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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

26 January 1835

Jas White to
Wm Hamilton

My dear Sir.

In presenting me with a portion of the wheat, Sir R. Barr Porter so considerably acquainted to the mild climate of my native County, you were ignorant of that gentleman having passed part of his youth in this neighbourhood, still more, that he has years since been the frequent object of conversation with one whose memory will ever be cherished by the fondest recollection of his many excellent qualities; and whose parent was among the earliest subjects of the penile of your friend: under this resemblance both before & after her death I have passed hours at Studston with her estimable son, whose dying hours were soothed by one who rejoices that he was so blessed. Days, nay weeks in succession for a series of years, have I passed ~~in succession~~ at Studston as well as at the hospitable mansion of Froudescombe where Sir Rob resided; & often have I wandered to the Camp whence his friend extracted the Elm from a real pretorium or something like it;

Wm Hamilton Esq. Dr B

This

tho the many beautiful valleys, and over the hills
and barrows, from whence the eye cannot easily
be satiated by gazing on the vast waste, the ocean
tide, or the low land expanse, which are seen from
these lofty hills. And the vale crowned summit
of lesser magnitude also afford much beauty.
There is scarcely a town or road in the neighbourhood
that the excellent Henry Bradidge has not been
my frequent companion from Sep 1862 to his
lamented death on 4 Febry 1889: how he was
honoured at his grave. I shall be happy to say, if
early recollections are still cherished by Sir R K P
Your friend may possibly recollect a young man
Wm Moore, working with his father as a gardener at
Froelickcombe: his recollection of Sir Robt is perfect.
The first time he saw him, was on a Sunday af-
ternoon sketching, a gray horse, belonging to my
friend B B (you whose name I have often ridden) in
the stable yard at Froelickcombe, a more honest worthy
man does not exist than Wm Moore, father of Wm Chelms
born under the hospitable roof of Froelickcombe
where he worked or lived 25 years - The ear
of Wheat he sent me from Kingsbridge, where he
resides as a gardener and nursery man

more that he sowed grass, but he gave a gentleman a single
grain which produced 14 ears. the inclosed being one
of them: possibly Su Robt may like to have it.
I possess a drawing from Su Robt's painting of Froulscumbe
which hung in the parlour of the excellent Phillis Bay,
whose virtues were honored by the testimony of the
Duke of Somerset's leave, saying: the inhabitants had
been doing on the day of her funeral, the worst
the thing they did in their lives.

Every member of the Elder Branch of the King
family is dead, but a lady, the sister of Mrs Portr,
King has been to the me this morning & recollects
dining with Mr Portr at Studston: she mentioned
the very recent death of Mrs Dr; Bradridge, only
Mrs Mary (a widow) and her brother John survive.
The present owner does not reside at Froulscumbe,
the fronts of which he has much altered & destroyed
the simplicity of the mansion: nor should he
surprised, on his son's completing his majority
near at hand, if the beautiful property were
offered for sale. I have sent portions of
wheat east & west with snort into Yorkshire
I shall send more there: thanking you for
your attention at all times

I am my dear Sir

Yours very truly

Jos. White

I was over Truvelscombe. Arose in March, riding from
Goodbury to Shilton returning thro' the valley of the
Aune or Auen. . . Desolate was the hall of my friend
where the eye of friendship ever glistened on me.

Michael Sir Rob. shared in the glories & dangers of
the wheat to Cornwall. I was at Mr. King's residence
in Plymouth to advise him into the Country on the 10
January 1809 when the news arrived of the entrance
of part of the Army into Plymouth Sound. we started on
the instant: fancying that it was a same
spirit with the army, little anticipating the
same spirit that won at Cressy & Agincourt had
been again displayed: & for the first time learned
my exercise in the hall of Truvelscombe: the
weather was exceedingly stormy & the rivers flooded
I never shall I forget the joy, which arose in every
countenance of the assembled family, when I read
the admirable letter of Sir John Hope. I remained
with my friend 9 weeks, thereby escaping the sight
of the misery which was so promptly & effectually
relieved by my beloved friend Truvelscombe.

How busy has death been with my friends
since that period.

This Letter is from W Hamilton's Letter
no 29.