Guide to the Samuel Hildreth Putnam Collection

Repository: Marietta College Library, Slack Research Collections
Phone: 740-376-4545
http://library.marietta.edu/spc/index.html

Creator: Putnam, Samuel Hildreth, 1835-1911
Title: Samuel Hildreth Putnam Collection
Dates: 1861 - 1879
Bulk Dates: 1861 - 1867
Quantity: .25 linear feet (1 mss box)

Abstract: The Samuel Hildreth Putnam Collection contains letters related to the life of a typical businessman in southeastern Ohio, during and after the Civil War. The documents chronicle his Civil War career, and also relate to the courtship of his wife and his married life.

Identification:
Language: English

Biography


Samuel H. Putnam entered Marietta College with the Class of 1857. Enlisting in the Ohio militia at the outset of the Civil War, his unit was assigned to guard the Marietta & Cincinnati Railroad from feared Confederate sabotage. Within the year, he had enlisted in the Ohio Volunteer Cavalry and was made a quartermaster sergeant, later rising to the rank of first lieutenant. Putnam served in the western theater, including battles at Shiloh, Perryville, Murfreesboro, and Chickamauga.

On October 18, 1866, he married Abigail Fobes Mixer, with whom he had three children: Samuel H., Benjamin B., and Mary. He entered the employ of the Marietta Bucket Factory, at one time owned by his father, and was associated with it until 1884. Putnam also acquired and worked farmland in Ohio and several other states. He died at his home in Marietta on May 2, 1911.

Scope and Content

The first part of this collection opens a window on the Civil War experience of an ordinary soldier and young officer from southeastern Ohio. Over 60 letters and one telegram were written by Putnam to friends and family members, including his future wife (Abigail Mixer), his father (Douglas Putnam), his brother (Douglas Putnam, Jr.), his stepmother (Ann Eliza Whipple Putnam), and his two sisters (Mary and Lizzie). These documents provide insights into the initial enthusiasm to enlist at the outset of the war; the hard life of campaigning, fighting, foraging for supplies, fending off bushwhackers and guerillas, while fighting Confederate cavalry; and the tensions pulling a soldier between his duty to his country and his duty to his family back home.
The later correspondence is related to Putnam’s courtship of Abigail Mixer, and it reveals how a post-Civil War couple prepared for their wedding and their life together. There are also letters he wrote to his family describing business affairs.

The Samuel Hildreth Putnam Collection is of interest to historians who study nineteenth-century America, particularly the American Civil War. The letters provide insights into life in camp and on the march during that war. Also highlighted is the role of southeastern Ohio in the Civil War. The collection contains about 86 items, and digital images are available online at OhioLink’s Digital Resource Center.

**Statement of Arrangement**

The documents are arranged in chronological order.

**Restrictions**

There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection. Copyright restrictions may apply to materials. Permission to publish materials must be obtained from the repository and from the copyright holder.

**Indexing Terms**

Bosworth, Mary Putnam, 1846-1912
Chickamauga, Battle of, Ga., 1863
Decherd (Tenn.)
Floods-Ohio-Marietta
Camp Chase (Ohio)
Harmar (Ohio)
Louisville (Ky.)
Marietta (Ohio)
McCandlish, Eliza Putnam, 1849-1931
Murfreesboro (Tenn.)
Nashville (Tenn.)
Pittsbug Landing (Tenn.)
Putnam, Abigail Mixer, 1839-1924
Putnam, Ann Eliza Whipple Tucker, 1809-1862
Putnam, Douglas, 1806-1894
Putnam, Douglas, 1838-1918
Putnam, Samuel Hildreth, 1835-1911
Shiloh (Tenn.)
Stewart'sboro (Tenn.)
Stewart's Creek (Tenn.)
Stones River, Battle of, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 1862-1863
Unionville (Ohio)
United States. Army. Ohio Cavalry Regiment, 1st (1861-1865)
United States-History-Civil War, 1861-1865

**Preferred Citation**

Samuel Hildreth Putnam Collection, Marietta College Library.
Detailed Description of the Collection

Box 1/Folder 1: 1861


5. Samuel H. Putnam, Camp Chase, letter to Abbie Mixer, Unionville, Ohio. Describes life in camp and the company's receipt of horses. October 9, 1861. http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder01_Item05

6. Samuel H. Putnam, Camp Chase, letter to Abbie Mixer, Unionville, Ohio. Details a fight with a Secessionist, rebel prisoners at Camp Chase, and the donation of quilts to the company by the ladies of Cincinnati. October 29, 1861. http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder01_Item06


8. Samuel H. Putnam, Camp Chase, letter to Abbie Mixer, Unionville, Ohio. Describes drill with sabers, his horse, and the company's potential shipping out to Kentucky. November 30, 1861. http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder01_Item08


Box 1/Folder 2: 1862 January – June


2. Samuel H. Putnam, Camp Buell, Louisville, Kentucky, letter to Abbie Mixer. Discusses upcoming battle, working with mules and getting a smallpox vaccination. January 10, 1862. http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder02_Item02


6. Samuel H. Putnam, “Field of Shiloh,” Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, letter to Douglas Putnam. Details their camp at Shiloh and assurances that he is not able to obtain any brandy. April 18, 1862. http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder02_Item06


8. Samuel H. Putnam, “In the woods five miles from Corinth, Miss.,” letter to Douglas Putnam. Details their advance on Corinth, Mississippi, and mentions supplies and the death of Luther Edgerton. May 15, 1862. http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder02_Item08


Box 1/Folder 3: 1862 July – December


3. Samuel H. Putnam, “Camp near Winchester, Tenn.,” letter to Douglas Putnam. Describes the murder of Colonel Robert McCook and his efforts to gain a commission in the infantry or artillery. August 9, 1862. http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder03_Item03


   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder03_Item07
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder03_Item08
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder03_Item09
    http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder03_Item10

Box 1/Folder 4: 1863 January – March
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder04_Item01
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder04_Item02
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder04_Item03
4. Samuel H. Putnam, “Camp at Stewardsboro [Stewartsboro],” Tennessee, letter to Douglas Putnam. Discusses a factory retiring its debt, the survival of a local lumber mill, working with mill owner John Goodman, the fleet arriving in Nashville, and his idea that the price of lumber will increase after the war. February 10, 1863.
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder04_Item04
5. Samuel H. Putnam, “Camp at Stewardsboro [Stewartsboro],” Tennessee, letter to Douglas Putnam. Discusses not receiving permission to go and see his brother and cousins, the sabotage of railroad tracks and the pursuit of the rebels. February 26, 1863.
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder04_Item05
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder04_Item06
7. Samuel H. Putnam, “Camp at Stewardsboro [Stewartsboro],” Tennessee, letter to Lizzie Putnam. Describes his camp, the mud and rain, mentions that his brother has not written to him, and the actions of the 55th Regimental Infantry USCT. March 7, 1863.
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder04_Item07
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder04_Item08
http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder04_Item09

Box 1/Folder 5: 1863 April – June
http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder05_Item01
http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder05_Item02
http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder05_Item03
http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder05_Item04
http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder05_Item05
6. Samuel H. Putnam, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, letter to unknown. Discusses the weather, high interest in General Hooker's actions, the young women of Marietta, and socializing with Southern women. May 8, 1863.  
http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder05_Item06
http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder05_Item07
http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder05_Item08
http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder05_Item09
http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder05_Item10

Box 1/Folder 6: 1863 July – December
http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder06_Item01
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder06_Item02
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder06_Item03
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder06_Item04
5. Samuel H. Putnam, Bolivar, Alabama, letter to Douglas Putnam. Discusses problems with Mr. Poole and the washboard patent, Major Pattin's responses, and the option to resign his commission and return home to resolve the situation. August 23, 1863.
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder06_Item05
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder06_Item06
7. Samuel H. Putnam, Chattanooga, Tennessee, letter to Douglas Putnam. Discusses the washboard patent situation with Mr. Poole and his resignation to return home and resolve the situation and manage the factory. October 24, 1863.
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder06_Item07
8. Samuel H. Putnam, Chattanooga, Tennessee, letter to Douglas Putnam. Describes his resignation, how he will search for his brother Douglas and Major Pattin, and his plans to return and help with their business. October 31, 1863.
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder06_Item08
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder06_Item09
    http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder06_Item10
    http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder06_Item11
    http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder06_Item12
13. Samuel H. Putnam, Nashville, Tennessee, letter to Douglas Putnam. Explains that he will get to his brother Douglas as soon as he is able. November 30, 1863.
    http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder06_Item13
    http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder06_Item14
15. Samuel H. Putnam, Nashville, Tennessee, letter to Douglas Putnam. Tells him that a Sergeant Chaplain is heading there with news and that he has met others from home and is assisting them with obtaining passes. December 5, 1863.
    http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder06_Item15
1. Samuel H. Putnam, Harmar, Ohio, letter to Abbie F. Mixer. Thanks her for hosting him at a wedding, says that the factory is doing well, and expresses his gratitude for how well her family treated him. August 5, 1866. 
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder07_Item01
2. Samuel H. Putnam, Harmar, Ohio, letter to Abbie F. Mixer. Describes his efforts to buy them a house and keep their engagement secret. August 15, 1866. 
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder07_Item02
3. Samuel H. Putnam, Harmar, Ohio, letter to Abbie F. Mixer. Describes his day, keeping their engagement a secret and requests to visit her. August 26, 1866. 
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder07_Item03
4. Samuel H. Putnam, Harmar, Ohio, letter to Abbie F. Mixer. Informs her that he purchased a house, his plans for it, and requests they delay their wedding to allow a business trip. September 12, 1866. 
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder07_Item04
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder07_Item05
6. Samuel H. Putnam, Harmar, Ohio, letter to Abbie F. Mixer. Describing the weather, anxiety over high water, anticipating their life together, and keeping their wedding a secret. September 23, 1866. 
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder07_Item06
7. Samuel H. Putnam, Harmar, Ohio, letter to Abbie F. Mixer. Describes an upcoming dance in Harmar and more high water. September 27, 1866. 
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder07_Item07
8. Samuel H. Putnam, Harmar, Ohio, letter to Abbie F. Mixer. Describes how he is unsure how his father feels about the wedding, notes that he is trying to keep it secret, and mentions attending a dance and a bezique card party. September 30, 1866. 
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder07_Item08
9. Samuel H. Putnam, Harmar, Ohio, letter to Abbie F. Mixer. Describes attending a dance and bezique card party, flood damage to dams, and his anticipation of their wedding. October 4, 1866. 
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_BOX001_FOLDER07_ITEM09
    http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_BOX001_FOLDER07_ITEM10
11. Samuel H. Putnam, Harmar, Ohio, letter to Abbie F. Mixer. Reveals that his sister discovered the date of the wedding, issues with high water, and the election of Andrew Johnson. October 11, 1866. 
    http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_BOX001_FOLDER07_ITEM11

Box 1/Folder 8: 1867 May – June
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder08_Item01
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder08_Item02
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder08_Item03
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder08_Item04
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder08_Item05
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder08_Item06
7. Samuel H. Putnam, Harmar, Ohio, letter to Abbie (Mixer) Putnam. Discusses getting caught in the rain while driving the new team and preparations for an upcoming wedding. June 9, 1867.  
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder08_Item07
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder08_Item08

Box 1/Folder 9: 1872 – 1879

   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder09_Item01
2. Unidentified writer, Cincinnati, Ohio, letter to “Dear Friend.” Apparently a former resident of Harmar, the writer mentions church activities and discusses his/her depression and despair, especially over past events. August 18, 1879.  
   http://cdm16824.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/mss008_Box01_Folder09_Item02