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Gardner Family Papers, 1846-1928

3 folders

Processed by Dennis Northcott, February 2011

REPOSITORY

Missouri History Museum Archives

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DONOR INFORMATION

Papers were donated by Mrs. C.W. Rapp in July 1966 (accession number: 66-0050).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Benjamin Gardner (born circa 1772 in New Jersey) and his wife, Elizabeth Gardner (born circa 1779 in Pennsylvania), resided in Clarion County, Pennsylvania in the mid-19th century. One of their children, Hiram Gardner, resided in Van Buren County, Iowa.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Papers contain Gardner family correspondence.

Folder 1

- 1846 Mar 2 Letter signed Elizabeth Gardner, Richland, to her children. Advises her children to read the Bible; mentions that John Delo was badly injured in an accident; and mentions that George Morgan sold his place. Appended to the letter is a letter signed "E.W.G." to "Dear Aunt and Uncle."
- 1846 June 14 [or 19] Letter signed A.P. Gardner [Ann P. Gardner?], Galena, Ill., to "Dear E." [Mrs. Emily Gardner], Bonaparte, Van Buren County, I.T. [Iowa Territory]. She is anxious to hear from Hiram, who recently left for the pinery on the Wisconsin River. Mentions that business is dull, and gives a brief, unflattering assessment of Galena. (includes typescript transcription)
- 1849 June 16 Letter signed Elizabeth Gardner, Richland, to her son Hiram. Consists primarily of quotes from scriptures. Mentions James Junkin and Dr. Chalmers.
- 1850 Apr 22 Letter signed Elizabeth Gardner to her son Hiram Gardner, Keosauqua, Van Buren County, Iowa. Advises him not to bring his family on the long journey to visit her. Encourages him to place his trust in God. Mentions that Amanda Gardner is getting married, and that James Junkin has married. (includes handwritten transcription)
- 1852 Mar 4-6 Letter signed Benj. Gardner, Jr. [Benjamin Gardner, Jr.], Clarrion Co. [Clarion County], to his brother. Discusses an injury he suffered while hauling logs; the prevalence of fever; a house built by his father; Louis Kossuth; the price of wheat, pork, and lumber; and family news. Mentions the deaths of old Mr. Laughlin and Abraham Frampton. Also mentions Wm. Elder [William Elder], F.G. Craig, John Craig, John Elliott, and Joseph Junkin. (includes typescript transcription)
- 1853 Apr Letter signed Benjamin Gardner to his children. Discusses sickness among various family members. Inquires about his daughter's desire to go to California. Advises them to put their faith in God. Mentions the death of John Craig. (includes handwritten transcription)
- 1853 Dec 11 Letter signed E. Gardner [Elizabeth Gardner] to her son Hiram. Complains that she hasn't received letters from her children. Mentions that she received the news of the birth of Hiram's son. Appended to the letter is a letter signed Eliza J. Elliott, Glade run, to her uncle, December 14, 1853, discussing family news. (includes typescript transcription)
- 1853 Dec 26 Letter signed Benjn. Gardner [Benjamin Gardner] and appended letter signed Elizabeth Gardner to their children. Offers their condolences upon the death of their grandson. (Letter is faded and difficult to read.)

- 1854 Feb 15 Letter signed John S. Gardner to his brother Hiram Gardner, Van Buren County, Iowa. Sympathizes with his brother regarding the death of Hiram's son, and mentions the death of his daughter Susan and five sons. Mentions that he is heavily in debt; mentions his son-in-law G.W. Couper; and mentions the death of John Craig. (includes typescript transcription)
- 1854 Mar 13 Letter signed Perry G. Nichols to cousin Hiram Gardner. Describes his trip from the Mississippi to Ohio; mentions family members who had the "sore eyes"; mentions the marriage of uncle Joseph Arbaugh to Miss Margery Gray by Ebenezer Pyle; and mentions Jacob Clesters, uncle James Drake, uncle David Mellinger, and Alexander Haagen. (includes typescript transcription)
- Folder 2**
- 1858 Feb 22 Typescript copy of letter of Elizabeth Gardner, Callensburg, Pa., to her son Hiram. Mentions that she is waiting to die, and that her husband died insolvent.
- 1858 May 23 Letter signed John S. Gardner to his brother Hiram. Mentions that their father died insolvent, and that he deeded half of his estate to Maria Elliott before his death. Mentions that he wants to visit Dr. Hamilton in Caldwell County, Missouri. Encourages Hiram to visit their mother before her death. Mentions John Craig. (includes typescript transcription)
- 1859 Sept 2 Letter signed Mattie A. Gardner, Callensburg, to her uncle. Discusses family news; mentions that Nas is married to John Timlen; and mentions two heavy frosts that killed almost all their grain. Includes appended letter signed Elizabeth Gardner to her son Hiram. (includes typescript transcription)
- 1860 Dec 3 Letter signed Maria B. Elliott, Cherry Run, to her brother Hiram Gardner. Discusses the poor health of their mother, and that Ellie Gardner is their mother's constant attendant. Includes appended letter of Marie Elliott to Emily Gardner. (includes handwritten transcription)
- 1862 Aug 10 Letter signed Perry Phillips, 6th Division Hospital, to his mother. Mentions that he is staying in widow Phillips' house, and describes her farm; mentions the visit of some women with the sanitary committee, including Mrs. Wittenmeyer of Dubuque, Iowa; mentions that some soldiers stole some cows; and mentions fellow soldier Wm. Muir. (includes typescript transcription)
- 1863 Jan 3 Letter signed Ida J. Elliott, Maple Grove, Pa., to her uncle. Describes the death of her grandmother. (includes typescript transcription)
- 1863 July 19 Letter signed J.C. Elliott, Clarion, to brother and sister. Mentions that

Pennsylvania is in a state of panic due to Lee's raid to Harrisburg; mentions oil business; and mentions George Lear and C. Hutch. Includes appended note signed M.B. Elliott. (includes typescript transcription)

1863 Dec 25 Letter signed John S. Gardner to his brother Hiram and family. Discusses family news; mentions the prices for wheat, oats, rye, and hay; and thanks his brother for offering to pay his debt to J. Reynolds. Includes appended letter signed Isabelle S. Gardner to her niece. (includes typescript transcription)

Folder 3

1864 Feb 8 Letter signed Laura Phillips to her sister Emily. Describes Perry Phillips' poor health after coming home on furlough; mentions that John W. has re-enlisted and that they will soon be married; and mentions that Jenny Roberts and Abe Wilkins were married. (includes typescript transcription)

1864 Feb 29 Letter signed Lizzie S. Agnew, Oakdale, Pa., to uncle Hiram Gardner. Discusses family news and his improving health, and mentions Dr. Fitch. (includes typescript transcription)

1864 Oct 21 Letter signed Laura Watkins to her sister Emily Phillips Gardner. Briefly discusses guerrilla activity in Van Buren County, Iowa. Mentions Albert [Albert Phillips], Isaac Green, Marion Allison, and Mary Cubberly's cousin Lewis. (includes typescript transcription)

1868 Aug 29 Letter signed E.P. Bunce, Versailles, Ill., to his pupil Miss Laura J. Gardner [or Miss Laura I. Gardner], Naples, Ill. States that he is opening a school, and proposes that she lives with him and his wife and do housework in exchange for instruction at school. Letter is written on stationery of the National Live Stock Insurance Co., Leavenworth, Kansas.

1885[?] Dec 16 Letter signed Granma to Laura and Elmer. She hopes that in a few years land will take a boom, and she will sell her property. She also discusses her health. Letter is written on stationery engraved "Oakleigh."

circa 1888 Typescript copy of letter of "Mother" [Emily Phillips Gardner] to unknown recipient. Discusses plots of land for sale in the vicinity of Fowler, Kansas. Mentions Mr. Mahew, whose wife recently died; Volney; Mr. Snow; and Mr. Hockaday.

1894 Dec 2 Letter signed Martha A., Blairs Corner, [Pennsylvania], to her uncle. Describes the death of her father. (includes typescript transcription)

1928 Mar 31 Letter signed Mrs. Janet Carroll, Ottumwa, Iowa, to her cousins. Describes the death of her father. (includes typescript transcription)

no date

Letter signed Almira Swasey to her sister Emily Gardner. Mentions that Horace is in Barton County, Missouri, running a steam saw mill. Mentions that Hiram Swasey married a girl in Kirksville. Briefly discusses family news. (includes typescript transcription)

no date

Letter signed Elizabeth S. Gardner, Oakdale farm, Clarion County, Pennsylvania, to her uncle Hiram Gardner. Discusses family news and mentions her teacher Benjamin O. Junkin. Includes appended note signed Caroline S. Gardner. (includes typescript transcription)

no date

Letter signed Lois Green to her cousin Emily Gardner. Discusses family news and mentions that she has no prospect of getting married. Includes appended letter signed Waty Green to Evaline and Elmira Phillips. (includes typescript transcription)