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Mathias Lane Dunlap Collection, 1839-1898

Collection 187

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Sandy Kroeker, February 2024

Creator/Corporate Name: Mathias Lane Dunlap (1814-1875); Hiram John Dunlap (1841-1919)

Inclusive Dates: 1839-1898

Physical Description: 1 box, (1.75 linear ft.)

Provenance:

The Mathias Lane Dunlap Collection was donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives by Jean Busey Yntema.

Access:

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Biographical Note:

Mathias Lane Dunlap was born September 21, 1814, in Cherry Valley, New York to William I. and Margaret Dunlap. He married Emeline Pierce on January 7, 1838, and they had ten children; eight sons and two daughters. Mathias began his work in horticulture by purchasing a farm outside of Chicago in 1840. In 1857, he moved to Champaign County and purchased 320 acres north of Tolono to open the first nursery in the county. Under the pen name "Rural," Mathias wrote articles for newspapers and agricultural journals. Some of his writings also referred to his wife as "Mrs. Rural." He died February 14, 1875.

Hiram John Dunlap was the second child of Mathias and Emeline Dunlap. He was born February 8, 1841, in Leyden, Cook County, Illinois. He worked as a farmer until 1874, after which he became a reporter and editor for the Gazette, eventually becoming the manager in 1879. Hiram continued the tradition of his father's pen name by authoring articles under the pen name "Rural Jr." He died October 25, 1919.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains 3 ledgers and 1 scrapbook. Two of the ledgers are from Dunlap businesses and have clippings of newspaper articles pasted over several pages. One ledger is a physician's ledger and also has clippings of articles pasted over several pages. The scrapbook belonged to Hiram John Dunlap and contains clippings of his writings as "Rural Jr." This scrapbook also contains a certificate appointing Hiram J. Dunlap to Corporal, which has been unfolded and placed in a separate folder in the same box.

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged by size.

Subject Terms:

Agriculture

Dunlap family

Farmers



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Nurseries (Horticulture)—Illinois—Savoy

Name Terms:

Busey, Jean
Clapper, Frank
Dunlap, Emeline
Dunlap, Hiram John
Dunlap, Mathias Lane
Keeler, Minnie
M.L. Dunlap's Sons Nursery
Pierce, Emeline
Scroggs, Sarah
Yntema, Jean Busey

Container List

Box 1

Folder 1: Hiram J. Dunlap Corporal Appointment Certificate (from the "H.J. Dunlap Scrapbook"), 1878, October 1.

Ledger Scrapbook 1: "Dunlap's Prairie" business ledger with articles written by Mathias Lane Dunlap as "Rural" pasted over several pages, 1847-1862.

Ledger Scrapbook 2: Dunlap ledger for Leyden and Champaign businesses, also lists varieties of plants grown by family nursery in back. Some pages have articles on sewing and cooking from *The Ladies' Home Journal* pasted over them, 1863-1898.

Ledger Scrapbook 3: Physician's ledger with patient names, visits, medications, and fees. Several pages have miscellaneous articles pasted over them and the name "Sarah Scroggs" is written in the back, 1839-1896.

H.J. Dunlap Scrapbook: Name plate in front of book reads: "This book is the property of H. J. Dunlap." It contains clippings of the column *The Farm and Garden* which are signed "Rural Jr.", circa 1880-1882.