

Evans Family Letters

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1862-1863



Title Statement

Evans Family Letters Evans Family Letters, 1862-1863 Ms.1993.015

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)
560 Drillfield Drive
Newman Library, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
Business Number: 540-231-6308
specref@vt.edu
URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



2023 (CC0 1.0)

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-10-17 07:00:25 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Revision Description

2020-09-21 Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1993.015

Unit Date

1862-1863

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

Three letters from C. H. Evans, James Evans, and Mary J. Evans, of Iowa and Illinois, addressed to their brother, William E. Evans, a soldier in Company B, 6th Wisconsin Infantry during the American Civil War.

Creator

Evans family

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Evans Family Letters were purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in 1993.

Processing Information

The processing and description of the Evans Family Letters commenced and was completed in October, 2023.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Evans Family Letters, Ms1993-015, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical / Historical

Without more information, the correspondents in these letters cannot be definitively identified, as Company B, 6th Wisconsin seems to have included among its ranks more than one William Evans:

William Evans (A) was born in Pennsylvania in 1843. The 1860 federal census lists a 17-year-old Pennsylvania native named William E. Evans living in the Winnebago County, Illinois, home of Mathew and Nancy Evans. Also in the household are Samuel Evans, 26, and Mary J., 14. Listed next door is the family of 30-year-old Charles Evans. The 1863 draft registration for Iowa's Second Congressional District lists a 21-year-old William E. Evans as a resident of Boone County. In the 1885 census, Mathew and Nancy Evans appear as residents of Dickinson County, Iowa, living next to the families of Samuel and James Evans. Samuel Evans' obituary shows him to have been a resident of Okoboji (Dickinson County), Iowa. The family members mentioned in the documentary evidence seem to match with the names provided within the letters in this collection. According to the *Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Wisconsin* (1865, v. 1), William E. Evans of Company B, 6th Wisconsin Infantry was killed in action at the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1, 1863.

William Evans (B) was born in New Town, County Wicklow, Ireland, on August 8, 1827. While still young, he moved with his family to Canada, settling near Toronto. Around 1847, Evans moved to Minnesota, and, soon after, to Wisconsin. On July 16, 1861, he enlisted in Company H, 6th Wisconsin Infantry. He was promoted to sergeant and served until being severely wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg. After his recovery, Evans was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps and assigned to guard duty in Washington D. C. Following the expiration of his term of service, Evans returned to Wisconsin, where he married Lucretia Sweet (1849-1924); the couple would have ten children. In 1873, the Evanses moved to Oregon, and soon afterward to Genesee, Idaho. The 1880 federal census lists the family as farmers in Nez Perce County. In 1885, Evans and his family moved a final time, to Washington. The territorial census of 1887 lists the family in Whatcom County. During the Nez Perce War, Evans served as a first lieutenant of militia. William Evans died in Blaine (Whatcom County), Washington, on November 8, 1907, and was buried in Greenacres Memorial Park, Ferndale. While this William Evans' service in Company B, 6th Wisconsin can be confirmed through documentary evidence, his connection to family members mentioned in the letters within this collection could not be established.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of three letters from C. H. Evans, James Evans, and Mary J. Evans, of Iowa and Illinois, addressed to their brother, William E. Evans, a soldier in Company B, 6th Wisconsin Infantry during the American Civil War. The letters focus largely on family matters and news of mutual acquaintances. Writing

from "Okoboggi" (Okoboji, Iowa), on November 2, 1862, James Evans notes that Samuel's knee is healing, and he writes an additional note to his friend J. (John) C. Heales, also of the 6th. The letter from C. H. Evans is dated from "Okobojia" on March 23, 1863, mentions the recent deaths of W. A. Brown and David Knap [Knapp?] at Murfreesboro. Mary J. Evans, writing from Winnebago County, Illinois, on March 31, 1863, conveys news of the recent return of Dan Hubbard [Daniel Hubbard?], wounded and recently released from a Confederate prison, and mentions that "the inhabitants are all leaving Okoboji on the account of the Indians."

Keywords

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

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Description of Subordinate Components

Letters

Unit Date 1862-1863

folder 1