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RIPLEY FAMILY LETTERS, 1852-1894

The collection contains letters to, and from, various members of the Ripley family. It includes a note about the relationships of the writers. A partial typescript of the 27 June 1852 letter is also included.

- Item 1 -- Letter to Rev. Enoch G. Jameson, Senterville Post Office, Monroe Co., VA
from Wm. Ed. Eakin, Mill Farm; 27 June 1852. [& 1 page of transcript]
- Item 2 -- Letter to Mrs. Elmira V. Jameson, Senterville Post Office, Monroe Co., VA
from Wm. Ed. Eakin, Sweet Springs, VA; 27 April 1853.
- Item 3 -- Letter to Cousin Enoch from H.Y. Ripley, Valley Store; 6 December 1853.
- Item 4- Letter to Mother from Octavia, Marlin, Texas; 1 January 1878. [& envelope]
- Item 5 -- Letter to Polie from Paul, Portland, OR; 10 January 1893. [& envelope]
- Item 6 -- Letter to Eliza from (Uncle) P.M. Ripley, Tacoma, WA; 16 December 1894. [&
envelope]
- Item 7 -- Envelope to Mr. N.N. Ripley, New Castle, VA; 7 November 1882.
- Item 8 -- Notes on the relationships of the writers & donor's name and address.

WILLIAM EDWARD EAKIN (c.1835-aft 1870)

William Edward Eakin was born circa 1835, the son of Nathan and Gilly Hawkins Eakin, who were married in Botetourt County, VA, on 2 November 1829. Gilly was the daughter of William Hawkins and sister of Juliet (Julia) Hawkins, who married Thomas Love on 31 December 1821, in Bedford Co., VA. In Item #1, William refers to a visit with "Uncle Thomas Love" in Lynchburg. He further refers to his "Uncle Hillery Ripley." On 9 August 1863, William Eakin married Mary Maggie Hill, age 23, at New Castle, VA. Mary Hill Eakin was the daughter of Clifton G. & Mary Rowland Hill of Craig County, VA. Clifton G. Hill was Clerk of the Court and married a second time in 1843, to Amanda F. Price. During the Civil War, Eakin was an enrolling officer in Craig County, VA. In 1870, he and his family were living in Botetourt Co., VA, where he was a merchant. A Col. William E. Eakin is buried in the Slicer-Godwin Cemetery in Fincastle (Botetourt Co.), VA. His marker says he was born 12 November 1834 and died 1 October 1878.

SOURCES: Johnston, Jane E. & Brenda L. Williams. HARD TIMES, 1861-1865, V.II & III. N.p.: authors, 1990; Rhodes, Phillip W. "Descendants of Thomas Love of Lynchburg and Amherst County, Virginia," The Virginia Genealogist 35 (April-June 1991), p.86; 1870 U.S. Census, Botetourt County, VA, p. 466, National Archives Microfilm M-593, Roll #1636; Vogt, John & T. William Kethley, Jr. BOTETOURT COUNTY MARRIAGES, 1770-1853, Vol. I. Athens, GA: Iberian Pub. Co., 1987; BOTETOURT COUNTY HISTORY BEFORE 1900, THROUGH COUNTY CEMETERY RECORDS. N.p.: Botetourt Co. American Bicentennial Commission, N.d., p.36.

HILLEARY Y. RIPLEY (c.1828-aft1870)

Hilleary Y(van)/Y(oung) Ripley was born in 1828, in Botetourt County, VA, the son of Hilleary & Rebecca Eakin Ripley. H.Y. Ripley married Harriet Amanda Eaken c.1853. Mrs. Ripley was the daughter of Joseph Eakin and the sister of Ann Eliza and William T. Eakin. [She was her husband's first cousin?].

Mr. Ripley enlisted in Co. C of the 28th VA Infantry on 1 April 1862, at Orange, VA. He was discharged because of consumption on 15 December of 1863, at the age of 35 years.

SOURCES: Johnston, Jane E. & Brenda L. Williams. HARD TIMES, 1861-1865, Vol. II. N.p.: authors, 1990; 1860 U.S. Census, Craig County, VA, p. 698, National Archives Microfilm M-653, Roll #1341. Fields, Frank E. 28th VIRGINIA INFANTRY. Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1985.

NAPOLEON NEWTON RIPLEY (1845-aft1900)

Napoleon Newton Ripley was born in September of 1845, the son of Hilleary & Rebecca Eakin Ripley, of Botetourt County, VA. He married Virginia _____ c.1880.

During the Civil War, he served in Co. E of the 4th Texas Infantry and was wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness. While in the army, he was a purchasing agent for field

infirmary of the 1st Army Corps. He served in the same company with his brother, Paul Milton Ripley. [There are numerous references to him in HARD TIMES, 1861-1865.]

He died in Craig County, VA in 1910.

SOURCES: Johnston, Jane E. & Brenda L. Williams. HARD TIMES, 1861-1865, Vols. II & III. N.p.: authors, 1990 & 1987; 1900 U.S. Census, Craig County, VA, p. 208, National Archives Microfilm T-623, Roll 1705.

PAUL MILTON RIPLEY (c.1837-aft1894)

Paul Milton Ripley was born c.1837, the son of Hilleary & Rebecca Eakin Ripley. He served as a sergeant with his brother in Co. E of the 4th Texas Infantry during the Civil War. According to an account in HARD TIMES, 1861-1865 (p.250), Paul Ripley, while acting as orderly sergeant, stood only 30 feet away from the two generals at Appomattox as the surrender terms were worked out. Paul said, "I could not quite hear what they were saying but I did see that Gen. Lee proffered his sword to Gen. Grant and that the latter refused to accept it." He also gives a physical description of Gen. Grant. [There are numerous other wartime accounts given by him in HARD TIMES, 1861-1865.] In later years, he moved to the Pacific Northwest.

SOURCES: Johnston, Jane E. & Brenda L. Williams. HARD TIMES, 1861-1865, Vols.I, II, III. N.p.: authors, 1986-1990.;1850 U.S. Census, Botetourt County, VA, p. 39, National Archives Microfilm M-432, Roll 936.

THE FAMILY OF HILLEARY & REBECCA EAKIN RIPLEY

Hilleary Ripley was married in Botetourt County to Rebecca M. Eakin. Rebecca's mother was Susannah Preston Eakin. The bond is dated 4 January 1827. In addition to the aforementioned sons, Paul Milton, Napoleon Newton, and Hilleary Y., the Ripleys had the following other children:

- James -- b. c.1834
- Irene -- b. c.1836 [married John Watkins]
- Mildred -- b. c.1839
- Ann -- b. 1839
- Thomas Jefferson -- b. c.1841
- Octavio -- b. c.1847

The family was residing in Botetourt County, VA for the 1850 U.S. Census, but was listed in Craig County, VA for the 1860 U.S. Census. Hilleary Ripley died in August of 1864; Rebecca, sometime after the U.S. Census of 1880. While in Craig Co., the family lived "several miles east of New Castle." [Jane E. Johnston & Brenda L. Williams, Hard Times, 1861-1865 (N.p.: authors, 1990), p. 194]

SOURCES: 1850 U.S. Census, Botetourt County, VA, p. 39, National Archives Microfilm M-432, Roll 936; 1880 U.S. Census, Craig County, VA, p. 273, National Archives Microfilm T-9, Roll 1361. Johnston, Jane E. & Brenda L. Williams, HARD TIMES, 1861-1865, Vol. II. N.p.: authors, 1990.