

A Guide to the Edwards family letters, 1860-1865

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia 53808
Library of Virginia
2023

History

Processed by: Trenton Hizer

Title Statement

A Guide to the Edwards family letters, 1860-1865

Subtitle: Edward family letters, 1860-1865

Collection: 53808

Author: Trenton Hizer

Publication Statement

Date: © 2023 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

Publisher: Library of Virginia

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record by Trenton Hizer, 28 April 2023

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Accession Number

53808

Language

English

Creator

Edwards family

Extent

.175 cubic feet (1 box)

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Thomas L. Ackiss of Virginia Beach.

Preferred Citation

Edwards family letters, 1860-1865. Accession 53808. Personal papers records collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Biographical Information

Alexander Washington Edwards was born about 1835 in Princess Anne County, Virginia. He enlisted in Company C, 15th Virginia Cavalry, 27 March 1862 and was elected 2nd lieutenant. Edwards was captured by Union troops during the battle of Fredericksburg and was paroled. He returned to his company and was promoted to 1st lieutenant on 5 January 1863 and eventually commanded his company. Edwards was captured 11 May 1864 at the battle of Yellow Tavern and was sent to the prison camp at Point Lookout, Maryland. By July 1864 he was transferred to Fort Delaware, and became part of the group of Confederate officers known as the "Immortal 600" that was sent to South Carolina and Georgia and placed in line of Confederate fire in retaliation for Union officers put in a position of receiving friendly fire. In March 1865, those prisoners were returned to Fort Delaware. Edwards died 11 March 1865 en route to Fort Delaware. On 26 March 1857 he married Ann Virginia Brock. Ann Virginia Brock Edwards was born 7 January 1834 in Princess Anne County. The couple had no children. By 1886, Ann Virginia Brock Edwards had moved to Norfolk, Virginia. She applied for a widow's pension in 1903. Ann Virginia Edwards died 1 March 1904 and was buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Norfolk.

Scope and Content

Letters, 1860-1865, from Lieutenant A. W. Edwards (ca. 1835-1865) of Company C, 15th Virginia Cavalry, to his wife Ann Virginia Edwards (1834-1904), detailing his military activities during the war, providing news of friends in the company, and hoping for a Confederate victory in the war. Also includes correspondence between husband and wife after Edwards' capture at the battle of Spotsylvania, as well as correspondence regarding Edwards' death. Papers also include a promissory note, March 1860, and a recipe for a "cure to an eating cancer."

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