

McCauley, John, Letters

John McCauley Letters

1861, 1864



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2009.075

Unit Date

1861, 1864

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection contains a letter from John McCauley of Salem, Virginia to "Edward," describing arrival at home, advising Edward not to accompany fellow soldiers who steal from the local populace, and relaying news of an upcoming benefit exhibition for the soldiers in the area. Also includes a letter to "Susan," detailing excitement around the regiment's experiences in First Bull Run (1861).

Creator

McCauley, John, 1795-1864

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The first of the John McCauley Letters was purchased by Special Collections in 1994. The second letter was purchased in 2014.

Processing Information

The processing and description of the John McCauley Letters commenced and was completed in May 2009. Additional processing was completed in July 2017.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], John McCauley Letters, Ms2009-075, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

John McCauley was a resident of Salem, Virginia during the American Civil War. He was most likely the same John McCauley (1795-1864) who played a prominent role in the formation of Roanoke County and represented the county in the Virginia General Assembly for approximately 17 years. With his second wife, Susan Dingledine McCauley, he fathered eight children: William, Calpernia, Isabella J., Virginia V., Edward A. (born ca. 1844), Charles A., Mary M., and Antoinette ("Nettie"). Another four children had been born to an earlier marriage.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of a letter from John McCauley, a resident of Salem, Virginia during the American Civil War. Writing from Salem to "Edward" (most likely Edward A. McCauley) McCauley describes his recent trip and arrival at home. He advises Edward against accompanying his fellow soldiers when they steal from the local populace at night. ("You are stationary. There are few of you, and once suspected, the innocent among you will suffer in character with the guilty," he warns.) McCauley also relays news of an upcoming benefit exhibition being staged for soldiers in the area, to include "dialogues, music, tableau and a supper." McCauley predicts that the event will draw "a big crowd of spectators... if the small pox does not so spread as to prevent it."

The collection also includes a letter to "Susan," detailing excitement around the regiment's experiences in First Bull Run, written from Wytheville, July 1861.

Keywords

Civil War

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

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

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Description of Subordinate Components

Letter

Unit Date 1861

folder 1

Letter

Unit Date 1864

folder 1