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Columbus E. Hewlett Collection

Hewlett, Columbus E. (1860–1930). Correspondence, 1888–1902. .33 foot.

Railroad employee. Correspondence of Columbus E. Hewlett and Lena Rausch during their courtship and shortly after marriage. Hewlett worked for the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway Company. There are forty-six letters from Hewlett to Rausch, ten of which are from Poteau, Indian Territory, and thirty-six are from Exeter, Missouri; two letters are from Rausch to Hewlett from Pierce City, Missouri; plus five tintype photographs.

Box 1

Folder:

1. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) regarding his arrival in Exeter, his intentions to learn telegraphy, his feelings for Miss Rausch, how much he enjoyed their last visit, and his hope that she will write him back. This is his first letter to her. April 2, 1888.

Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about the mistaken belief that he was married. The mistake was corrected after he told Mr. Day that it was not true. May 30, 1888.
2. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) regarding his enjoyment about their last visit and his wish to be with her more. He is wishing to learn telegraphy and office work and be able to find a position in four months. He reassures her that her letters are appropriate, and apologizes for his letters. April 11, 1888.
3. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about his concern for her last letter that mentioned her toothache, how well he is doing in his studies of telegraphy, and his reassurance that he will not be talking to any young ladies while he is there. April 20, 1888.
4. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how glad he is to hear that she is feeling better, and his wishes that he could have been at her house to hear her brother play the violin. He expresses how lonely he is becoming and how glad he is to have her to correspond with. April 26, 1888.
5. Elizabeth Barley (Topeka, Kansas) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how Ben is not feeling well and they might be moving to Minnesota if he doesn't get better. She asks about numerous friends and asks her to give her thanks to their mother for a present she sent. May 7, 1888.

6. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about taking her for a buggy ride with his cousin and another girl. He seems to want to take the relationship to another level, saying that he loves and desires to please her. May 7, 1888.
7. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about his decision to not go to Sunday school because he is working in the office. He writes about how tired he is and how he plans to go out into the city to see what is going on. He adds a few lines of poetry at the end. May 13, 1888.
8. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about his regret that she had to attend church alone, his first visit to church in Exeter, and what they will do during his next visit. May 20, 1888.
9. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about the talk they had during their last visit and how pleased he is now that they understand each other. He feels that he is not doing as well in his studies as he would like and wants to do all that he can to advance in his business. May 29, 1888
10. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about his regret that he was not able to visit last Sunday, but was pleased she was able to visit with her brother and sister. Also about his trip to Cassville to see old schoolmates and his old boarding house, and plans for July 4th. June 6, 1888.
11. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about his visit to the Exhibition in Cassville, his pleasure that she is not going to town to work, and his progress at work. June 12, 1888.
12. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about his plans to see her on July 4th, and his concern about her working at a canning factory. June 26, 1888.
13. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) regarding his attendance to Sunday school and Church, his work, and questions her about whether she is going to town. He encourages her to attend school during the fall, and gives a suggestion on where she should go. July 8, 1888.
14. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how glad he was to receive her last letter since he was worried she was sick, how lonesome he has been, his work, and his visit to Cassville. July 14, 1888.
15. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch about his illness that kept him from visiting last Sunday, his improvements at work that are allowing

- him to work for his board, his happiness that she is not going to town to work, and inquiries about an upcoming picnic. July 21, 1888.
16. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) regarding the upcoming picnic and letting her know that he will be able to attend. July 27, 1888.
 17. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how much he enjoyed their last visit, the work he has been doing recently, and about how bad he feels that she has been working in the fields. August 7, 1888.
 18. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how he has spent his day at the office, what happened at the picnic during their last visit, and recalling a story about how she broke her sister's comb. He also writes about addressing his letters to Monett, and asks if he should mail them there. August 12-13, 1888.
 19. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how his boss is leaving Exeter but a new man will be taking his place, a letter he got from another woman in which he asks her advice about what to do, and asks about Charley and his house. August 23, 1888.
 20. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) regarding her last letter to him, and reassuring her that he enjoys all of her letters. He also writes about his new boss and how much he likes him, and responds to her advice about another woman writing him. August 28, 1888.
 21. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about the possibility of finding work away from Exeter, his concern for her working in the orchards, and his attendance at the upcoming Republican rally in Pierce City on Sept. 6. September 4, 1888.
 22. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) regarding his attendance at the Republican rally in Pierce City and his disappointment at not seeing her, his concern for her and a friend drinking hard cider and getting drunk, and how well he is doing in the office. September 8, 1888.
 23. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about his attendance at court in Cassville, his disappointment at not being able to visit her, and plans for an upcoming visit. September 16, 1888.
 24. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) regarding her good health, how he wished he could taste the cider she made, and how his boss is sick so he must run the office. September 22, 1888.

25. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about his boss leaving him alone in the office, taking messages at work and how much better he is doing, his longing for a home of their own, and applying for a position in an office soon. September 28, 1888.
26. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how busy he has been at work and how he has the blues, and his desire to visit a friend (Mr. Bosle?). October 6, 1888.
27. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how busy he has been because his boss is doing poorly, his not being able to visit his friend, and how he has not asked for his own office yet. October 16, 1888.
28. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how sick he has been, how busy he is with the election, and how he will try to visit as soon as possible. November 7, 1888.
29. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how much better he is feeling, how he hasn't attended Church since he last visited her, how his boss thinks he could hold an office but he hasn't asked for one yet, and how he thinks he will have to go south of Ft. Smith (in the territory) to find work. November 20, 1888.
30. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) (missing first page of letter), about how while on the train a heavy trunk fell on his foot, and asking about whether she will come to town and if she will have a nice place to stay at. November 30, 1888.
31. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about the trouble between her and her folks, and how he has applied for a position so he can not be with her at Christmas, and how he wishes he had a home with her. December 17, 1888.
32. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) wishing her a Merry Christmas, expressing regret that they are not together, and includes a silk handkerchief as a present. December 24, 1888.
33. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how he had been promised a position in an office but does not know when it will be, thanking her for the picture she sent him of herself, trying to plan their next visit, and expressing his pleasure that she is getting along with her parents. December 31, 1888.

34. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how he does not like living apart from her and his displeasure at the job she is currently working at, his new determination to do well at telegraphy because of what her parents said about him, and his friends' mistaken belief that he was married. January 18, 1889.

Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how he wishes he could spend every Saturday with her and attending Church more often. January 19, 1889.

35. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how he has not heard from her in a while and he is afraid she is sick, inquiring about her new home, how tired he is at not having an office of his own, and how he looks forward to them having a place of their own. January 28, 1889.

36. Columbus E. Hewlett (Exeter, Missouri) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) regarding some trouble in their relationship, the engagement ring, and his being offered an office in Poteau, Indian Territory. February 8, 1889.

37. Columbus E. Hewlett (Poteau, Indian Territory) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about his happiness that the trouble in their relationship has been resolved, how much he loves her, and their upcoming wedding. February 23, 1889.

38. Columbus E. Hewlett (Poteau, Indian Territory) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) regarding their upcoming wedding, the engagement ring, some trouble with her parents, and how well he is getting along in his new position. March 1, 1889.

39. Columbus E. Hewlett (Poteau, Indian Territory) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how he has been feeling poorly and lonesome, and how business is going well. March 13, 1889.

Columbus E. Hewlett (Poteau, Indian Territory) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) (partial letter) about becoming his wife and giving her his new address as Poteau Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory. n.d.

40. Columbus E. Hewlett (Poteau, Indian Territory) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) regarding the ring and some bracelets he is planning to get her, and her visit to her parents. March 14, 1889.

41. Columbus E. Hewlett (Poteau, Indian Territory) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how pretty the wild flowers are, why she hasn't written him recently, and how anxious he is for their wedding on July 4th. March 26, 1889.

42. Columbus E. Hewlett (Poteau, Indian Territory) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) remembering their first night together a year ago, and requesting a letter from her. March 29, 1889.

Columbus E. Hewlett (Poteau, Indian Territory) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about moving their wedding date up to June 25th, how he has not written to her parents yet about their marriage, and their new home in the territory. April 20, 1889.

43. Columbus E. Hewlett (Poteau, Indian Territory) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how he went singing and saw a Choctaw woman.(letter missing page(s) April 28, 1889.

44. Columbus E. Hewlett (Poteau, Indian Territory) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) regarding the fact that he has not received a letter from her in three weeks and asking about whether or not she wants to move their wedding date up. May 10, 1889.

45. Columbus E. Hewlett to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) letting her know that he will be calling on her at Mr. Allen's. January 12, 1889.

Columbus E. Hewlett (Poteau, Indian Territory) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about accepting a rose from him that he has sent. April 27, 1889.

Columbus E. Hewlett (Poteau, Indian Territory) to B. L. Buley (telegram) asking if Mr. Buley and Lena Rausch have gone to Kansas. May 15, 1889.

46. Columbus E. Hewlett (Poteau, Indian Territory) to Lena Rausch (Pierce City, Missouri) about how pleased he was to receive her letter about moving their wedding date up, who they will use to officiate the marriage, and where they will go on their wedding tour. May 18, 1889.

47. Lena Hewlett to Columbus E. Hewlett (Poteau, Indian Territory) about how much she misses him and what their children are doing. June 6, 1902.

Lena Hewlett to Columbus E. Hewlett about how much she misses him, what her family is doing, and wanting him to write back to hear about the rooms. June 11, 1902.