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## INTRODUCTION

Correspondence and miscellaneous material of a northwest Missouri family. Correspondence includes letters from William S. Hayter who was with General Stephen W. Kearny in the Southwest during the Mexican War; letters from Washington and Thomas J. Hayter describing their lives in the Oregon Territory; letters from Henry Colman during his trips down the Mississippi; letters from Mary Colman Belt to her family in Texas; and letters of Thomas H. Colman and Abraham G. Hayter, soldiers in the Confederate Army.

## DONOR INFORMATION

The Colman-Hayter Family Papers were donated to the University of Missouri on October 20, 1953 by Robert Elgin, grandson of Marion P. and Jane Colman-Collins.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

James H. and Sarah Hayter resided in Franklin, Howard County, Missouri. Their children included: Elizabeth, William S., Washington, Thomas J., and Abraham G.

Elizabeth married Henry Colman, a merchant in Liberty, Missouri, who later moved to Weston, Missouri, east Texas, and then to Platte City, Missouri. Their children included Mary, Deborah, Jane, A. Jackson, Thomas H., John C., Ann, Sarah, Robert, and Cassie.

In 1846 William S. Hayter went with General Stephen W. Kearny to the Southwest to fight in the Mexican War. He returned to Howard County, then journeyed to California during the Gold Rush, where he died in 1850. Washington and Thomas J. Hayter settled in Oregon in the 1850s. One of Elizabeth's sons, John C. Colman, accompanied them. Shortly thereafter John C. left his uncles, wandered through California, and eventually returned to Missouri.

In the late 1850s Henry and Elizabeth Colman, along with many of their children, moved from Weston to east Texas. At least one of their children, Mary Colman Belt, remained in Missouri. At the onset of the Civil War, Thomas H. Colman joined the Confederate Army and served for the entire war. Abraham G. Hayter also joined the Confederate Army as one of Price's Missouri Volunteers.

After the Civil War Henry Colman returned to Missouri, apprenticed as a tinsmith, saved his money, and with the help of his son-in-law, George W. Belt, established a store in Platte City. Some of his children stayed in Texas while others returned to Missouri. Ann married a Mr. Poole during the war, Jane married Marion P. Collins, and Deborah married a Mr. Perry.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Colman-Hayter Family Papers consist of correspondence and miscellaneous material. The correspondence is arranged chronologically and primarily consists of letters between various family members. The chief correspondents are William S. Hayter, Henry Colman, Thomas J. Hayter, Mary Colman Belt, and Thomas H. Colman, a soldier in the Texas 11th Cavalry during the Civil War.

The letters often told of, or inquired about, the health of family members and the

neighborhood, deaths, prices of goods, social events, and future plans. Thomas H. Colman's Civil War letters span the entire war. While the letters do not go into detail about the battles he was in, they do describe camp conditions, his feelings about foraging and capturing enemy goods, and his view of conditions in the South.

The miscellaneous material includes funeral announcements, grade cards, a notebook belonging to Mollie Waller that contains essays and loose material from the notebook that includes acrostics, home remedies, and recipes. Mollie Waller was Marion P. Collins' first wife before he married Jane Colman. Colman-Hayter-Collins family tree follows this inventory.

## FOLDER LIST

## Correspondence

- f.1 1839-1849
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- f.3 1855-1856
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## Miscellaneous

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- f.11 Notebook, 1860s
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