

Nields, Cheyney W. Correspondence

Cheyney W. Nields Correspondence

1861-1862



Title Statement

Nields, Cheyney W. CorrespondenceCheyney W. Nields Correspondence, 1861-1862 Ms.2017.060

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2017.060

Unit Date

1861-1862

Language

English .

Abstract

The collection consists of three letters written by Cheyney W. Nields (two to his mother and one to his sister) between August 1861 and December 1862.

Creator

Nields, Cheyney W., 1836-1864

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

Permission to publish material from Cheyney W. Nields Correspondence must be obtained from Special Collections, Virginia Tech.

Acquisition Information

The Cheyney W. Nields Correspondence was purchased in two separate accessions in May and August of 2015.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Cheyney W. Nields Correspondence was completed in October 2017.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Cheyney W. Nields Correspondence, Ms2017-060, Special Collections, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Cheyney W. Nields was born in Pennsylvania on March 6, 1836 to Cheyney and Mary (Given) Nields. He was the fourth of five children. Nields grew up in West Chester, Pennsylvania, and eventually became an attorney. He served with Company A, 30th Pennsylvania Volunteers (1st Reserves), beginning in June 1861. He rose from the rank of Sergeant and mustered out as a 1st Lieutenant in November of 1863. Nields died in West Chester, PA, in March 1864 (though one conflicting record lists his death as 1867), and is buried in Green Mount Cemetery.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of three letters written by Cheyney W. Nields (two to his mother and one to his sister) between August 1861 and December 1862. The first letter is dated August 16, 1861, and was written from Camp Todd, Annapolis, Maryland, to Nields' mother. The letter recounts the capture of medical supplies by Union soldiers and his regiment's involvement in acquiring part of them. Included in this seizure was the capture of a prisoner and his possessions: gold, silver, and Confederate Army correspondence. He also writes of the prisoner giving up information on contacts in Baltimore who were in support of the Confederacy. The second letter, dated April 23, 1862, was written to one of his sister's from Catlett's Station, Virginia. He talks of the moving of headquarters in bad weather to an abandoned farm and describes the farm in some detail, as well as some locate sites (including White Sulphur Springs). He also mentions some local residents they found and asks for news from home. The third letter, dated December 20, 1862, was also written to his mother, from White Oak Church, Virginia. He mentions changes in the command structure of the regiment, news of the killed and wounded, his frustrations with the war, and he describes a recent battle. The original envelope for the final letter is also included.

Keywords

Civil War

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

Correspondence

Description of Subordinate Components

Letters

Unit Date 1861-1862

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