
Inventory of the Lewis Crum Bidamon Collection, 1837-1962

The Huntington Library

San Marino, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Lewis Crum Bidamon Collection,

Date (inclusive): 1837-1962

Creator: Bidamon, Lewis Crum

Extent: 276 pieces

Repository: The Huntington Library

San Marino, California 91108

Language: English

Provenance

The Lewis Crum Bidamon Collection was purchased from Stanley B. Kimball in July, 1966.

Access

Collection is open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information please go to following [URL](#) .

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Lewis Crum Bidamon Collection, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Scope and Content

The majority of the collection is made up of the business and legal papers of Lewis Crum Bidamon (125 pieces, 1837-1889), his brother John C. Bidamon (26 pieces, 1840-1850), and his son Charles E. Bidamon (32 pieces, 1892-1941).

Lewis Crum Bidamon (1807-1891), Virginia-born settler of Canton, Illinois, at one time served as Lt. Col. of the 32nd Regiment of Illinois Infantry (and was known as Major for the remainder of his life). In 1846, just as the Mormons were being driven out, Bidamon moved to Nauvoo, Ill. There, on Dec. 27, 1847, he married Emma (Hale) Smith (1804-1879), widow of the Mormon prophet Joseph Smith.

Bidamon engaged in various businesses in Nauvoo, including selling stock for the Warsaw & Rockford Railroad Company (1853-1856) and operating the Nauvoo House, an hotel whose construction was begun by Joseph Smith and completed by Lewis and his wife. Bidamon was also greatly involved in acquiring land in Nauvoo.

Of interest in the collection are the papers of Emma (Hale) Smith Bidamon and her son Joseph Smith (1832-1914). Joseph Smith was the founder and lifelong President of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Those items of note are listed below.

The correspondence of Charles E. Bidamon contains a series of letters regarding his attempts to sell the Nauvoo House during the period 1905-1909. In this connection he corresponded with Heman Conoman Smith (Historian of the Reorganized Church) and Joseph Fielding Smith (President of the Utah Mormon Church).

- BIDAMON, Emma (Hale) Smith. Letter to Lewis Crum Bidamon, following letter to Bidamon from David Titus (?). 1871, June 24
- HALE, David. Letter to Emma (Hale) Smith Bidamon. 1873, Feb. 12-15
- ILLINOIS. Courts. Hancock County Circuit Court. Agreement in case Phineas Kimball vs. Joseph Smith, et al in favor of Emma (Hale) Smith Bidamon and her children. 1851, July 23
- ILLINOIS. Courts. Hancock County Circuit Court. To Melgar Couchman: Order to sommon Nathan Prentice, Emma (Hale) Smith Bidamon, Lewis Crum Bidamon, Joseph Smith f, et al. 1849, Aug. 28
- McCALLUM, Josepha (Smith)? (daughter of Joseph Smith f). Letter to Emma (Hale) Smith Bidamon. 1871, Dec. 12
- MIDDLETON, Julia (Murdock) Dixon (adopted daughter of Emma & Joseph Smith c). 4 letters to Emma (Hale) Smith Bidamon. 1853-1873
- SPENCER, Daniel & others. To Emma (Hale) Smith Bidamon: Request that debt of \$1000 due John Robinson by Joseph Smith c be fulfilled. 1844, Aug. 22