This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

This is correspondence of the Hunter and Hagler families of Jasper, Lawrence, and Polk counties in Missouri. The letters were written by Elizabeth Hunter and her daughters, Priscilla A. Hunter and Charlotte Elizabeth (Hunter) Hagler, and were addressed to another daughter, Margaret (Hunter) Newberry. Topics include news of family and friends, turmoil during the Civil War, farm life, and religious matters.

Elizabeth Hoge (1806-1870) and Moses Hunter (1808-1877) married in Montgomery County, Virginia, in 1832. They were the parents of eleven children, all of whom were born in Virginia. In 1857, the family moved to Missouri where they lived on a farm in the White Oak community in northwestern Lawrence County or northeastern Jasper County, Missouri.

The family correspondence consists of letters to Margaret “Mag” Hoge Hunter (1836-1925), the second child of Moses and Elizabeth Hunter. Margaret married the Rev. Robert D. Newberry in 1858. The Newberrys moved first to Illinois, and then, after the Civil War, to Virginia. The letters to Margaret Newberry were written by her mother, Elizabeth, and her sisters, Charlotte Elizabeth “Lizzie” Hunter (1843-1910), and Priscilla A. Hunter (1846-1868). Charlotte Elizabeth married Lindsey “Linzy” Hagler, a native of Lawrence County, in 1861. Priscilla lived with her parents until her death in 1868.

The collection includes thirteen letters beginning in July 1864 and continuing through December 1880. Five of the thirteen were written during the Civil War. They tell of increasing instability and violence in Jasper and Lawrence counties, most of which is attributed to bushwhackers. After the murders of several of their neighbors, and after having been robbed themselves, the Hunters sold their farm in 1865 and left Missouri for Buckhart in Christian County, Illinois. Lizzie and Linzy Hagler also left for Illinois, locating at Springfield.

The Hunters returned to Missouri after the war. By 1870, Moses and Elizabeth were living near Mount Vernon. Lizzie and her husband lived, successively, in Lawrence, Jasper, and Polk counties. The postwar letters in the collection chronicle births and deaths, including that of Elizabeth Hunter in 1870, and contain news of family members and acquaintances, religious matters, farm life, and events in the local communities.

Date             To   From   Place
ca. Jul 1864 “Sister Mag”   P. A. Hunter   [Missouri]
11 Aug 1864  “Mag”  E. Hunter  White Oak, Mo.
            Priscilla A. Hunter

25 Sep 1864  “Mrs. Mag Newberry”  P. A. Hunter  Ozark Prairie, Mo.

01 Nov 1864  “My Dear Children”  Elizabeth Hunter  White Oak, Mo.
            Priscilla A. Hunter

10 Jan 1865  “Mag”  E. Hunter  Lawrence Co., Mo.
            P. A. Hunter

13 Jul 1866  “Mag”  E. Hunter  Buckhart, Ill.

14 Sep 1866  “Mag”  E. Hunter  [Illinois]

02 Nov 1866  “Mrs. Mag Newberry”  Lizzie Hagler  Springfield, Ill.

04 Feb 1867  “Mag”  E. Hunter  Buckhart, Ill.

28 Feb 1870  “Mag”  E. Hunter  White Oak, Mo.

15 Nov 1870  “Sister”  Lizzie Hagler  Lawrence Co., Mo.

30 Jun 1874  “Sister”  Lizzie Hagler  Jasper County, Mo.

23 Dec 1880  “Sister”  Lizzie Hagler  Morrisville, Polk

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