

Taylor, William Correspondence

William Taylor Correspondence
1862-1864

Title Statement

Taylor, William CorrespondenceGuide to the William Taylor Correspondence Mss. Acc. 1992.18

Author: Finding Aid Authors: William W. Moss, 1997; Ellen Strong, 1998; Austin W. Smith, 2010.

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: The collection description/finding aid is written in English

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Mss. Acc. 1992.18

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/9339

Unit Date

1862-1864

Language

English

Extent

0.60 Cubic Feet

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open to all researchers. Manuscript collections and archival records may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations, such as the Virginia Public Records Act (Code of Virginia, § 42.1-76-91); and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Code of Virginia § 2.2-3705.5). Confidential material may include, but is not limited to, educational, medical, and personnel records. If sensitive material is found in this collection, please contact a staff member immediately. The disclosure of personally identifiable information pertaining to a living individual may have legal consequences for which the College of William and Mary assumes no responsibility.

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Acquisition Information:

Purchase.

Processing Information:

Processed by William W. Moss and Ellen Strong during 1997-1998. Kaitlyn Gardy reformatted the transcriptions and made them available online in September-October 2009. Additions and corrections to collection description made by Austin W. Smith in September 2010.

Preferred Citation:

William Taylor Correspondence, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Biographical Information:

William Taylor was born in April 8, 1826 and enlisted as a private at North Liberty in Company G of the 100th Pennsylvania Regiment on August 31, 1861. While a soldier in the American Civil War, Taylor was stationed in camps throughout Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee, Mississippi, Indiana, and Maryland. Taylor was promoted to Sergeant on April 15, 1863, to First Lieutenant on July 23, 1864, to Second Lieutenant on May 2, 1864, and to Captain on October 4, 1864. Taylor was discharged from the service with a medical certificate November 13, 1864. Taylor often wrote home to his wife, Jane McKnight Taylor, during the war. Taylor died December 22, 1890 in Cambridge, NJ at the age of 64.

Scope and Contents

Letters, September 1862 through October 1864, from Captain William Taylor, a soldier in the Pennsylvania Regiment during the American Civil War. The letters were written from camps in Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee, Mississippi, Indiana, and Maryland to his wife Jane McKnight Taylor. Included are his descriptions of the Battle of Fredericksburg, the shelling of Vicksburg, the fighting, retreat, and siege outside of Knoxville, the siege of Petersburg, and the Petersburg mine explosion and assault.

Ralph G. Poriss transcribed the letters prior to 1997. According to the processor of the collection, there are small errors in the transcriptions and users should verify items of crucial evidence against the original letters. Further information from the transcriber is available in the finding aid/inventory linked below. The transcriptions are available online with links to PDF versions (below) and Taylor's letters are arranged on a map available at:

A note included with the collection of letters from Taylor's nephew notes that these letters were written to Jane Morrison Taylor, William's wife. In another place, her maiden name is denoted as McKnight. The note also states that John Wallace Morrison started a book from these letters, but never finished it.

Taylor often numbered his letters in order to keep track of them. Number 114 (Box 3, Folder 4, letter 142) is dated March 22, 1864, but probably dates from April 22, 1864. Had this letter been written on March 22, it logically would have been numbered No. 109. Taylor also dated several letters 1865, but their context and content indicate that they were written in 1864.

Additionally, in a letter written on July 4, 1864 (Box 3, Folder 5, letter 147), Taylor indicates that he is in Fredericksburg, Virginia. However, he also states that his position has not changed since his last letter (Box 3, Folder 5, letter 146), which was written in Petersburg, Virginia.

Separated Materials:

All audiovisual material from this collection has been moved to the Manuscripts Audiovisual Collection.

Related Materials:

The transcriptions of Taylor's letters arranged on a map were part of the Community Walk website which ceased in 2021, <https://www.communitywalk.com>

Taylor's specific project URL:

http://www.communitywalk.com/william_taylors_civil_war_correspondence/william_taylors_civil_war_correspondence/map/436410

Floppy disks from this collection have been moved to the Manuscripts Audiovisual Collection.

Keywords

Correspondence

Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Fredericksburg (Va.), Battle of, 1862

Siege of Petersburg, Va. (Richmond-Petersburg Campaign), 1864-1865

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

Electronic Format:

Users are required to use the transcriptions for most research needs. Consult a staff member for details.

Description of Subordinate Components

Transcriptions

Unit ID id60431

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/525391

Mixed materials 1 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Ralph G. Poriss transcribed the letters prior to 1997. According to the processor of the collection, there are small errors in the transcriptions and users should verify items of crucial evidence against the original letters.

General

"Battles of South Mountain September 14 and Antietam September 16-17. March up the Potomac to Leesburg, then to Falmouth October 11-November 18. Battle of Fredericksburg December 12-15. Burnside's 2nd Campaign, "Mud March", January 20-24, 1863. Moved to Newport News, Va., February 13, then to Covington, Ky, March 20-28. Duty in District of Kentucky. At Paris, Nicholasville, Lancaster, Stanford and Somerset till June. Movement through Kentucky to Cairo, Ill, June 4-10, then to Vicksburg, Miss., June 14-17. Siege of Vicksburg June 17-July 4. Advance on Jackson, Miss., July 5-10. Siege of Jackson July 10-17. Duty at Milldale till August 6. Moved to Covington, Ky., thence to Crab Orchard, Ky., August 6-18. March to Knoxville, Tenn., September 10-26, and duty there till October 3. Action at Blue Springs October 10. Knoxville Campaign November 4-December 23. Campbell Station November 16. Siege of Knoxville November 17-December 4. Repulse of Longstreet's assault on Fort Saunders November 29. Pursuit of Longstreet December 5-24. At Blain's Cross Roads till January, 1864. Veterans marched over Cumberland Mountains to Nicholasville, Ky., January, and on furlough till March. Ordered to Annapolis, Md., and duty there till April. Rapidan Campaign May 4- June 12. Battles of the Wilderness May 5-7; Spottsylvania May 8-12; Ny River May 10; Spottsylvania C.H. May 12-21. Assault on the Salient May 12. North Anna River May 12-21. Ox Ford May 24. Line of the Pamunkey May 26-28. Totopotomoy May 28-31. Cold Harbor June 1-12. Bethesday Church June 1-3. Cold Harbor June 1-12. Bethesda Church June 1-3. Before Petersburg June 16-18. Siege of Petersburg June 16, 1864, to April 2, 1865. Mine Explosion, Petersburg, July 30, 1864."

General

"PREFACE The 100th Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Infantry Regiment Known as THE 'ROUNDHEADS' This Regiment was organized in western Pennsylvania in August of 1861. It consisted of eleven companies. The men were from six different Pennsylvania counties, but over half the men from the eleven compaines were from Lawrence County. The regiment served for forty seven months and participated in eighteen battles and a great number of skirmishes and engagements. Their first baptism of fire took place at the Battle of Secessionville on June 16th, 1862. From that point on they fought with The Army of the Potomac in the summer and fall of 1862, and were in Pope's Virginia Campaign as well as the Maryland campaign of that year. They then served in Kentucky, and fought with Grant in his campaign at Vicksburg. Then they fought in the East Tennessee campaign which ended with a victory at Knoxville. This locked up Tennessee for the Union. A very large percentage of the regiment reenlisted in East Tennessee during the winter of 1863-1864 even though field conditions were terrible. They joined Grant's army in April of 1864 at Anapolis, and served with the Army of the Potomac for the remainder of the war. It was during this particular period of time that they sustained terrible losses. During this twelve month campaign the Ninth Corps was in the worst of the fighting. William Taylor was a physician in private life but enlisted as a private. He was treated as an officer because of his professional station. He became a Sergeant in Company G and in May of 1864 was promoted to Second Lieutenant. He became a First Lieutenant in July of that year and Commissary Captain in October."

Correspondence

Unit ID id60432

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/525392

Unit Date 1862-1864

Mixed materials 2 (Box)

Untitled

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/667569

Unit Date undated

Mixed materials 3 (box)