

The Filson Club Historical Society

Joel Tanner Hart Papers

**For information regarding literary and copyright interests for these papers,
see the Curator of Special Collections, James J. Holmberg**

Size of Collection

.33 cubic feet

Locator Number: Mss./ A/ H325

Joel Tanner Hart Papers

Folder List

- Folder 1: Correspondence, 1836-1839
- Folder 2: Correspondence, 1845-1849
- Folder 3: Correspondence, 1850-1859
- Folder 4: Correspondence, 1865-1874
- Folder 5: Miscellaneous

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Scope and Content Note

The collection is primarily made up of correspondence to and from Joel Tanner Hart. The earliest is written from Hart to his brother while Hart was still a stonecutter. The preponderance of the letters center around the expatriate group of artists gathered in Florence in the mid and late 1800s. Of particular interest is a letter dated 24 September 1868 from Hart's cousin, Z. Layson, who writes extensively about economic, social, and political conditions in Whitley County, Ky.

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Biographical Sketch

Joel Tanner Hart was born near Winchester, Ky., on 10 February 1810. A sculptor, Hart was most famous for his busts of Cassius Marcellus Clay, Andrew Jackson, John J. Crittenden, Robert Wickliffe, Alexander Campbell, and most notably, Henry Clay. It was his sculptures of Henry Clay which brought him national and even international acclaim. In 1849 Hart moved to Florence, Italy and was a prominent member of the expatriate art community in the city. He died in Florence on 2 March 1877.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HART, SEE THE PHOTOCOPIED ENTRY FROM THE DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY LOCATED IN THE FINDING AID FOLDER OF THIS COLLECTION.