

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the Hun Family Papers 1667-1961

Collection Summary

Collection Title: Hun Family Papers 1667-1961

Call Number: BK346

Creator: Thomas Hun I, Abraham Hun, Thomas Hun II, Henry Hun I, Henry Hand Hun, and Leonard Gansevoort

Inclusive Dates: 1667-1961

Bulk Dates: 1770-1894

Abstract: None

Quantity: 11 boxes, 37.5 linear inches

Administrative Information

Custodial History: Series 1-4 is unknown; Series 5-7 acquired through auction in February 2003. Formally part of the private collection of Colonel Bronisalus Gill. Gill stored all of his collections in his warehouse in Albany for over 30 years. They remained untouched and unexposed to daylight for that amount of time.

Preferred Citation: Hun Family Papers 1667-1961, BK346, Albany Institute of History and Art Library, New York.

Acquisition Information:

Accession #: unknown

Accession Date: Unknown

Processing Information:

Initial Inventory and Preliminary Processing By/Date: April 1991

Final Processing and Finding Aid By/Date: Heather Harrington, October 2003

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: Series 7 is not available for use, it is too fragile.

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Index Terms

Persons

Thomas Hun I; Abraham Hun; Thomas Hun II; Henry Hun I; Henry Hand Hun; Leonard Gansevoort;

Organizations

Committee for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies in NYS; Columbia College; Albany County Grand Jury; Albany Hospital; Albany Academy;

Subjects

Hun Family Correspondence; Hun Family Genealogy; Estate Management; Normanskill Patent; Albany Academy Genealogy;

Places

Albany, NY; New York, NY; Paris, France;

Document Types

Manuscripts; Maps; correspondence;

History of the Hun Family

The Hun family were descendants of 17th century Dutch settlers who became prominent and acquired property in and around the Albany area. Thomas Hun I (1736-1802) was an Albany attorney and for at least a short period (1795) was a member of the New York State Assembly. He married Elizabeth Wendell in 1761 and had two children, Abraham and Anna. Thomas Hun inherited lands in the Normanskill Patent and in the south end of Albany from his father Johannes Hun (1695-1776). Much of this land remained in the family through subsequent generations and provided income through leaseholds. Thomas Hun was also an agent for Patroon Stephen Van Rensselaer.

Abraham Hun (1768-1812) followed in his father's footsteps and also became an attorney. He was one of the first graduates of Columbia College after it changed its name from Kings College in 1784. He married Maria Gansevoort, daughter of Leonard Gansevoort Jr. in 1795. They had two children, Thomas II and Elizabeth. Abraham practiced law primarily around Albany and appeared frequently before the Albany Court of Common Pleas and the State Supreme Court. He handled both civil and criminal cases. Abraham died of tuberculosis in January of 1812 and his wife Maria died the following year of the same disease. Thomas II and Elizabeth Hun, ages 5 and 9 respectively, were then raised by their maternal grandparents Leonard and Maria Gansevoort. As guardians, the Gansevoorts moved into the Hun house on Green Street in Albany. Leonard was also the executor of the Hun's estate.

Elizabeth Hun would marry Bernard Van Rensselaer in 1833 and die the following year. Her brother Thomas II would become a notable and highly respected Albany physician. Dr. Thomas

Hun attended the Albany Boy's Academy and Union College. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in medicine in 1830. Dr. Hun practiced medicine in Albany for a short period before moving to France, where he studied and lectured at the Paris Institute from 1833 to 1839. Returning to Albany, he resumed his practice and eventually held several important posts including President of the Medical Society of NYS and Dean of the Albany Medical College. Dr. Hun also helped found the Albany Hospital. He died in 1896. He was married to Lydia Reynolds. Two of his sons, Henry and Edward Reynolds Hun, became physicians also. Edward would die in 1880.

Henry Hun I (1854-1924) was a doctor in Albany at the turn of the century. He practiced and lived in Albany most of his life, except for the time he spent in Europe and in school. He was the doctor to the working and upper class, as he delivered babies for prominent local families as well as for laborers. He lived on Washington Avenue and Elk Street. He married Lydia Hand (1864-) and had four children, all of whom he delivered. One child, the second or third born, did not live. The oldest was a son named Henry Hand Hun. The other two were Lydia and Samuel Hun.

Henry Han Hun (1893-1972) also became a doctor, following in the family footsteps. He too lived on Washington Avenue most of his life. He was a graduate of the Albany Academy and later became an active alumnus, serving on the Board and working on genealogies of Albany Academy families. He was also on the Board of the Schuyler Meadows Club.

Scope and Contents of the Records

The collection contains six major series, the Thomas Hun I and Related Family Papers, the Abraham Hun Papers, the Abraham Hun Estate Papers, the Dr. Thomas Hun Papers, the Dr. Henry Hun I Papers, and the Dr. Henry Hand Hun Papers. The seventh series consists of one item. This is an indenture from 1832, relating to Elizabeth Hun. It is in fragile condition and should not be used. The collection primarily spans the period from 1770-1891 although there is a small amount of material dating back to 1667, and some going into the early 20th century. The collection consists mostly of correspondence and estate management. There are also hand drawn maps, and many legal documents as Thomas and his son Abraham were both attorneys. There are also some genealogical records of many different families that attended Albany Academy. Some genealogies are more complete than others.

Organization of the Records

The six series are separated based on the creator of the records, or, the generation they represent in the Hun Family.

The first series, **The Thomas Hun I and Related Family Papers** contains correspondence with family and friends, receipts, deeds, and a minute book from a 1784 meeting of the Albany County Grand Jury, of which Thomas Hun was Foreman. His papers also include a folder of records from the Committee for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies in NYS (Albany County), 1777-1779. This committee and others like it were formed by patriots and were designed to ferret out

British loyalists and traitors to the cause of Independence. It is uncertain what connection Thomas Hun had with the Committee but it is known that Leonard Gansevoort Jr. served as its secretary. Gansevoort's daughter Maria would later wed Thomas Hun's son, Abraham. The first series also contains a folder of survey maps from the late 18th century and three folders of family deeds dating back to 1667.

The second series, **the Abraham Hun Papers**, contains two folders of correspondence between Abraham Hun and his father Thomas. Most of the letters were written during the period when Abraham was attending Columbia College and provide some interesting insights into college life and academics during the period (1784). There are also two folders of Abraham Hun's father-in-law Leonard Gansevoort's attorney papers, covering his career practicing law in local and state courts, primarily in the Albany Court of Common Pleas and in State Supreme Court. These papers show how court procedures were conducted during the late 18th century. Abraham Hun's personal papers include his diploma from Columbia and licenses to practice law. There is also a catalog of the books in his personal library. His legal papers consist mostly of deeds and lease agreements from properties he owned in Albany and in the Normanskill Patent.

Series three is designated **the Abraham Hun Estate Papers** and warrants being a separate series due to the volume of material and its unique nature. Dying within a year of each other, Abraham and Maria Hun's estate was administered by Leonard Gansevoort Jr. until the Hun children, Thomas II and Elizabeth were of legal age. For this reason, extensive and detailed records were kept by Gansevoort on his management of the estate during the period 1813 to 1830. Gansevoort also acted as legal guardian for Thomas and Elizabeth Hun and the papers include various documents giving him authority to act on their behalf. The bulk of the estate papers are composed of receipts for goods and services, bills, and account ledgers. This series is arranged chronologically with one folder for each year in most cases. The last folder (1826-1834) shows a transition period as Thomas, reaching the age of 21 began to take over more responsibilities for managing the estate.

The fourth, **the Dr. Thomas Hun Papers**, consists of correspondence, personal, and legal papers. His correspondence includes letters from his relatives, including a folder of letters from his aunt, Anna Bassett, which discuss her various business interests. There is also a good amount of correspondence from friends discussing health and business matters. Notable is the correspondence with friend I.W. Jackson that discusses the doctor's medical practice and financial affairs. There is a significant amount of material relating to Dr. Hun's stay in Paris from 1833 to 1839. This material is in the form of receipts from various merchants, passports and travel documents, and certificates and lecture notes from the Paris Institute. The series also contains a folder of correspondence to the doctor from a Mdm. Molinard, written in French and discussing health and family matters. The doctor's personal papers include licenses and certificates to practice medicine, a notice awarding him an honorary doctorate from Union College, and another notifying him of his appointment as a consulting physician at the Albany Hospital. There are also financial statements, cancelled checks, miscellaneous documents, and a medical journal article written by the doctor's son, E.R. Hun, also a physician. Finally, there is a bound volume listing the books in the doctor's medical library through 1856. Dr. Hun's legal papers consist primarily of deeds and lease agreements, as well an entire folder of legal documents pertaining to a lawsuit over land in the Normanskill Patent, a suit that went on for over 13 years.

The fifth series, **the Dr. Henry Hun I Papers**, consists of correspondence and a tiny amount of personal papers. The correspondence is predominately between Henry and his father Thomas Hun II. There are also letters from his aunts, Mary Adams, and Laura Van Rensselaer. Various friends and cousins also write letters to Henry. There are also some papers relating to his profession as a physician. The series contains the birth records of all the babies Dr. Hun delivered in a 15-year span, including his own children and relatives. There are copies of medical articles that he has written. Additionally there are photographs of Dr. Hun at various ages, his family and his homes. Included with the house photographs are pictures of the 1888 Blizzard, as seen near his home on Elk Street.

Series six, **the Dr. Henry Hand Hun Papers**, consists mostly of genealogy records and charts of numerous families that attended the Albany Academy. There is also a detailed genealogy of the Hun family, which includes the Gansevoort family as well. This series also contains annual reports and constitutions from the Schuyler Meadows Club, of which Dr. Hun was a member. There is a small amount of professional and person correspondence and papers in this series. There may be more materials on Dr. Henry Hand Hun found in Series 5 because the two series were combined, and due to the overlap in names and life span, it is possible that some items in series 5 may actually belong to series 6.

Series seven, **Hun Indenture Paper**, consists of one item, an indenture from 1832. It mentions Elizabeth Hun by name. It is currently in four pieces and is very fragile. It is falling apart and should not be touched. This is a restricted item.

Related Material

The **Leonard Gansevoort Jr. Papers, FB 780** also contain genealogical information on the Hun and Gansevoort families.

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Series 1: The Thomas Hun I and Related Family Papers.

Box #	Folder #	Title / Description
1	1	Thomas Hun I Papers, 1771-1795
8	1	Thomas Hun I Papers, 1771-1795
1	2	Papers of the Committee for Detecting Conspiracies, 1777-1779
1	3	Survey Maps, late 1700's
8	2	Survey Maps, c. 1800
1	4	Miscellaneous Legal Papers, 1667-1794

8	3	Miscellaneous Legal Papers, 1667-1790
8	4	Miscellaneous Legal Papers, 1791-1794
1	5	Miscellaneous Legal Papers, 1800-1818
8	5	Miscellaneous Legal Papers, 1800-1818

Series 2: The Abraham Hun Papers.

Box #	Folder #	Title / Description
1	6	Personal Papers, 1785-1810
1	7	Correspondence to Father, 1784,85,95
1	8	Correspondence from Family, 1784-1813
1	9	Gansevoort Attorney Papers, 1774-1787
1	10	Gansevoort Attorney Papers, 1788-1810
8	6	Gansevoort Attorney Papers, 1774-1810
2	1	Legal Papers, 1790-1810

Series 3: The Abraham Hun Estate Papers.

Box #	Folder #	Title / Description
2	2	Estate Papers, 1812-1813
2	3	Estate Papers, 1814
2	4	Estate Papers, 1815
2	5	Estate Papers, 1816
2	6	Estate Papers, 1817
2	7	Estate Papers, 1818-1820
2	8	Estate Papers, 1821
2	9	Estate Papers, 1821
2	10	Estate Papers, 1822
3	1	Estate Papers, 1823
3	2	Estate Papers, 1824
3	3	Estate Papers, 1825
3	4	Estate Papers, 1826-1829
3	5	Estate Papers, 1830-1834
8	7	Estate Papers, 1817,1830, 1832

Series 4: The Dr. Thomas Hun Papers.

Box #	Folder #	Title / Description
3	6	Personal Papers, 1830-1860
8	8	Personal Papers, 1830-1860
3	7	Personal Papers, 1861-1882
3	8	Personal Correspondence, 1829-1878
3	9	Anna Bassett Correspondence, 1827-1833

3	10	Mdm. Molinard Correspondence, 1851-1879
3	11	I.W. Jackson Correspondence, 1851-1888
4	1	Papers from Paris Residency, 1833-1839
8	9	Papers from Paris Residency 1833-1839
4	2	Legal Papers, 1826-1835
8	10	Legal Papers 1826-1835
4	3	Legal Papers, 1836-1844
4	4	Legal Papers from Winston Lawsuit, 1830-1843
4	5	Miscellaneous Family Papers, 1788-1830
4	6	Miscellaneous Family Papers, 1831-1891
8	11	Miscellaneous Family Papers 1788-1891
9	--	Catalog of Medical Books

Series 5: The Dr. Henry Hun I Papers

Box #	Folder #	Title / Description
4	7	Correspondence from Thomas Hun, 1873-1874
4	8	Correspondence from Thomas Hun, 1875
4	9	Correspondence from Thomas Hun, 1876
4	10	Correspondence from Thomas Hun, 1877
4	11	Correspondence from Thomas Hun, 1878
5	1	Correspondence from Thomas Hun, 1879
5	2	Correspondence from Thomas Hun, 1880
5	3	Correspondence from Thomas Hun, 1881
5	4	Correspondence from Thomas Hun, 1882-83
5	5	Correspondence from Thomas Hun, 1892, no date
5	6	Correspondence to Parents, 1868, 1871-73
5	7	Correspondence to Parents, 1874-76, 1878
5	8	Correspondence to Parents, 1880-81
5	9	Correspondence from Mary Adams, 1873-1884
5	10	Correspondence with Van Rensselaer Family, 1869-70, 1875, 1880-81, no date
5	11	Correspondence with Various Family Members, 1875, 1880, 1888, no date
5	12	Correspondence with Friends, 1869-1890
6	1	Foreign Correspondence, 1884
6	2	Misc. Papers and Correspondence, 1872, 1884, 1888, 1894, no date
6	3	Professional Correspondence, 1874-75, 1884-85, 1887-88
6	4	Medical Papers Written by Henry Hun, 1888, no date
6	5	Birth Records, 1883-1897
6	6	Photographs of Elk Street House and Blizzard of March 1888
8	12	Photographs of Henry Hun, no date
8	13	Photographs of Henry Hun Family and Washington Ave. House, no

		date
8	14	Unidentified Group Photos of Hun Family, no date
10	1	Political Economy Class Notebook, 1873
10	2	Ledger of Bills, 1895-1906
11	--	Ledger of Bills, 1874

Series 6: The Dr. Henry Hand Hun Papers

Box #	Folder #	Title / Description
6	7	Professional Correspondence, 1921-24, 1937-38
6	8	Misc. Personal Papers 1923, 1934, 1937-1941, 1947
6	9	Schuyler Meadows Club Annual Reports and Constitution, 1941-61
6	10	Albany Academy Correspondence, 1931, 1940
6	11	Hun Family Genealogy
7	1	Albany Academy Genealogy: A
7	2	Albany Academy Genealogy: B
7	3	Albany Academy Genealogy: C
7	4	Albany Academy Genealogy: D-F
7	5	Albany Academy Genealogy: G
7	6	Albany Academy Genealogy: H-S
7	7	Albany Academy Genealogy: Misc. Families

Series 7: Hun Indenture Paper

Box #	Folder #	Title / Description
7	8	Hun Indenture Paper, 1832