

## Collection Summary

### Title

Rorer Family Papers

### Date

1819 to 1934

### Extent

5 archival folders

### Name and Location of Repository

Midwest Genealogy Center, Independence (Mo.)

Reference code: MGC 1203-RFP

Processed by: Jolene Clark, 2019; finding aid created by Jolene Clark, 2019.

### Name of Creator

Rorer Family

### Biographical History

George Rorer was born in Ohio in August 1819. He married Samantha McCollum who was born on December 12, 1831 in Ohio. The couple married in McHenry County, Illinois when Samantha was 16. Together they had three sons: Clinton, Leonard George (Sam), and Frank. Clinton enlisted in Company H, 18<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry during the Civil War and died from typhoid fever at the age of 16. Leonard apprenticed with his uncle to learn the tinning trade. He and his brother Frank operated a hardware business, Rorer Bros., in Clifton, Illinois. George too enlisted in the Civil War in the Colorado Territory. He settled in Crandon, Wisconsin and married Mary who was almost 30 years younger than him. George died about 1909 according to his pension record. Samantha remarried at the age of 39 to James Button. She returned to McHenry County, Illinois after the death of her husband. She lived to the age of 102, outliving her husbands and her children. At the time of her death she was believed to be the only Civil War mother receiving a pension.

### Scope and Content

The Rorer Family Papers consists of correspondence, newspaper clippings, some biographical information, a photograph, and miscellaneous papers relating to the Rorer and Thrasher family. Among the items are two Civil War letters written by Clinton to his mother. Shortly after the letters were written, Clinton died and a letter was written to Samantha notifying her of her son's death. Other letters are written on company stationery by her sons during the late 1800s. Obituaries give information about the family as well as names of descendants.



## Collection Inventory

### System of Arrangement

These records are arranged in 1 series.

#### Series 1, Rorer Family Papers

##### Folder 1, Correspondence

- Item 1, undated Christmas post card
- Item 2, undated, to Beverly from Fran
- Item 3, undated from Sam Rorer to Leonard Rorer
- Item 4, letter from Clinton D. Rorer, March 1864
- Item 5, letter from Clinton D. Rorer, April 1864
- Item 6, to Mrs. Royer re: death of son, Clinton, June 1864
- Item 7, to wife and babies from Sam, Oct 1882
- Item 8, to wife Clara & Ella from Sam, Jun 1887
- Item 9, to son Leonard from George Rorer, Oct 1899
- Item 10, to father from Frank Rorer, Oct 1900
- Item 11, to Eva Hilbourne from Clarence, Mar 1938

##### Folder 2, Biographies

- Item 1, Handwritten biography of Leonard George Rorer (1850-1902)
- Item 2, 2 copies of a handwritten biography of Ethel Winifred Rorer (born 1899) and Clarence Gleason Rorer (born 1893)

##### Folder 3, Newspaper clippings

- Item 1, obituary for L.G. Rorer, 1902
- Item 2, "Celebrates her 102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Anniversary"
- Item 3, "Samantha Button dies here Sunday"
- Item 4, "Hinds Family"
- Item 5, marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Rorer

##### Folder 4, Misc.

- Item 1, handwritten note from Grace
- Item 2, Warranty deed L. G. Rorer, 1890

##### Folder 5, Ethel Winifred Rorer

- Item 1, Photograph, Christmas 1915
- Item 2, name card
- Item 3, marriage certificate for C. O. Thrasher and Ethel W. Rorer
- Item 4, Civil Service Commission, notification of personnel action for Frances L. Thrasher

## Rights and Access

### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use by appointment.

### Physical Access

Most records within this collection are housed within file folders.

### Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the Midwest Genealogy Center.

### Languages and Scripts of the Material

Materials in the collection are entirely in English.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was donated anonymously.

### Accruals

No further accruals are expected for this collection.

### Existence and Location of Originals

Originals owned by the Midwest Genealogy Center.

### Notes

The following sources were consulted during the preparation of the biographical history:

- Ancestry.com. *United States Federal Census* [database-on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2004.
- National Archives and Records Administration. *U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2000.
- Rorer Family Papers