

**Collection Number:** MS-387

**Title:** The Erasmus Jones and Lavina Hatfield Kitchen Collection

**Dates:** 1834 to 1972 (Bulk: 1887-1907)

**Creator:**

Members and relatives of the Erasmus J. (I) and Lavina Matilda (Hatfield) Kitchen family, along with correspondence and ephemera from friends of the Kitchen family.

**Summary/Abstract:**

The Erasmus Jones and Lavina Hatfield Kitchen Collection contains materials relating to the family history of the Abraham Kitchen I and James Hatfield I families, their homesteads, and their descendents in Green Township, Clark County, Ohio, spanning the period from the 1830s up to 1972. Also included in the collection are materials from members of both families whom moved outside of the state of Ohio during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

**Quantity/Physical Description:** 1.00 linear foot.

**Language(s):** English

**Repository:**

Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-001, (937) 775-2092

**Restrictions on Access:** There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

**Restrictions on Use:**

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**Preferred Citation:**

(Box Number, Folder Number), MS-387, Erasmus Jones and Lavina Hatfield Kitchen Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

**Acquisition:**

Donated by John Kitchen, the collection was received in two installments: one on November 25, 2008, and the second on February 16, 2009.

**Processed by:** Matthew M. Peek, Winter 2009.

**Arrangement:**

This collection is not arranged by series or sub-series. Rather, the items have been arranged either biographically, by material type, by purpose of the materials, or by size (depending on the nature of the materials) within three boxes. These arrangements are all conducted within

chronological order based either on the dates for a particular member(s) of the Kitchen or Hatfield families, or on the date(s) of the materials.

### **Biographical Note**

The Abraham Kitchen and James Hatfield families were some of the earliest American settlers to arrive in Clark County, Ohio, and both families' histories have been intertwined throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Both families settled in what was by the 1850s the northeast corner of Green Township, Clark County, Ohio, and their farms shared boundaries. During the first half of the nineteenth century, members of the Kitchen family married members of the Hatfield family.

The branch of the Hatfield family represented in this collection is descended from Nathaniel Hatfield. Nathaniel Hatfield was born in Delaware around 1762; later, he would marry Nancy Judy in Virginia. The Hatfields came to Clark County, Ohio, in 1808, settling in Springfield Township (just northeast of Pitchin). Nathaniel fought in the War of 1812 and died on August 21, 1812 (buried in Garlough Cemetery, Green Township). Nancy died in 1851 in Clark County. Nathaniel and Nancy are known to have given birth to six children: an unidentified daughter (1794?-August 19, 1812), Martin (1796?—August 26, 1820), John (April 3, 1798—June 14, 1883), Elizabeth (1800?—August 18, 1812), James (December 17, 1801-October 28, 1855), and Samuel (May 18, 1803—June 3, 1842).

(See “Biographical Sketch of Kitchen and Hatfield Families” in Box 2, File 3, for a more detailed history of the Kitchen and Hatfield families tailored to the contents of this collection).

### **Scope and Content**

The types of materials within the collection include the following: family letters, family photographs, property deeds and title abstracts, financial ledgers and receipts, family documents related to the U.S. Civil War, various grade school and collegiate records, Kitchen family genealogical information, and other miscellaneous items either produced by or collected by the family between 1830s and 1972.

The majority of the collection rests within Box 1. Box 2 houses legal-sized items arranged chronologically. Box 3 contains oversized materials unable to fit within the files of Box 1. Miscellaneous items that do not fit within any particular family member's timeline, were not produced by any family member, or are the only item within the collection created by an individual are stored at the end of Box 1.

The Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church Records file contains a minutes book containing notes of meetings from the 1840s-1860s (some notes may have references to runaway slaves the church assisted). Also an undated letter from Abraham Kitchen and family concerning “unchristian behavior” of Reverend B.F. Zell (minister at the church during the 1860s).

The Kitchen Family Civil War Documents file holds letters written to Lavina Matilda Hatfield (after the war she became a Kitchen) during the Civil War by a male relative and a man named M.H. Peter, both of whom were fighting in the war for various Ohio regiments. Also included is a honorary G.A.R. certificate for Erasmus J. Kitchen II.

The Erasmus J. Kitchen I documents consists of letters written and received by Erasmus J. Kitchen I and his wife Lavina, as well as financial receipts for agricultural and educational expenses. A number of letters are written to Erasmus' son, Erasmus J. Kitchen II while the latter was at Maryville College. Two significant letters concerning Lavina's health are within these records. One letter written on Feb. 11, 1868 by a Charles Morse discussing causes of and treatments for health symptoms. A second letter was written by Lavina's husband Erasmus from Colorado Springs, Colorado, six days before her death, discussing the fact that she may not live much longer.

The Abraham Kitchen II and James H. Kitchen papers includes letters written by these two sons of Erasmus J. Kitchen I, specifically during the 1890s. James' letters were written while he lived in the Oklahoma Territory; his obituary is also included with his papers.

The Erasmus J. Kitchen II documents include secondary and post-secondary educational ephemera of Erasmus, as well as documents connected with Erasmus' agricultural endeavors. A large portion of these documents are letters written by Erasmus J. Kitchen II, while at Maryville College, to his father, Erasmus J. Kitchen I. Letters from high school friends to Erasmus while he was in college, Erasmus' Ohio State University bachelor's thesis, and correspondence from the 1950s and 1960s from Erasmus' friends are also included within these documents.

The A.B. Graham papers include two letters and an essay by A.B. Graham, the founder of the 4-H program. Both letters are written to Erastus (most likely a reference to Erasmus J. Kitchen II), discussing various personal matters, sharing opinions, and describing various agricultural pursuits.

The miscellaneous files contain letters written to or by members of the Kitchen and Hatfield families that either do not belong with other groupings within the collection, or have no identification for the author or receiver. Included in this is a letter by Nancy King to her sister in 1861. Also included are agricultural reports, unidentified letters, and photographs that have been in the possession of the Kitchen family.

Box 2 contains financial ledgers, land title abstracts, and various other materials from the Hatfield and Kitchen families from the 1850s to 1924. Items include a financial ledger of Nathaniel Hatfield (son of James Hatfield, Sr.) and the estate ledger for Erasmus J. Kitchen I.

## **Subject Terms**

### **Persons/Families**

Kitchen, Stephen I  
Kitchen, Abraham I (1808-1888)  
Kitchen, Erasmus J. (1836-1905)  
Kitchen, Erasmus J. (1879-1973)  
Hatfield, James (1801-1855)  
Graham, Albert B. (1868-1960)

## **Organizations/Corporate Names**

Maryville (Tenn.). Maryville College  
Ohio State University  
Hillsdale (Mich.). Hillsdale College  
Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church (Clark County, Ohio)

## **Places**

Clark County (Ohio)  
Ohio—Pitchin  
Tennessee—Maryville  
Oklahoma Territory  
Henry County (Iowa)

## **Subjects (General)**

Civil War, 1861-1865  
United States. Army. Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 44th (1861-1863)  
United States. Army. Ohio Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, 8th (1864-1865)  
Agriculture

## **Occupations**

Farming

## **Material Types**

Letters  
Envelopes  
Photographs  
Property deeds  
Ledgers

## Collection Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Kitchen Family Photographs	Undated
	2	Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church Records	1840s-1860s; undated
	3	Kitchen Family Property Deeds (see Box 3)	1834
	4	Kitchen Family Civil War Documents	1861-1865, 1902
	5	Joseph A. Laird and Sarah A (Hatfield) Laird Ephemera	1913, undated
	6	Hatfield Family Letters	Mar. 26, 1873; undated
	7	E.J. Kitchen I Letters	1889, 1896
	8	E.J. Kitchen I Financial Receipts	1892-1904
	9	Lavina (Hatfield) Kitchen Correspondence	1868, 1884; undated
	10	Abraham Kitchen II Papers	1892-1897
	11	James H. Kitchen Papers	1898-1900; undated
	12	E.J. Kitchen II Autograph Cards	1887-1892, 1898, 1908; undated
	13	South Charleston High School Letters to Alumni E.J. Kitchen II and Henry Gibson	Jan. 20, 1899
	14	E.J. Kitchen II Letters to E.J. Kitchen I	1899-1900; undated
	15	E.J. Kitchen II Maryville College Correspondence	1899-1900
	16	E.J. Kitchen II B.S. Thesis for Ohio State University	1907
	17	Rudo Fromme to E.J. Kitchen II Correspondence	1966-1967
	18	E.J. and Martha Kitchen Agriculture Awards	1962, 1968-1969
	19	E.J. Kitchen II School Alumni Papers	1972; undated
	20	E.J. Kitchen Poetry	undated
	21	A.B. Graham Papers	1951-1952; undated
	22	John Everts and Mary Tracy Ephemera	1957; 1968-1969
	23	Kitchen Family Genealogy Information	1961-1962
	24	Miscellaneous Papers of the Kitchen, Hatfield, and King Families	1861, 1898, 1961; undated
	25	Unidentified Photographic Plate	[Circa 1960]

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	1	Miscellaneous Kitchen Family Ephemera	Undated
	2	Miscellaneous Paper Publications	1902-1903,1949, 1960
	3	Biographical Sketch of Kitchen and Hatfield Families by Matthew Peek	Mar. 2009
	4	Hatfield Family Land Grant (Copy)	Feb. 18, 1826
	5	Nathaniel Hatfield's Accountant Ledger	1856-1858
	6	Financial Ledger (unidentified)	Undated
	7	Erasmus Kitchen Speech	Undated
	8	Erasmus J. Kitchen I Estate Ledger	1905
	9	E. J. Kitchen II Land Title Abstract	July 13, 1920
	10	James H. Kitchen Land Title Abstract	Mar. 18, 1924
	11	E.J. Kitchen II Land Title Abstract	Apr. 11, 1924
	12	Kitchen Family Postmarked Envelopes	Various dates
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	1	Erasmus J. Kitchen Civil War Commendation Certificate for Eighth Ohio Cavalry	May 21, 1865
	2	Ruth and Pearl Kelley Grade School Graduation Certificates from Clark County Public Schools	June 13, 1908
	3	Abraham Kitchen Property Deed (polyester sleeve)	1834
	4	Abraham and Isaac Kitchen Mortgage Deed (polyester sleeve)	1836
	5	Abraham Kitchen to Isaac Kitchen Property Deed (polyester sleeve)	1840
	6	Isaac and Mary Kitchen to Abraham Kitchen Property Deed (polyester sleeve)	1841
	7	Isaac Kitchen to James Stewart Jr., Property Deed (polyester sleeve)	1844
	8	Henry Jones to Jonathan and Erasmus Kitchen Property Deed (polyester sleeve)	1877