

Collection Overview

Date range: 1866–2021 (Bulk dates: 1906–1999)

Finding Aid Created By: Elizabeth Casler Loomans, 2025

Archive Created By: June Haushalter Casler

Extent: 1 Archival File Box, 3 Archival Photo Boxes, 3 Storage Bins, 1 Apple Box, Oversized loose volumes, and 7 Standalone Material Artifacts / Family Heirloom Volumes.

Abstract: The Haushalter and Casler family records include photographs, correspondence, legal documents, military service files, regional histories, and ephemera documenting life on the 50-acre family farm in Hamburg, NY, the local history of Water Valley, and subsequent generations across the 20th century.

Repository: The Haushalter-Casler Family Archive, Private Collection (Cincinnati, OH)

Access Restrictions: The physical collection is housed in a private repository. Access is available to qualified researchers and academic affiliates by prior appointment only.

Copy & Consultation Note: Digital surrogates of processed materials can be provided upon request. For consultations regarding un-digitized physical items, arrangements may be made for on-site review or supervised access at a mutually agreed-upon local public venue (such as a library or local meeting space) following credential verification. Please use the site contact form to submit a research proposal.

Language: The material is primarily in English, with select historical volumes and certificates in German.

Acquisition Information: The Haushalter–Casler Family Papers comprise a multi-accession family archive unified by continuous family custody and a place-based narrative anchored in a single farm property held by interrelated families for over 150 years.

- **Accession 1:** Consists primarily of photographic materials (circa 1880–early 2000s) documenting family life and farm landscapes, with supporting documents, organized by the donor following the death of June Haushalter Casler.

- **Accession 2:** Forms the documentary core of the collection, adding original land, estate, military, and community records assembled by June Haushalter Casler (including the 2026 integration of the John Casler papers and digital photo proxies from Carl Haushalter's estate records).
- **Accession 3 (Anticipated):** Consists of approximately twenty-five (25) handwritten World War II letters authored by Glenn Haushalter, providing an intimate first-person narrative closely tied to existing materials.

Processing Status & Archival Note

This finding aid reflects two operational states within the repository:

1. **Processed Core (Box 1 & Photo Boxes 2–4):** Items housed in Box 1 and Photo Boxes 2–4 represent fully verified physical holdings. As of July 2026, it includes only the items from Accession 1.
2. **Unprocessed Accessions (Bins 4, 11, and Apple Box):** Items listed under Bins 4, 11, and the Apple Box represent un-folded materials remaining in raw accession containers as received from the John Casler papers.
3. **Deaccessioned & Digital Proxy Status (Carl Haushalter Papers):** The physical container known as “Carl’s Box” has been transferred to Carl’s son. Non-personal family photos/documents retained from the box are noted below, while historically relevant items pertaining to Carl’s career and the farm are maintained exclusively as digital scan proxies with family permission.

Note on Organization: Items are conceptually categorized under intellectual thematic subseries. Physical container citations reflect their actual current storage (e.g., Box 1, Bin 11, Unprocessed, or Digital Proxy). Folder numbers will be assigned only upon final physical processing.

Historical Note

The Haushalter family lived and worked on the same land in Hamburg, New York for 152 years. The original 50 acres was sold to Jacob Haushalter in 1856 by his father-in-law, Daniel Schweikhart. In 2008, June Haushalter Casler sold the final remaining acres of the homestead following the death of her husband, Edwin Casler. These records were collected by June over the course of many years, with the bulk of the historical contents handed down to her by prior generations,

alongside later documents and photographs relating to the Casler family after her marriage to Edwin.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of photographs, legal and personal documents, volumes, ephemera, and photo negatives. Following the 2026 accession from the John Casler papers, the collection has been re-processed into a unified structure focusing strictly on the lineage, the homestead, and family military service.

The collection is organized into five distinct series based on format, theme, and content:

- **Series I: Documents and Ephemera:** Correspondence, personal written recollections, legal papers regarding the farm, newspaper clippings, and commemorative ribbons.
- Subseries A: Core Household & Property Records
- Subseries B: Water Valley Regional History
- Subseries C: 20th-Century Military & Wartime Service
- Subseries D: John Casler Career History
- **Series II: Books and Volumes:** Family record books, regional history texts, personal religious texts, and celebration guest books.
- **Series III: Photographs:** Loose and cardboard-backed prints spanning circa 1866 to 2003, including farm views, family portraits, and digital scan proxies of Carl Haushalter's personal collection related to his career.
- **Series IV: Photo Negatives:** A small collection of mid-twentieth-century negatives.
- **Series V: Realia and Artifacts:** Standalone family heirlooms, fine art marquetry, and material culture implements associated with the family lineage.

Inventory & Container Map

Series I: Documents and Ephemera

Box 1 Document Folders:

1. Lyrics to Birthday Party for the Caslers song with handwritten note by June Haushalter Casler, 1998
2. Letter from Fred Haushalter and wife Millie to his siblings, 1959
3. Von Sickingen genealogical connection research by unknown family member
4. Documents pertaining to Charles and Anna Stunick Haushalter
5. Documents pertaining to June Haushalter Casler as well as some of her personal recollections of others
6. Documents related to farm legal issues
7. Newspaper clippings about George Haushalter
8. Documents pertaining to James (Jim) Casler
9. Charles (Charley) Edwin Casler's personal recollection of visiting the farm.
10. Patricia (Pat) Casler's personal recollection of her grandfather, Charles Haushalter.
11. Remembrances of the life and death of Doris Haushalter Agle.
12. Personal written accounts of various events by Carl Haushalter.
13. Documents pertaining to various other Haushalters.

Box 1 Fabric:

- Prize ribbon for Charles Haushalter's barred rock chickens.
- 1921 Flower City Show Poultry & Pigeon Association first prize ribbon, presumed to belong to Charles Haushalter.
- Anna Haushalter's 1892 Columbus Day celebration ribbon.

Series II: Books and Volumes

Box 1 Books:

- Small brown book in German language with written inscription to "Carl" Haushalter, 1894

- Guest book from June Haushalter Casler and Edwin Casler’s 50th wedding anniversary celebration, 1993
- German calligraphy practice book of “Carl” Haushalter, 1893
- Commemorative wedding book from marriage of Anna Stunick and Charles Haushalter, 1912

Series III: Photographs

Box 2: Larger Photographic Prints

Box 3: Smaller Photographic Prints

Box 4: Cardboard-Backed Photographic Prints

Series IV: Photo Negatives

Box 1: Medium-format acetate negatives depicting farm outbuildings and fields (circa 1950s).

Series V: Realia and Material Culture

Freestanding Heirloom Artifacts

- Charles “Charley” Haushalter Logging Saw (1900–1907) — Two-man steel crosscut logging saw utilized in Idaho timber operations.
- Carl Haushalter Cherry Wood Coffee Table — Solid cherry coffee table constructed from timber harvested directly on the farm.
- Carl Haushalter Marquetry Work Panels — Three specimens of fine-art wood inlay.
- Master-Catalog File & Inventory Disks — Paper item inventories, metadata notes, and digital storage disks returned to June Casler tracking early family archival passes. Retained for administrative provenance.

Unprocessed Materials

Bin 4

This container primarily holds modern family, educational, and professional records, alongside personal ephemera belonging mostly to Liz and John Casler. Its contents range from childhood mementos, school photos, and college transcripts to career documents, legal paperwork, travel guides, and household

correspondence. Among these personal items, a few objects hold specific historical interest, including an unused Kennedy-Johnson presidential campaign bumper sticker, transcribed notes from a conversation with Jack Casler reflecting on his World War II experiences, and official government or legal papers such as sealed Bar admission documents and a confidential Bath Ironworks memorandum.

Bin 11

Serving as a substantial genealogical and regional archive, this container is filled with vital family records, legal deeds, correspondence, and extensive local history documentation regarding Water Valley and Eighteen Mile Creek for the Haushalter, Casler, Stunick, and Thomas families. Notable items of key historical significance include World War I ephemera, war bonds, and correspondence belonging to Anna and Minnie Stunick; detailed World War II military records, ration books, and service notes for multiple family members; an FDR recognition certificate for Glenn Haushalter; a December 30, 1939 front-page issue of the *Buffalo Evening News* featuring Adolf Hitler; a full January 13, 1944 issue of the *Erie County Independent*; and historical clippings detailing a local Water Valley manufacturer that produced wooden presentation boxes for Purple Hearts.

Apple Box

This container serves as a compact collection dedicated strictly to mid-20th-century historical print media and journalism. Its contents consist of original Buffalo-area newspaper issues bearing major front-page headlines from critical historical moments—including World War II, the Vietnam War, and the Space Race—as well as a curated selection of *Time Magazine* issues published during World War II.

Carl's Bin

This container functions mainly as a visual and photographic archive, containing family photo albums, loose vacation snapshots spanning several decades, travel brochures, and personal mementos associated with Carl Haushalter and his relatives. Specific items of notable historical value stored within the bin include original Air Force base photographs, a copy of the July 21, 1969 *New York Times* front-page cover story detailing the Apollo 11 moonwalk, and a formal 2003 Stage 1 Cultural Resource Investigation report conducted for the family farm. The bin also contains many photos and documents relating to Carl's career, specifically his work with McDonnell-Douglas and the United States Space Program.