty, Washington Territory
Harriet Powers, Summerville, Union County, Oregon
Hannah Debaun, Philomoh Benton County, Oregon

Abigail B Smith, Santabarbaray[Santa Barbara], California
Washington S. Tower, Oakland, Douglas County, Oregon
Lafayett [Lafayette Tower] lives with Hull and Sarah Tower in
Oakland, Oregon.

- 1874 July 24 Letter signed Hull and Sarah Tower, Oakland, Oregon, to brother and sister, Daniel and Rachel Edson. Mentions letter from Mercy Ann to William Smith. Mentions where some of their children are living, health and religion.
- 1875 June 25 Letter signed William and Sarah J. Ferguson and family, Walla Walla, WT [Washington Territory], to aunt, Rachel Edson. Writes of condolences on the death of Uncle Daniel [Daniel Edson]. Mentions John W. Brown in California.
- 1875, July 19 Letter signed Cotton Tower, near Leavenworth, Indiana, to sister Mrs. Rachel Edson. Lists seven children living including Elizabeth Doolittle and Mary R. Collins.
- 1899 July 16 Letter signed Abigail B. Smith and family to aunt Rachel Edson. Mentions her brother Daniel's death in the spring and Laphayett's [Lafayette's] folks are well.
- 1883 November 19 Letter signed William and Jane Ferguson, Walla Walla, WT [Washington Territory], to aunt Rachel Edson. Discusses their mother's health. Mentions that Hannah Debaun lost three girls to consumption.
- circa 1900 or after Document titled "Family Reckard." Reads: Charles Wesley Russ born May 26, 1867. Nancy Ludla Russ was born April 18, 1868. Hattie Pearl Russ was born March 29, 1888. George Orville Russ was born Feb. 1, 1890. William Henry Russ was born June 8, 1892. Clare Bessie Russ was born April 24, 1894, Viola Mabel Russ was born June 1st, 1897. Albert Russ was born May the 5, 1900. Elbert Russ was born May 5, 1900. "twins"
- No date Unsigned note that includes verses from a religious song ballad. Note concludes with text in code.