

C Hamilton, T.M. "Ted" (1905-2001), Papers, 1922-1984
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INTRODUCTION

Papers of Saline County, Missouri, farmer and expert on historic and prehistoric weaponry. Correspondence on archaeological and historical topics, as well as personal, business, and local civic affairs. Also includes photographs, notes, organizational materials, publications, and manuscripts on Hamilton's archaeological interests.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by T.M. Hamilton on 17 April 1981 (Accession No. 4338). An addition was made on 5 May 1984 by T.M. Hamilton (Accession No. 4572).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Theodor Mentzel Hamilton was born and grew up in Callaway County, Missouri. First educated in local one room schools, he later attended Penn Academy in Oskaloosa, Iowa, and then took a B.S. in mechanical engineering at Tri-State Engineering College, Angola, Indiana, in 1930. Unable to find work as an engineer during the Depression, Hamilton became a buyer for the *Chicago Tribune* and then later for Ideal Industries of Sycamore, Illinois, meanwhile marrying Leone Bailey and becoming father of two sons. In 1947, dissatisfied with city life, he returned to Missouri where he and his brother Henry farmed the land they had purchased together in Saline County. After a period of struggle, the farm prospered; in 1960, T.M. and Leone Hamilton built their "dream house" in the small Missouri village of Miami and became community leaders.

Hamilton's success as a farmer gave him the time to pursue his interests in archaeology. Involvement in the Missouri Archaeological Society and the encouragement of archaeologists such as Carl Chapman of the University of Missouri led Hamilton to combine archaeological methodology with his skills in shooting and archery into a formal study of early American weapons. In time his expertise grew and publications appeared. Museums, government agencies, and academicians increasingly sought his aid, and, although officially an "amateur," Hamilton came to be ranked as a peer by many prestigious professional archaeologists.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Although manuscripts, research notes, photographs, organizational materials, and publications are present, this is largely a collection of correspondence from the early 1950s through the early 1980s. Much of that correspondence deals with Hamilton's activities in American archaeology, not only tracing his maturation from an enthusiastic novice to a respected and published authority, but also documenting many of the developments in the discipline during these years. The other materials mentioned above

primarily illustrate Hamilton's work in colonial frontier firearms and Native American archery. Hamilton's personal correspondence constitutes a smaller but no less significant segment of the papers. A successful farmer and a civic leader in Saline County, Missouri, he had both the perspective and the inclination to comment upon local politics, history, agriculture, social conditions, economics, and recreation. His opinions about national and international events are frequent and colorful. To a great extent the original order of the papers has been retained: Hamilton's subject files are restructured and arranged alphabetically; dated materials are arranged chronologically within the files. Correspondence and other materials may be interfiled or filed separately within series depending upon the manner in which clarity is best served.

Pictorial materials have been retained in their original form. Because copyright has not been determined, photographs cannot be reproduced.

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 Angola Gun, c. 1978. Manuscript describing gun excavated from archaeological site, Angola, Louisiana.
- f. 2-41a Archery.
- f. 2-35 Correspondence, 1954-1981. Archery and related topics, including Native Americans, bow fabrication, and publication of works on the subject. Major correspondents are Edward McEwen and William Paterson of the Society of Archer Antiquaries.
- f. 36-38 Research files, 1957-1969, n.d. Drafts, notes and publications.
- f. 39-41 Organizational Materials, 1957-1969. Newsletters and other papers from the Society of Archer Antiquaries.
- f. 41a "Bow and Gun in Early America," 1957. Original manuscript version of *Native American Bows*, 1972, by T.M. Hamilton.
- f. 42 Atlats, 1938-1942, 1956. Complete periodicals and out prints.
- f. 43 Au, Dennis, 1980-1981. Correspondence and photographs regarding Au's antique gun collection.
- f. 44-54 54 Baird, Donald, 1962-1980. Correspondence with geology professor at Princeton University concerning early American weapons and other archaeological topics.
- f. 55-57 Balls, Barrels, and Shot, n.d. Notes, tables, drafts, and articles on frontier ammunition and gun barrels. Includes photographs of pages from eighteenth century French firearms manual.
- f. 58 Barsotti, John, 1958-1961. Correspondence regarding antique firearms and recreational shooting.
- f. 59-61 Benson, Jack J., 1969-1978. Correspondence regarding antique forearms.
- f. 62-64 Blaine, Jay C., 1964-1979. Correspondence regarding archaeology and frontier weapons. Also manuscript by Blaine, "Gun Parts, Gunflints, Ball and Shot from Nassonite Post site," 1973.
- f. 65 Boucanier, n.d. Research notes on French colonial "boucanier" gun.
- f. 66-68 Bouchard, Russel M., 1975-1979, n.d. Correspondence with Bouchard, Le Musee du Saguenay, Quebec, regarding frontier firearms.

- f. 69-75 Boudriot, Jean, and Pierre Lorain, 1965-1981. Correspondence with French experts on colonial ordnance, regarding guns, mutual assistance in publishing works in America and France, and personal topics, including their visit to Hamilton's home in 1976. Some letters are in French.
- f. 76-77 Bremicker, Klaus, 1954. Personal correspondence with Bremicker, Freiburg, Germany, regarding general topics: politics, social customs, and recreation. Some letters are in German.
- f. 78-80 Burke, Lee, 1974-1980. Correspondence, drafts, and photos regarding Burke's antique gun.
- f. 81 Burke, Lee, 1974-1980. Correspondence, drafts, and photos regarding Burke's antique gun.
- f. 82 Chartrand, René, 1975-1977. Correspondence with military curator of Parks Canada regarding French colonial firearms.
- f. 83 Chase, David W., 1964-1979. Correspondence with curator of Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, Alabama, regarding frontier firearms in Alabama.
- f. 84 Childersburg Site, n.d. Photographs of gun uncovered at archaeological site near Childersburg, Alabama.
- f. 85-86 Clergeau, Jean-René, 1971-1981. Correspondence with Clergeau, St. Palias, France, about French colonial trade guns and personal topics including Clergeau's aid to Hamilton during his 1977 European research trip.
- f. 87-107 *Colonial Frontier Guns*, c. 1980. Two typescripts of book published by Hamilton in 1981. Also photo mock-up and photographs considered but not used in book.
- f. 108-109 Cosner, Aaron Joseph, 1955-1961. Correspondence about archery and various personal topics.
- f. 110 Cottier, John, 1979-1980. Correspondence with professor of anthropology, Auburn University, regarding firearms found in various archaeological sites in Alabama.
- f. 111 Dean, Lawrie, 1977. Correspondence concerning translation of historical French documents.
- f. 112-115 Deer Creek Site, 1958-1978, n.d. Correspondence, articles, notes, and draft report on archaeological sites in Oklahoma. Non-correspondence materials arranged at end.
- f. 116-117 De Lotbiniere, Seymour, 1977-1980. Correspondence with de Lotbiniere, Hants, England, concerning gunflint and gunspall manufacture and identification. Includes manuscript by de Lotbiniere, "English Gunflint Making in the 17th and 18th Centuries."
- f. 118 Diderot. Photocopy of eighteenth century French treatise on gun manufacturing.
- f. 119-119d *Early Indian Trade Guns*, 1968. Copy and Reviews of Publication by Hamilton.
- f. 120 Edmonds, Augustus H. 1965-1970. Correspondence concerning local politics and other civic affairs in Miami, Missouri.

- f. 121 Emy, Jean, 1965-1978. Correspondence with Emy, Musee de la Pierre a Fusil, Meusnes, France, about antique French guns.
- f. 122 English Guns, c. 1970s. Manuscripts and photographs of colonial English firearms, particularly gun uncovered at Rock Turtle Site, Pickens County, South Carolina.
- f. 123 Evans, John W., 1973-1981. Correspondence regarding gun made by colonial gunsmith William Webber, including photographs and formal description of gun.
- f. 124 Federated Metals, 1974-1978. Correspondence with Federated Metals Division of American Smelting and Refining Company, Somersville, New Jersey, concerning identification of archaeological artifacts by metallurgical analysis.
- f. 125 Ford, Thomas B., 1980. Correspondence with archaeologist for Mackinaw Island State Park Commission, Michigan, concerning archaeologically recovered firearms.
- f. 126 Fort Chartres Pistol, n.d. Photographs and manuscript report on eighteenth century toy pistol uncovered at archaeological site in Randolph County, Illinois.
- f. 127-128 Fort Frederica, 1960, 1965-1966. Correspondence with employees of U.S. National Park Service regarding colonial gun artifacts found at Fort Frederica National Monument, Brunswick, Georgia.
- f. 129-130 Fox, Ben, 1974-1981. Correspondence and photographs concerning Fox's antique firearm collection.
- f. 131 French Regime Symposium, 1974-1980. Programs and announcements.
- f. 132 Gaier, Claude, 1977-1981. Correspondence with Gaier, Musee de Armes de Liege, France, regarding colonial French firearms.
- f. 133 *Gazette Des Armes*, 1977-1979. Correspondence concerning publication of articles by Hamilton on historical weapons.
- f. 134-156 General Correspondence, 1952-1984. Correspondence with many different individuals and organizations on numerous personal, business, political, and vocational topics including presidential elections, international events and crises, state and national agriculture, Missouri River flood control and floods, Saline County urban planning, Missouri Archaeological Society affairs, outdoor recreation, local and national social conditions, and miscellaneous local affairs in Miami, Missouri.
- f. 157-158 Gerin-Lajoie, Marie, 1972-1977. Correspondence concerning translation of historical French documents.
- f. 159 Gooding, James S., 1956-1978. Correspondence with Gooding of Royal Ontario Museum and later of Museum Restoration Service, Toronto, Canada, about colonial frontier firearms.
- f. 160 Gordon, Lewis H., Jr., 1966-1969. Correspondence concerning identification of antique guns.
- f. 161-164 Grayson Collection, 1959, 1973-1981. Correspondence about the archery collection of Charles E. Grayson and its placement as a donation to the Ralph Foster Museum, School of the Ozarks, Point

- Lookout, Missouri. Major correspondents are Grayson and Marvin E. Tong, director of the museum.
- f. 165 Gregory, Hiram F., 1966-1976. Correspondence with Gregory, Department of Social Sciences, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, about weapons found at various archaeological sites in Mississippi and Louisiana.
- f. 166 Gun Conservation, c. 1960s-1970s. Articles and manuscripts on preservation and restoration of antique firearms.
- f. 167-197 Gun Correspondence, 1956-1981. Correspondence regarding historical firearms with numerous individuals and organizations not found elsewhere in the collection. Correspondents include archaeologists, museologists, historians, gun collectors, and persons with passing interests in guns.
- f. 198 Gun Prices, n.d. Photocopies of publications related to prices of firearms during the colonial period; major inclusion is excerpts from *The Papers of Sir William Johnson*.
- f. 199 Gunflints, n.d. Notes and manuscripts on the manufacture and identification of colonial era gunflints.
- f. 200 Hamilton Bibliography, 1979.
- f. 200a-200f Hamilton, David and Toni, 1957-1965. Correspondence with son and daughter-in-law during their two years of teaching in Columbia, 1961-1963, and during their graduate work at the University of Virginia. Contains vivid descriptions of life in South America and discussions of political and social controversies in the United States, as well as general family affairs.
- f. 201-205 Hanson, Charles E., Jr., 1957-1979, n.d. Correspondence with director of Museum of the Fur Trade, Chadron, Nebraska, regarding frontier weapons.
- f. 206 Haynes Bluff Site, n.d. Manuscripts, notes and inventory of artifacts found at archaeological site, Haynes Bluff, Mississippi.
- f. 207-208 Heurmann Collection, 1949-1975. Inventories and articles describing major collection of miniature art formerly owned by Magda Heurmann and correspondence related to its disposition at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago.
- f. 209 Hicks, James E., 1958-1960. Correspondence about antique firearms.
- f. 210 Holm, Bill, 1979-1980. Correspondence with curator, Thomas Burke Memorial Museum, University of Washington, regarding Native American archery and bow fabrication.
- f. 211-215 Huntington, Roy T., 1959-1981. Correspondence about early American firearms. Includes manuscripts by Huntington on early nineteenth century U.S. Army ordnance.
- f. 216 Huscher, Harold A., 1961-1966. Correspondence with Huscher, Smithsonian Institution, concerning colonial firearms.
- f. 217-217d *Indian Trade Guns*, 1959-1961. Manuscripts, photographs and reviews related to publication of work edited by Hamilton and published by the Missouri Archaeological Society in 1960.

- f. 218 Kenyon, Walter A., 1963, 1973-1978. Correspondence with curator, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada, concerning identification of gunflints in the museum's archaeological collections.
- f. 219-223 Kidder, Alfred V., 1954-1963. Correspondence concerning Hamilton's research into Native American Archery and his attempts at publishing his findings. Comments by Kidder become increasingly informal and offer candid glimpses of his final years, especially in regard to his declining health. Final letter is by Kidder's wife describing his death in 1963.
- f. 224 Koppinger, Matthias, 1977-1980. Correspondence regarding Koppinger's antique gun collection.
- f. 225-227 Levesque, René, 1964-1974. Correspondence with Canadian priest who was finally barred from the archaeological profession for ethical violations. Concerns gunflint identification and Levesque's stormy collaboration with Hamilton. Includes photographs of gunflints.
- f. 228-233 Louisbourg Gunflints, 1966-1978, n.d. Correspondence and manuscripts related to Hamilton's work with Canadian Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in the identification of gunflints excavated at Fortress Louisbourg National Historical Park, Nova Scotia, Canada. Includes manuscript of report by Hamilton published in 1975, "A Survey of Louisbourg Gunflints."
- f. 234 McAneny, J. Frank, 1975-1976. Correspondence regarding antique "swivel gun" owned by McAneny. Includes photographs and description of gun.
- f. 235 Mainfort, Robert, 1974-1975. Correspondence regarding identification of colonial French firearms.
- f. 236 Marshall, Ida Elizabeth, 1959-1960. Correspondence from wife of American soldier stationed in Germany describing life and travel in Europe.
- f. 237 Maxwell, Moreau S., 1959-1980. Correspondence with professor of anthropology and museum curator at Michigan State University regarding colonial guns found in archaeological excavations at Fort Michilimackinac, Michigan.
- f. 238-239 Metcalf, George, 1957-1974. Correspondence with archaeologist at Smithsonian Institution regarding Native American archery and other archaeological topics.
- f. 240-252 Michilimackinac, 1964-1981, n.d. Correspondence, photographs, publications, manuscripts, and clippings related to archaeological excavations during and subsequent to restoration of Fort Michilimackinac, Michigan. Most materials center on identification and analysis of gun parts found there--Hamilton's contribution to the project.
- f. 253 Miles, Charles, 1955-1960, 1978, n.d. Correspondence concerning Native American archery and personal topics.
- f. 256-260 Minnesota Historical Society, 1963-1980. Correspondence regarding colonial weapons, historical conferences and publications, fur trade,

- and related topics. Major correspondents are Robert C. Wheeler and Alan Woolworth.
- f. 261 Minnesota Historical Society, 1963-1980. Correspondence regarding colonial weapons, historical conferences and publications, fur trade, and related topics. Major correspondents are Robert C. Wheeler and Alan Woolworth.
- f. 262 Museum of the Great Lakes, 1970-1971. Correspondence with Marvin E. Tong, curator, regarding colonial weapons and museum support for Hamilton's research.
- f. 263-275 Museum of the Great Plains, 1961-1978. Correspondence about colonial firearms and topics related to Hamilton's long-term tenure as research associate at the museum. Major correspondent is director, Marvin E. Tong.
- f. 276 Negatives. Assorted photographic negatives of antique firearms.
- f. 277 Neitzel, Richard S., 1963-1978. Correspondence with chief curator, Mississippi State Department of Archives and History, concerning weapons excavated at archaeological sites in Mississippi, includes photographs.
- f. 278 Northwest Gun, n.d. Manuscript description of colonial frontier firearm.
- f. 279 O'Connor, Walter, 1974-1978. Correspondence about antique firearms.
- f. 280 Osage Gun Cache Study, 1950-1960. Correspondence, notes, inventories, and manuscripts regarding 1960 study by Hamilton on caches of gun parts left by Osage Indians in Missouri. Includes materials on gun parts found at Malta Bend, Missouri.
- f. 281 Outlaw, Merry A., 1979-1980. Correspondence from Virginia Historical Landmark Commission regarding colonial firearms excavated near Jamestown, photographs included.
- f. 282 Parker, James W., 1979. Correspondence with archaeologist for Fort Toulouse Project, Alabama Historical Commission, regarding firearms excavated during project.
- f. 283-287 Peabody Museum, 1957-1971. Correspondence regarding colonial firearms and Native American archery, particularly in relation to Tunica Indian sites excavated in Mississippi. Major correspondents are J.O. Brew and Jeffrey P. Brain.
- f. 288-290 Peterson, Harold, 1956-1977. Correspondence with historian for National Park Service regarding colonial firearms and Native American archery.
- f. 291 Plains Conference, 1959, 1961. Programs, announcements, and papers given at the 17th and 19th Plains Conferences.
- f. 292 Pope, Saxton T., 1922. Two letters from Pope to Remington Schuyler about Native American Archery and Ishi the Indian; photograph of Pope.
- f. 293 Rolla School of Mines, 1959-1961. Correspondence with Department of Metallurgy, University of Missouri, School of Mines and

- Metallurgy, Rolla, regarding metallurgical analysis of archaeological artifacts. Major correspondents are D.S. Eppelsheimer and A.W. Schlecten.
- f. 294-295 Russell, Carl P., 1957-1967. Correspondence on colonial firearms and other topics in historical archaeology.
- f. 296 Saline County History, 1897, 1968, 1972, n.d. Manuscripts, article typescripts, notes, photograph, "Miami Reunion" newsletters, and Miami, Missouri, plat map.
- f. 297 Salisbury, Alvin B., 1974. Correspondence regarding antique gun owned by Salisbury; photographs included.
- f. 304 Smith, Carlyle, 1958-1980. Correspondence with professor of anthropology and museum curator, University of Kansas, concerning frontier firearms and other archaeological topics.
- f. 305-306 Sites Gun Shop Restoration.
- f. 305 Correspondence, 1956-1975. Letters received by Dr. Thomas B. Hall concerning the restoration of Sites Gun Shop in Arrow Rock, Missouri; John P. Sites, Jr.; Sites family genealogy; and related topics, 1956-1969; also, Hamilton's correspondence on restoration, 1973-1975.
- f. 306 Research File, 1873-1969, n.d. Estate inventory of gunsmith Nathaniel Vogler (-1873), clippings, manuscripts, list of donors to Friends of Arrow Rock, photographs of Sites Gun Shop before and after restoration, and copy of archaeological report on the shop by Robert T. Bray, University of Missouri.
- f. 307-308 Smithsonian Institution, 1956-1972. Correspondence with staff members regarding Native American archery, colonial firearms, and other archaeological and anthropological topics. Major correspondents are Clifford Evans, Betty Meggers, Robert L. Stephenson.
- f. 309 Sopkovick, John X., 1958-1961. Correspondence and manuscript concerning colonial metallurgical processes, particularly in respect to firearm manufacture.
- f. 310 Standing, Theodore and Martha Foster, 1965-1983. Personal correspondence about family and friends, as well as on general subjects: agriculture, social conditions, politics, academia, economics, Vietnam War, international events, history and drug abuse.
- f. 311-312 Sudbury, Byron, 1974-1979. Correspondence regarding gun parts found at archaeological sites in Oklahoma, particularly the Byron and Deer Creek Sites; includes photocopies of two reports by archaeologist John D. Hartley on sites near Kaw Reservoir, Oklahoma.
- f. 313 University of South Carolina, 1969-1980. Correspondence regarding colonial firearms and other archaeological topics. Major correspondents are Stanley South, Richard Polhemus, and Robert L. Stephenson.
- f. 314 Wedel, Waldo R. and Mildred M., 1954-1957, 1972-1981. Correspondence pertaining to Native American archery and translation of historical French documents.
- f. 315 White, Wester A., 1958, 1976-1979. Correspondence regarding

- antique firearms.
- f. 316 Witthoft, John 1958-1968. Correspondence with curator, Pennsylvania State Museum, concerning identification and analysis of colonial gunflints.
- f. 317 Witthoft, John 1958-1968. Correspondence with curator, Pennsylvania State Museum, concerning identification and analysis of colonial gunflints.

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