

Inventory of the

**Angelina Hill**  
New Milford, Illinois

Papers

in the

Regional History Center

**RC 318**

## INTRODUCTION

The Angelina Hill Papers were donated to the Regional History Center; supplementary material was later donated by Thomas Cramton on behalf of his wife, Willa Cramton, on January 30, 2012. Originally classified as a Vertical File Manuscript, the papers were turned into a Regional Collection as the subsequent donation expanded the collection.

Property rights in the collection are held by the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 1; 1 digital file (2.20MB)  
Number of containers: 2  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 318

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection consists of the letters and a letterbook of Angelina Hill dating from 1839 to 1902, as well as research materials collected by Willa G. Cramton between 1989 to 1999. The research materials include edited transcriptions of the letters and letterbook and background research relating to Hill, her family, and her community. The collection is organized into groupings of original material, research material, rough drafts, and final papers.

Although the letters themselves make up a small portion of the materials, they, along with Cramton's research, provide a rich background on the life of Illinois pioneers in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Researchers should note a number of other collections held by the Regional History Center which include similar personal correspondence by other Illinois pioneers: Ellwood Family Collection (RC 1), the Woodbury-Forsythe Diaries (RC 8), the Bryant Family Collection (RC 27), the Hall Family Collection (RC 117), and the Giles P. Ransom Family Collection (RC 275).

Electronic records may be accessed in the Center's reading room.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Angelina Hill was born December 17, 1815 to Henry and Lydia Hill of New York. In 1837, Hill, along with her parents and younger sister Maria, left Harmony Township, Chautauqua County, New York, for Illinois, where her brother Edwin had a homestead. The family arrived in August of that year, after suffering through extreme heat and illnesses.

The family first resided in a house in Strawberry Grove, on Killbuck Creek in Ogle County. In November, they had built a new house for themselves and began homesteading. On September 8, 1839, Angelina married Samuel Brown, another New York immigrant. The pair

settled in New Milford. They had three children, Jonathon, Alice, and Sarah. Angelina died on November 28, 1911, and is buried in the New Milford Cemetery.

Willa G. Cramton was born January 2, 1937. She earned her master's degree in history from Northern Illinois University in 1991. As part of her master's program, she edited and transcribed the Angelina Hill Papers. She later used the documents for several other courses, and presented one of her papers to the Chicago Area Women's History Council. Cramton passed away February 7, 2012.

### SUBJECT TRACINGS

Cookbooks  
Farm Life  
Frontier and Pioneer Life  
Hill, Angelina  
New Milford (Ill.)  
Ogle County (Ill.)  
Winnebago County (Ill.)  
Women

COLLECTION INVENTORY

|   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
| 1 | 1  | Angelina Hill Correspondence and Food and Medical Recipes,<br>(1837-1902)       |
|   | 2  | Research Notes, no date   |
|   | 3  | Ellen McHugh correspondence, 1993-1999  |
|   | 4  | Book Research, no date  |
|   | 5  | Census Research, 1990   |
|   | 6  | Journal Articles, 1966-1988   |
|   | 7  | Prairie Poems, 1989, 1993   |
|   | 8  | New York State research, 1990   |
|   | 9  | Ogle County Research  |
|   | 10 | Rockford Public Library Research, (989-1993                                     |
|   | 11 | Cemeteries-Killbuck, 1990, 1992   |
|   | 12 | Cemeteries-New Milford, 1989  |
|   |    | County Histories:   |
|   | 13 | Atlas, 1990   |
|   | 14 | <u>Bicentennial History of Ogle County, 1976</u>                                |
|   | 15 | <u>History of Ogle County, 1878</u>   |
|   | 16 | <u>Sketches of the History of Ogle County, 1859</u>                             |
| 2 | 1  | <u>History of Winnebago County, 1877</u>  |
|   | 2  | <u>We, the People...of Winnebago County, 1975</u>                               |
|   | 3  | Letter Extract from <u>We, the People...of Winnebago County,</u><br>1975        |
|   | 4  | Ideas for Research, 1990, 1992  |
|   |    | History 492 "Principles of Historical Administration:"                          |
|   | 5  | Working Drafts, 1990  |
|   | 6  | Final Draft, 1990   |
|   |    | History 495 "Introduction to Historical Editing:"                               |
|   | 7  | Papers Notes, no date   |
|   | 8  | Dr. Posadas Correspondence, 1990-1992   |
|   | 9  | Working Drafts, 1989-1990   |
|   | 10 | Final Draft, 1990 (includes transcriptions of Hill letters)                     |
|   |    | History 510b "Reading Seminar in 19 <sup>th</sup> Century American<br>History:" |
|   | 11 | Working Drafts, 1989  |
|   | 12 | Final Draft, 1989   |
|   | 13 | Paper read to Chicago Area Women's History Council,<br>March 3, 1990            |
|   | 14 | Willa Cramton Obituary, 2012  |