

Redding-Hamilton Civil War Letters Collection, 1855, 1863-1865

repository: Local History Room, Buchanan District Library, Buchanan, MI (<http://www.buchananlibrary.org/local-history-room>).

finding aid: Composed by Peter Lysy, June 2015; updated August 2015.

extent: 2" (1 box)

biographical sketch: Roxcinda S. "Cinda" Redding, daughter of John and Catherine (Lambert) Redding, was born in Michigan in June 1847 and lived at or near Dayton, Bertrand Township, Berrien County, Michigan. She married Francis Marion "Frank" Hamilton on 22 February 1866 and died in 1931. She is buried in Bakertown Cemetery, Bertrand Township.

Francis Marion "Frank" Hamilton, the son of Nathaniel and Hannah (Stockwell) Hamilton, was born in Michigan on 17 October 1841. A resident of Buchanan, Michigan, he enlisted on 21 March 1863 as a private in the 11th Battery Michigan Light Artillery (also known as Battery L, 1st Regiment Michigan Light Artillery) and served in Kentucky and Tennessee in the 1863 Knoxville Campaign and then on garrison and outpost duty in East Tennessee through 1864 and 1865. He mustered out with his unit at Jackson, Michigan, on 22 August 1865 and returned to Dayton, where he married Roxcinda Redding on 22 February 1866. He worked for years as a laborer before acquiring his own farm. He died on 6 July 1915 and lies buried next to his wife in Bakertown Cemetery.

scope and content: The bulk of this collection consists of 25 letters that Hamilton wrote to Redding while serving in the army. It is clear that Hamilton wrote additional letters as well, but they have not survived. Generally, in his letters Hamilton devotes more time to personal feelings and his relationship with Roxcinda than to details of soldier life. The unit saw little action, and consequently there is little battle content. Still, the letters are revealing of life in a peripheral theatre of war and of a nineteenth century epistolary courtship.

series: 1. Letters from Francis Marion "Frank" Hamilton (11th Battery Michigan Light Artillery) to Roxcinda Redding, 1863-1865

folder: 1/1 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 10 August 1863

folder: 1/2 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 1 October 1863

folder: 1/3 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 29 October 1863, Camp Morris Town, TN

folder: 1/4 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 22 May 1864

folder: 1/5 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 28 May 1864

folder: 1/6 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 28 May 1864

folder: 1/7 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 5 June 1864

folder: 1/8 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 11 June 1864, Cumberland TN-KY-VA

folder: 1/9 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 18 June 1864, Cumberland Gap, TN

folder: 1/10 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 25 June 1864, Cumberland Gap, TN

folder: 1/11 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), __ July 1864, Knoxville, TN

folder: 1/12 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 2 July 1864, Knoxville, TN

folder: 1/13 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 4 July 1864, Knoxville, TN

folder: 1/14 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 31 July 1864

folder: 1/15 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 21 August 1864

folder: 1/16 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 6 September 1864

folder: 1/17 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 12 September 1864, Knoxville, TN

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folder: 1/18 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), fragment, possibly mid or late 1864

series: *Frank Hamilton to Roxcinda Redding Letters (continued)*

folder: 1/19 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 14 October 1864, Knoxville, TN
folder: 1/20 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 22 October 1864, Knoxville, TN
folder: 1/21 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 14 February 1865, Strawberry Plains, TN
folder: 1/22 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 22 March 1865, Strawberry Plains, TN
folder: 1/23 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 4 May 1865, Knoxville, TN
folder: 1/24 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 14 May 1865
folder: 1/25 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Frank Hamilton (11th MI By), 9 July 1865, Knoxville, TN
folder: 1/26 Poem titled "Fifty Cents a Day", ca.1863-1865

series: 2. Other Letters, 1855, 1863-1865

folder: 1/27 Letter to Alanson _____ from H.(?) Hardman(?), 21 August 1855, Dowagiac, MI
folder: 1/28 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Electa Lambert, 22 February 1863
folder: 1/29 Letter to "Dearest friend" from [unsigned], 27 September 1863
folder: 1/30 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Jesse Brumbaugh, 21 January 1864, Greenville, OH
folder: 1/31 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Curtis (Vantilburg?), 28 February 1864
folder: 1/32 Letter to Mrs. Cathern Hughes from William S. Lambert (G, 26th Michigan Infantry Regiment), 13 May 1864
folder: 1/33 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Emma Rose, 23 May 1864, Buchanan, MI
folder: 1/34 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Marsella Redding, 19 June 1864, Hudson, IN
folder: 1/35 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from C(urtis?) Vantilburgh, 26 June 1864
folder: 1/36 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Leroy Cartwright, 8 August 1864
folder: 1/37 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Monroe Redding (A, 6th Michigan Heavy Artillery Regiment), 29 November 1864, Fort Morgan, AL
folder: 1/38 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Delos D. Wilson (C, 12th Michigan Infantry Regiment), 9 March 1865, Camp Blair, Jackson, MI
folder: 1/39 Letter to Roxcinda Redding from Delos D. Wilson (C, 12th Michigan Infantry Regiment), 4 April 1865, Duvalls Bluff, AR

series: 3. Envelopes, 1863-1865

folder: 1/40 Envelopes (23) to Roxcinda Redding from Frank M. Hamilton (11th Battery Michigan Light Artillery), 1863-1865
folder: 1/41 Envelope (1) to Frank M. Hamilton (11th Battery Michigan Light Artillery) from Roxcinda Redding, 23 August 1864
folder: 1/42 Envelopes (8, two of which are blank) to Roxcinda Redding from Various Persons, ca.1863-1865

series: 4. Reference Material, 2015

folder: 1/43 Biographical Information Concerning Correspondents by Robert D. Brown, *Friends of Oak Ridge Cemetery Newsletter*, vol. 10 #3 (July 2015), pages 1-4