

Conley, Isaiah, Civil War Correspondence and Research Materials

Isaiah Conley Civil War Correspondence and Research Materials

1862-2000s



Title Statement

Conley, Isaiah, Civil War Correspondence and Research Materials
Isaiah Conley Civil War Correspondence and Research Materials, 1862-2000s Ms.2015.051

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Profile Description

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2025-03-21 Ella Winterling added Existence and Location of Copies.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2015.051

Unit Date

1862-2000s

Language

English .

Abstract

The Isaiah Conley Civil War Correspondence and Research Materials includes two series of primary and secondary sources. Series I: Letters, Transcripts, and Narratives, includes 98 letters written by Isaiah Conley to his wife during his service in the 101st Pennsylvania Regiment between 1861 and 1865. This series also has unpublished and published versions of Conley's escape from Confederate captivity. Series II: Research Materials contains correspondence, photocopies, articles, maps, and research files for a history of the 101st Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry that was planned, but never completed, by a previous owner. This series dates from 1980s through the early 2000s.

Creator

Conley, Isaiah, 1830-1901

Creator

Powell, Marjorie

Extent

4.2 Cubic Feet 3 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

Permission to publish material from Isaiah Conley Civil War Correspondence and Research Materials must be obtained from Special Collections, Virginia Tech.

Acquisition Information

The Isaiah Conley Civil War Correspondence and Research Materials was purchased by Special Collections in July 2015.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Isaiah Conley Civil War Correspondence and Research Materials was completed in March 2016. Digitization of the letters was completed in January 2016,.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Isaiah Conley Civil War Correspondence and Research Materials, Ms2015-051, Special Collections, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Information

Isaiah Conley (1830-1901) was born in 1830 to Allen and Margaret Ellen McGrew Conley. By 1860, he was living in Somerset County, PA, with his wife, Caroline (Carrie) (1836-1907), and their young daughter Annie. Conley was a merchant when he enlisted with Company G, 101st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, late in 1861. Conley, originally a Second Lieutenant, was later promoted to Captain. The regiment saw action quickly, first joining the Peninsula Campaign, participating at Yorktown, Williamsburg, and Fair Oaks between March 1862 and March 1863. After that, the regiment moved through Virginia into North Carolina, via Suffolk. In April of 1863 the entire regiment surrendered in Plymouth, North Carolina.

Conley's regiment was taken first to Andersonville, but he, along with the other officers, were soon transferred to a prison in Macon, Alabama. In October 1864, while being moved yet again, Conley and two other officers jumped from the train transporting them, and made their way back to Union forces. Conley's account of this escape is part of the collection. Conley appears to have returned to the remains of his regiment and continued to serve until the 101st PVI mustered out in July 1866.

After the war, he returned home to his family (his second child was born around the time he enlisted) and his job as a dry goods merchant. He and Caroline had at least 7 children: Annie (Anna) (1859-1900); Harrie (b. abt 1861); Emma (b. abt 1866); Edgar (b. abt 1868); Elsie (Clara) (1870-1903); May (b. abt. 1873); and Ella (Nellie) (1876-1892). He later served as a local judge. Conley died in 1901 and was buried in Schellsburg, Bedford County, Pennsylvania.

Scope and Content

The Isaiah Conley Civil War Correspondence and Research Materials includes two series of primary and secondary sources. Series I: Letters, Transcripts, and Narratives, includes 98 letters written by Isaiah Conley to his wife during his service in the 101st Pennsylvania Regiment. Letters were written primarily from Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina between 1861 and 1865. This series also has unpublished and published versions of Conley's escape from Confederate captivity. Series II: Research Materials contains correspondence, photocopies, articles, maps, and research files for a history of the 101st Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry that was planned, but never completed, by a previous owner. This series dates from 1980s through the early 2000s.

Please note: The collection included 2 3.5" disks with transcripts of the letters and 11 3.5" disks with

transcripts of the escape narrative. The disks with the escape narrative transcripts were migrated to CD in July 2015. The floppy disks and the CDs can be found in the accession file and are available on request.

Keywords

Correspondence

Civil War

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

United States. Army. Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, 101st (1861-1865)

Conley, Caroline, 1836-1907

Existence and Location of Copies

Some of this collection has been digitized and is available online.

Arrangement

Series I: Letters, Transcripts, and Narratives, includes 98 letters written by Isaiah Conley to his wife during his service in the 101st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. Letters were written primarily from Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina between 1861 and 1865. Conley's letters cover the majority of his service and contain information about the Peninsula Campaign (especially the Battle of Fair Oaks) and the Battle of Goldsboro Bridge. In addition, he writes of camp life, war hardships, picket duty, skirmishes and raids, building of fortifications, and his perspective on the South.

This series also has typescript version of Conley's escape from Confederate captivity with two fellow officers. After several months in prisons, they were being transferred to another location when they jumped from a train and made their way north. A version of this account was published in the *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine* in 1964 and a copy of the printed version is included in this series.

Materials in this series are organized by type (letters, transcripts, and narratives). Within each type, folders are in chronological order.

Series II: Research Materials contains correspondence, photocopied materials, articles, maps, and research files for a history of the 101st Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry that was planned, but never completed, by a previous owner. This series dates from 1980s through the early 2000s.

A previous owner, Marjorie Powell, had acquired the letters and intended to write a history of Conley and the 101st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. Much of the collection consist of her research files including correspondence with other researchers, files on Conley and other soldiers, general Civil War history, prison records, biographical information on other regimental staff, regimental histories/campaign histories, copies of photographs, and other accounts of the unit.

Materials in this series are in alphabetical order by folder title.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Letters, Transcripts, and Narratives,

Unit Date 1862-1865, n.d.

Letters 1-10,

Unit Date 18 March-20 April 1862

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Letters 11-20,

Unit Date 24 April-29 May 1862

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Letters 21-30,

Unit Date 1 June-27 July 1862

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Letters 31-40,

Unit Date n.d. (August?)-8 October 1862

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Letters 41-50,

Unit Date 13 October-2 December 1862

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Letters 51-60,

Unit Date 23 December 1862-8 April 1863

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Letters 61-70,

Unit Date 28 April-30 July 1863

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Letters 71-80,

Unit Date 5 August-25 November 1863

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Letters 81-90,

Unit Date 10 January 1864-8 March 1865

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Letters 91-100,

Unit Date 27 March-2 July 1865

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Transcripts: Letters 1-10

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Transcripts: Letters 11-20

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Transcripts: Letters 21-30

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Transcripts: Letters 31-40

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Transcripts: Letters 41-50

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Transcripts: Letters 51-60

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Transcripts: Letters 61-70

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Transcripts: Letters 71-80

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Transcripts: Letters 81-90

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Transcripts: Letters 91-100

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Account of Isaiah Conley's Escape

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Account of Isaiah Conley's Escape (Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine),

Unit Date April 1964

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Series II: Research Materials,

Unit Date 1980s-2000s

Addresses and Contact Information

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Andersonville Prison Records

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the State of New York,

Unit Date 1897

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Autobiography of General O. O. Howard

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Battle of Fair Oaks, or Seven Pines

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Battle of Plymouth Living History Weekend,

Unit Date 10-12 April 1992

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Bedford and Somerset Counties

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

Bertie County's Union Servicemen

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

Campaigns of the Civil War, vol. VIII

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Certificate of Appointment to Isaiah Conley to the 101st Pennsylvania Infantry,

Unit Date 21 January 1863

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

Chapter XV (About Confederate Statistics)

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 33 (folder)

Civil War Diary Article Copies,

Unit Date 1955, 5 April 1957

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 34 (folder)

Civil War Echo Bookseller List

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 35 (folder)

Civil War Equipment

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 36 (folder)

Civil War in North Carolina by John G Barrett

Unit Date 1963

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 37 (folder)

Civil War Organizations

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 38 (folder)

Civil War Units, Part 3

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 39 (folder)

Correspondence: Letters between Robin Jacobs and Others,

Unit Date 1993, 1997-1998, 2000, 2004

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 40 (folder)

Correspondence: Letters from Majorie Powell,

Unit Date 1989-2000

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 41 (folder)

Correspondence: Letters on Conley's Correspondence, Unknown Author

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 42 (folder)

Correspondence: Letters to Majorie Powell,

Unit Date 1983-1992

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 43 (folder)

Correspondence: Letters to Debbie Miller White,

Unit Date 1992, 1996, 1997

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 44 (folder)

Correspondence: Letters to Majorie Powell,

Unit Date 1993-1995

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 45 (folder)

Correspondence: Letters to Majorie Powell,

Unit Date 1996-2000, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 46 (folder)

Correspondence: Letters to Majorie Powell, Cards and Envelopes

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 47 (folder)

Culpepper County Chamber of Commerce**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 48 (folder)**Culpepper County Information****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 49 (folder)**Dedication of the Memorial, Andersonville, Georgia,****Unit Date** 1905**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 50 (folder)**Diary of S.J. Gibson,****Unit Date** 1864**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 51 (folder)**Disease in the Civil War, Natural Biological Warfare,****Unit Date** 1968**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 52 (folder)**From the Flag to the Cross; or Scenes and Incidents of Christianity in War,****Unit Date** 1872**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 53 (folder)**Gaston House Hotel****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 54 (folder)**Genealogy Home Page****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 55 (folder)**Georgia Civil War Information****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 56 (folder)**Harrison, History of Bedford, Somerset, and Fulton Counties****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 57 (folder)**Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 58 (folder)**History of Bedford, Somerset, and Fulton Counties****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 59 (folder)

History of Pennsylvania Volunteers**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 60 (folder)**History of the Presidential Election,****Unit Date** 1864**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 61 (folder)**History of Somerset County****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 62 (folder)**Information from Ellen Zyroff, the Reference Desk****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 63 (folder)**Information on Bedford County Soliders' Monument****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 64 (folder)**Kennedy Farm****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 65 (folder)**Lampher Papers****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 66 (folder)**Legal Documents (Conely's and Others)****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 67 (folder)**Library of Congress, History of Pennsylvania Volunteers****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 68 (folder)**Lineage of the Conley Family****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 69 (folder)**Letters: Copies of Letters****Unit Date** 1863**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 70 (folder)**Letters: Sullivan Ballou Letter****box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 71 (folder)**Magazines: Civil War Times, vol. XXXII, no. 1 and 2**

Unit Date March-June 1993

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 72 (folder)

Maps: Arlington, Va

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Maps: Civil War Battlefield

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Maps: County of Culpepper, Va

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Maps: Pennsylvania Section

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Maps: National Parks

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Maps: National Parks, Gettysburg

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Maps: Sight Seeing

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Maps: State Maps

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Maps: Tarboro, NC

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Maps: Whitehall, NC

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Marshall House

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

McCellan's Plantation Article from Civil War Times Illustrated,

Unit Date Jan-Feb 1994

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Fort Bedford Museum and Old Bedford Village

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Port O' Plymouth Roanoke River Museum

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Michigan in the War,

Unit Date 1880

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Michigan Volunteers

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Military Affairs in Pennsylvania,

Unit Date 1861-1865

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Military Biography of the Civil War, vol. 1

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Military Biographies

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Military History, Owen's Books

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Military History Institute

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Military Service History

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Misc. Papers (n.d.)

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Morningside Titles**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 24 (folder)**Muster Rolls, 101st and 108th Regiment****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 25 (folder)**Newsletter,****Unit Date** Summer 1992**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 26 (folder)**Newspaper Titles, Abbreviations, and Dates Surveyed****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 27 (folder)**Newspapers: Bedford Gazette,****Unit Date** 1904 and 1995**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 28 (folder)**Newspapers: Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, vol. XVI, no. 407,****Unit Date** 18 July 1863**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 29 (folder)**Newspaper: LSU Press, Civil War Book Sale,****Unit Date** 1987**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 30 (folder)**Newspaper: New York Tribune,****Unit Date** 9 July 1863**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 31 (folder)**Newspaper: The New York Herald (Reprint)****Unit Date** 15 April 1865**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 32 (folder)**North Carolina and S.E. Virginia, ch. XXX****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 33 (folder)**North Carolina Historical Review****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 34 (folder)

Notes: Genealogy**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 35 (folder)**Notes: Index Cards****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 36 (folder)**Notes (2 folders)****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 37-38 (folder)**Pennsylvania Regiments****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 39 (folder)**Painting Description of "Bring Up Your Troops, Gentlemen"****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 40 (folder)**Pamphlets: Regulation for Public Use of the National Archives and Military Service****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 41 (folder)**Pamphlets: Santos Miniatures, Mail Order Catalog****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 42 (folder)**Pamphlets: The NC Historical Review, vol. LXXII, no. 2,****Unit Date** April 1995**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 43 (folder)**Peninsular Campaign, Va, ch. XXIII****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 44 (folder)**Pennsylvania Historical Museum Overview****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 45 (folder)**Photos (2 folders)****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 46-47 (folder)**Photos: Copies****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 48 (folder)

Photos: Negatives

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 49 (folder)

Photocopies of Conley's Letters

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 50 (folder)

Pioneer Library

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 51 (folder)

Plymouth Pilgrims

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 52 (folder)

Plymouth Pilgrims Descendent Society

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 53 (folder)

Prisoners of War

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 54 (folder)

Records from Bedford County

Unit Date 1800s

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 55 (folder)

Record Groups in the Pennsylvania Archives Guide

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 56 (folder)

Records of the County Governments

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 57 (folder)

Records of the Municipal Governments

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 58 (folder)

Regimental Histories

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 59 (folder)

Regimental Histories: 101st and 102nd

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 60 (folder)

Regimental Losses in the American Civil War**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 61 (folder)**Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 62 (folder)**Schellsburg Cemetery****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 63 (folder)**State Archives of Pennsylvania Information****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 64 (folder)**Tales of Old Monroe, no. 1-8****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 65 (folder)**Tales of Old Monroe, no. 9-15****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 66 (folder)**The Capture of Plymouth****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 67 (folder)**The Siege and Capture of Plymouth****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 68 (folder)**Trinity Lutheran's, 175th Anniversary****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 69 (folder)**Veteran Records from the National Archives****box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 70 (folder)**"Voices from Plymouth" vol.1-2, no. 1-8,****Unit Date** 1996-1997**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 71 (folder)**"Voices from Plymouth" vol.3-4, no. 9-16,****Unit Date** 1998-1999**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 72 (folder)

"Voices from Plymouth" vol.5-6, no. 17-24,

Unit Date 2000-2001

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 73 (folder)

"Voices from Plymouth" vol.7-8, no. 25-32,

Unit Date 2002-2003

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 74 (folder)

"Voices from Plymouth" vol.9-10, no. 33 and 34,

Unit Date 2004-2005

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 75 (folder)

War of the Rebellion

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 76 (folder)

Web Printouts

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 77 (folder)

Web Printouts: US Civil War Center

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 78 (folder)

Western Pennsylvania Genealogy Society

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 79 (folder)

Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 80 (folder)

Yahoo! Search Information

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 81 (folder)

2nd Regiment, North Carolina and New York

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 82 (folder)

10th Regiment

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 83 (folder)

24th Regiment

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 84 (folder)

55th Regiment

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 85 (folder)

76th Regiment

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 86 (folder)

83rd-104th Regiment

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 87 (folder)

85th Regiment

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 88 (folder)

85th Regiment: History

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 89 (folder)

85th Regiment: Muster Dates and Remarks

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 90 (folder)

96th Regiment

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 91 (folder)

99th-107th Pennsylvania Infantry Summaries

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 92 (folder)

101st Regiment

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

101st Regiment: Bibliography

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

101st Regiment: Death Notice

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

101st Regiment: Further Reading, Compendium of the War of the Rebellion

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

101st Regiment: History

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

101st Regiment: History of the 101st Regiment

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

101st Regiment: Information

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

101st Regiment: Letters of Edward Nicolas Boots

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

101st Regiment: Name List of the Infantry

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

101st Regiment: Porter Boys of Co. H

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

101st Regiment: Roster

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

101st Regiment: Volunteers Mentioned in Isaiah Conley's Letters

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

103rd Regiment

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

103rd Regiment: History

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

104th Regiment

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

108th Regiment (11th Cavalry)

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

131st-138th Regiment: History

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

138th Regiment

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

138th Regiment: Three Year Service**box-folder** 3 (box)**Container** 19 (folder)**Notebooks,****Unit Date** n.d.**box** 3**Container** 20-26 (folder)**Card Files (People)****Unit Date** n.d.**box** 3**Card Files (Places, Army Units, Ships, and Misc.)****Unit Date** n.d.**box** 3