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Morgan, John Hunt, 1825-1864 - Relating to (MSS 423)

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 423 MORGAN, John Hunt, 1825-1864 – Relating to

½ box. 6 folders. 49 items. 1862-1947. Originals, typescripts, photocopies.

SC2012.163.1; SC2012.164.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Hunt Morgan, the son of Calvin and Henrietta (Hunt) Morgan, was born on 1 June 1825 in Huntsville, Alabama. While he was still a boy, his family moved to Lexington, Kentucky. In 1846, Morgan enlisted in the U. S. Army and served in the Mexican-American War. Morgan returned to military service during the Civil War when he joined the Confederate Army in 1861. He quickly became one of the South's most notorious cavalry commanders as his regiment staged lightning-style raids on Union supply lines in Kentucky and Tennessee. Morgan was perhaps best known for "Morgan's Raid," an incursion into Indiana and Ohio in summer 1863 that was the farthest north any Confederate troops reached during the Civil War, and for his daring escape from the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus, where he was being held as a prisoner of war in November 1863.

On 14 December 1862, Morgan married his second wife, Martha "Mattie" Ready, the daughter of Tennessee Congressman Charles Ready, Jr. Morgan had met the Ready family, strong Confederate supporters, while encamped near their home in Murfreesboro.

John Hunt Morgan was killed during a Union raid near Greenville, Tennessee on 4 September 1864. On 7 April 1865, Mattie gave birth to their only surviving child, a daughter named Johnnie Hunt Morgan. Unfortunately, Johnnie died on 28 June 1888 of typhoid fever, shortly after her marriage to Reverend Joseph W. Caldwell, leaving no direct descendants of John Hunt Morgan.

After Morgan's death, Mattie (Ready) Morgan married William Henry Williamson (1828-1887) on 30 January 1873 and became the mother of five more children, including Martha Ready (Williamson) Bone (1874-1964). Martha and her husband Winstead Paine Bone (1861-1942) became the parents of Martha Ready (Bone) Crowe (1903-1972).

Mattie (Ready) Morgan Williamson died on 16 November 1887 and is buried in Lebanon, Tennessee.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection focuses on the military career of John Hunt Morgan, but also includes correspondence and information regarding his widow Martha “Mattie” (Ready) Morgan, his daughter Johnnie Hunt Morgan, and Mattie’s family by her subsequent marriage to William H. Williamson.

Folder 2 contains letters to WKU librarian Mary Leiper Moore and notes relating to the family of John Hunt Morgan, including his daughter Johnnie Hunt Morgan.

Folder 3 contains a letter of John Hunt Morgan written on 2 June 1863 applying for a leave of absence from military service in order to move his family south, with a denial of the request endorsed on the back.

Folder 4 contains primarily notes and research materials of Mary Leiper Moore relating to John Hunt Morgan and the Morgan family. The material was assembled on the occasion of the donation of Johnnie Hunt Morgan’s christening robe to WKU’s Kentucky Museum, and for two radio broadcasts in November 1947 featuring Martha Ready Crowe, the granddaughter of John Hunt Morgan’s widow, Mattie (Ready) Morgan, and her second husband, William H. Williamson.

Folder 5 contains typescripts of contemporary newspaper and other reports on John Hunt Morgan’s military career, the originals of which were collected in a scrapbook by his wife Mattie (Ready) Morgan.

Folder 6 contains additional typescripted newspaper and other reports on John Hunt Morgan’s military career as well as typescripted correspondence of Mattie (Ready) Morgan, mostly with family members.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	John Hunt Morgan	1862-1947	49 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Letters to Mary (Leiper) Moore regarding Morgan family	1935-1945	3 items
Folder 3	John Hunt Morgan – Request for military leave of absence	1863	1 item
Folder 4	Notes and script by Mary (Leiper) Moore for radio program on Morgan family	1947	29 items
Folder 5	Typescripted scrapbook of clippings and manuscripts kept by Mattie (Ready) Morgan	1862-1882	1 item
Folder 6	Typescripted correspondence of Mattie (Ready) Morgan and clippings regarding John Hunt Morgan	1862-1866, n.d.	14 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS MORGAN, John Hunt, 1862-1947
423 1825-1864 – Relating to

Family letters, notes and typescripted
scrapbook items (primarily contemporary newspaper
articles) relating to the family and career of Confederate
raider John Hunt Morgan.

½ box. 6 folders. 49 items. Originals,
typescripts, photocopies.

SC2012.163.1; SC2012.164.1

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Bone, Martha Ready (Williamson), 1874-1964 F4
Caldwell, Johnnie Hunt (Morgan), 1865-1888 – Relating to F2,4
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Relating to
Crowe, Martha Ready (Bone), 1903-1972 – Correspondence F2,4
McClain, Douglas (Taylor) F2
Moore, Mary (Taylor) Leiper, 1885-1973 – Letters to F2
Morgan family – Relating to F2,4,6
Morgan, Henrietta (Hunt), 1805-1891 F6
Morgan, John Hunt, 1825-1864 – Letter to F6
Ready, Alice, 1842-1890 – Relating to F6
Ready, Charles, Jr., 1802-1878 – Letter to F6
Ready, Horace, b. 1838 – Letter to F6
Ready, Martha Alvord (Strong), 1807-1877 – Correspondence F6
Williamson, Martha “Mattie” (Ready) Morgan, 1840-1887 – Correspondence F6
Williamson, Martha “Mattie” (Ready) Morgan, 1840-1887 – Relating to F2,4,6

SEE or SEE ALSO

Morgan, Johnnie Hunt, 1865-1888
See
Caldwell, Johnnie Hunt (Morgan)

Morgan, Martha “Mattie” Ready, 1840-1887
See
Williamson, Martha “Mattie” (Ready) Morgan

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