

Hallen Family Letters 1878-1894

MSS 217

.25 linear feet

Background

The Hallen family spent at least a portion of their lives in Waddington, NY. The principal character in the collection Maggie Hallen, who worked as a dress maker/seamstress in Waddington in the 1880s and 90s. Other members of the family during the time of the letters hail from Alexandria Bay and Binghamton, New York and Bluffton, Indiana. Maggie Hallen's father, James Hallen served as town of Waddington Tax Collector in the late 1870s.

Scope and Content

The collection contains about 50 letters and other correspondence, mostly concerning news involving family and friends and other every day subjects. Some of the letters are in original envelopes, but some are lacking envelopes. At least three of the letters to Maggie Hallen are from other young ladies in St. Lawrence County looking hoping to work for her dressmaking business. Other correspondence includes invoices from merchants for sewing supplies, etc. Also included are tax collection receipts from the St. Lawrence County Treasurers office, as well as bank deposit receipts.

Organization and arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically.

Provenance

Purchased in November 2018 from Tom Jenison.

Folder 1

Bank receipts; tax collection receipts from St. Lawrence County Treasurer's office to J. W. Hallen, 1878-1880

Folder 2

Letters to Maggie Hallen, 1880 and earlier

Folder 3

Letter to Maggie Hallen, 1881 (contains some racist language)

Folder 4

1882 letters to Maggie Hallen, J.W. Hallen and to Eliza (Hallen?) from Maggie Casey

Folder 5

1883 letters to Maggie Hallen and Mary Hallen, includes letter from Minnie Casey looking for sewing work

Folder 6

1884 letters to Maggie Hallen, to “Brother” from “your sister” (Mary Hallen?);
one postal card

Folder 7

1888 and 1889 letters to Maggie Hallen and other family members

Folder 8

1890 letters from Mary Hallen; from John Hallen; from Mabel to Grandma; from
Pat O’Leary; grocery bill for fresh meat March-August 1890

Folder 9

1891 letters to Maggie Hallen (condolences for brother’s death); to Aunt Eliza;

Folder 10

1893 bill for sewing supplies purchased

Folder 11

1894 letter from Mary to Maggie

Folder 12

Drawing of a house plan and short note from Mary

Folder 13

Letters with no date or unknown dates. Includes letter to Maggie seeking
employment; letters from family and friends

Folder 14

Empty envelopes