

Stanhope, Spencer C., Letter

Spencer C. Stanhope Letter

1870



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2009.069

Unit Date

1870

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection includes a letter from former Union officer Spencer C. Stanhope to C. P. Leverich, describing his destitution and pleading for financial assistance. Accompanied by a second letter, which had likely been enclosed with the first, further describing his situation.

Creator

Stanhope, Spencer C.

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Source of Acquisition

The Spencer C. Stanhope Letter was purchased by Special Collections in 1993.

Processing Information

The processing of the Spencer C. Stanhope Letter commenced and was completed in May 2009.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Spencer C. Stanhope Letter, Ms2009-069, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Spencer C. Stanhope was born around 1825. For many years prior to the American Civil War, he lived in the South. He enlisted in Company H of the 31st New York Infantry on May 21, 1861. Enlisting in New York City as a first sergeant, Stanhope was promoted to first lieutenant on August 2. He resigned on January 2, 1862.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of a letter from former Union Army officer Spencer C. Stanhope to C. P. Leverich (likely Charles P. Leverich of Leverich & Company). Writing from New York, Stanhope describes his desperate circumstances and pleads for financial assistance. He notes that his grandfather, R. N. Waite, had been a banker that associated with the Leverich family. He continues by admitting that the public has become suspicious of veterans requesting assistance, regarding them "as an imposter." In a second letter, which had likely been enclosed with the first, Stanhope states that he is disabled and "out of employment." He writes of having disposed of all of his possessions and spending the past three nights on the streets and claims that without help he will soon die. Despite his condition, he writes, he will accept any type of employment.

Please note: the letters contain outdated language about people with disabilities, which the author applies to himself, that may be offensive to modern-day readers.

Keywords

Civil War

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

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Description of Subordinate Components

Letter

Unit Date 1870

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