Gideon Anthony Hamilton Papers mssHM 26463-26512, mssHM 50923-50975

Gina C Giang
The Huntington Library
September 2019
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: The Huntington Library
Title: Gideon Anthony Hamilton papers
Identifier/Call Number: mssHM 26463-26512, mssHM 50923-50975
Physical Description: 2.5 Linear Feet(2 boxes)
Physical Description: 105 Items
Date (inclusive): 1874-1925
Abstract: The collection consists primarily of letters from Gideon Anthony Hamilton to his friend Samuel Frank Dexter in Pawtucket, Rhode Island from 1874-1922.
Conditions Governing Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.
Conditions Governing Use
The Huntington Library does not require that researchers request permission to quote from or publish images of this material, nor does it charge fees for such activities. The responsibility for identifying the copyright holder, if there is one, and obtaining necessary permissions rests with the researcher.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item]. Gideon Anthony Hamilton papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Immediate Source of Acquisition
Purchased from Maxwell Hunley, April 21, 1961.
Custodial History
The entire collection was originally owned by William Burger, who sold half of it to Maxwell Hunley, who in turn sold his half to the Huntington Library. Mr. Burger's portion later came to the Huntington Library to complete the collection. The two parts can be identified through their separate HM numbers (HM 26463-26512 and HM 50923-50975), but they have been combined into one collection to aid scholars.
Biographical / Historical
In 1864, Gideon Anthony Hamilton began working in the Comstock mines in Virginia City, Nevada. He traveled to South America working on Henry Meiggs' railroad project in Peru and crossed Costa Rica on horseback in 1872. He returned to Virginia City until 1878 when he invested in property in Mason Valley, Esmeralda County, Nevada. He sold his interest in the property in 1880 and went to San Francisco, California, and later to Oakland and finally Visalia, where he passed away in 1924.
Scope and Contents
The collection consists primarily of letters from Gideon Anthony Hamilton to his friend Samuel Frank Dexter in Pawtucket, Rhode Island from 1874-1922. In these letters he discusses life in Virginia City and Esmeralda County, the growing development of Mason Valley, and Hamilton's interest in ornithology. There are also some comments on life in San Francisco, California, and reminiscences of his overland journeys in 1863 and across Costa Rica in 1872. At the end of the collection are lyrics of songs copied by Gideon Anthony Hamilton, a photograph of Gideon Anthony Hamilton (1893), and some ephemera.
Processing Information
Processed by Virginia Rust, 1985. In 2019, Gina C Giang created the finding aid derived from legacy summary report.
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Mines and mineral resources -- Nevada
Overland journeys to the Pacific
Silver mines and mining -- Nevada -- Virginia City
Costa Rica -- Description and travel
Comstock Lode (Nev.) -- History -- Sources
Esmeralda County (Nev.) -- History -- Sources
Mason Valley (Nev.) -- History -- Sources
San Francisco (Calif.) -- History -- Sources
Virginia City (Nev.) -- History -- Sources
Letters (correspondence) -- California -- 19th century
Letters (correspondence) -- Nevada -- 19th century
Dexter, Samuel Frank

Box 1, Folder 1-46  Gideon Anthony Hamilton letters to Samuel Frank Dexter
                  HM 26463-26503, HM 50925-50930 1874-1880
Box 1, Folder 47  Samuel Frank Dexter to Gideon Anthony Hamilton
                 HM 50923 1880 December 9
                 Scope and Contents
                 Sketch map of Mason Valley, Nevada, area and note. Enclosed in: Letter from Gideon
                 Anthony Hamilton to Samuel Frank Dexter, 1880 December 9.

Box 1, Folder 48-58  Gideon Anthony Hamilton letters to Samuel Frank Dexter
                    HM 26504-26510, HM 50930-50933 1880-1883
Box 2, Folder 1-34  Gideon Anthony Hamilton letters to Samuel Frank Dexter
                    HM 26511, HM 50934-50964, HM 50974 1885-1901
Box 2, Folder 35  Gideon Anthony Hamilton. Note regarding photograph of Mount Kaweah written in
                 scrapbook FAC 1063 1902 July 29
                 Scope and Contents
                 Also: Enlargement of photograph of Mount Kaweah, Tulare County, California and note of
                 explanation by donor.

Box 2, Folder 36-40  Gideon Anthony Hamilton letters to Samuel Frank Dexter
                    HM 50965-50969 1902-1906
Box 2, Folder 41  Gideon Anthony Hamilton letter to Wheaton "Wheatie" Dexter
                  HM 50971 1907 February 6
Box 2, Folder 42  Maria D. Hamilton letter to Mrs. Samuel Frank Dexter
                 HM 50975 1910 August 17
Box 2, Folder 43  Gideon Anthony Hamilton letter to Mrs. Samuel Frank Dexter
                 HM 50970 1910 August
Box 2, Folder 44-45  Gideon Anthony Hamilton letters to Wheaton "Wheatie" Dexter
                    HM 50972-50973 1913-1914
Box 2, Folder 46  Gideon Anthony Hamilton letter to Anthony Dexter
                 HM 50924 1922 December 19
Box 2, Folder 47  Ephemera 1879-1925
                 Scope and Contents
                 Includes: Fragment listing date and causes of death of Gideon Anthony Hamilton; fragments
                 of letters; clippings; and Arcata and Mad River R.R.C. Manifest of Cargo.

Box 2, Folder 48  Lyrics of songs copied by Gideon Anthony Hamilton undated
                 Physical Description: 7 sheets.

Box 2, Folder 49  Photograph of Gideon Anthony Hamilton 1893