

Civil War Union Soldier's Letters

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1862-1863



Title Statement

Civil War Union Soldier's LettersCivil War Union Soldier's Letters, 1862-1863 Ms.1988.081

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Profile Description

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Revision Description

2020-08-25 Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags

2021-03-31 LM Rozema added missing notes for an unprocessed collection, added FA title and filing titles, added FA date from EAD, and added component with instances previously attached to collection level.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1988.081

Unit Date

1862-1863

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

Four letters from a Union soldier identified only as "Isaac," written to his parents from various points in Virginia, during the American Civil War.

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Union Civil War Union Soldier's Letters were purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in 1988.

Processing Information

The processing and description of the Civil War Union Soldier's Letters commenced and was completed in April, 2021.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Civil War Union Soldier's Letters, Ms1988-081, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Scope and Content

This collection contains four letters, dated 1862-1863, from a Union soldier identified only as "Isaac," written to his parents. In the first letter, dated from Fairfax Court House on October 30, 1862, Isaac writes of gathering chestnuts and selling them, looking forward to gathering persimmons after the frost, and of his other activities in camp. His second letter, written from Dumfries, Virginia, on January 4, 1863, likewise focuses on personal matters and camp activities. In an undated letter, apparently written soon after the Battle of Chancellorsville, Isaac disputes reports of the roles played by the XI and XII Corps in the recent battle. (From his defense of the XI Corps, and particularly the artillery, we might infer that Isaac was a member of an artillery battery within the XI Corps.) He also writes of Confederate soldiers crossing to the Union lines under a flag of truce after the battle to request medical supplies for Union soldiers that had been taken prisoner. In a final, undated letter written from Brook Station, Isaac again provides some camp description and notes that the local farmers are beginning to plant, but the prospects of a good crop are not bright.

Keywords

Civil War

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Virginia -- History

Existence and Location of Copies

The letters are accompanied by typed transcripts.

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Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit Date 1862-1863

folder 1