

CIVIL WAR LETTERS
(Mss. 983)
Inventory

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SUMMARY

Size.	21 items
Geographic locations.	Camp Brightwood, Washington, D.C.; Camp Babcock, Va.; and other army camps near Charleston, Va.; Vicksburg, Miss.; and the Chickahominy River
Inclusive dates.	1861-1866
Bulk dates.	N/A
Language.	English
Summary.	Correspondence of Union soldiers giving details of camp life and references to engagements at Centerville, Manassas, Williamsburg, and Richmond.
Restrictions on access.	No restrictions. If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
Related collections.	None.
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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Letters written by Union soldiers detail camp life and refer to military engagements at Centerville, Manassas, Williamsburg and Richmond. Letters were written primarily from army camps including Camp Brightwood and Camp Babcock.

LETTER DESCRIPTIONS

Oct. 26-Dec. 1, 1861. *Diary of weather, daily events, private in Massachusetts Volunteers.*
Attended religious services, courts-martial, inspection and drill, mentions attack on Beaufort, S.C.
Stationed near Washington, visited patent office (museum).

November 19, 1861. *Camp Brightwood, Washington, D.C.*
To Henry Diman, regarding account due.

March 20, 1862. *Camp Brightwood, Washington, D.C.*
James Beirne to Mr. Diman

Enlisted in Bristol, Rhode Island, Apr. 10, 1861, and disbanded due to no further need of recruits.
Joined 7th Massachusetts Volunteers. Writes regarding money due from Rhode Island. Also
mentions Couch's brigade sent to Virginia, rebels running away from Centerville and Manassas, the
Potomac army's motions, and Peck's Brigade.

April 14, 1862. *Clinton*
Regarding school and family news.

May 10, 1862. *Camp on the Chickahominy*
Writes to his mother, mentions their retreat from Yorktown and the Battle of Williamsburg.

July 24, 1862. *Camp Campbell, Va.*
Mentions preparation for another attack on Richmond, and expectation to receive wages and
"Confederate bounty."

September 3, 1862. *Near Fort Ethan Allen (Washington, D.C.)*
Tells of movements from Hartford to New York to Elizabethport to Baltimore to Washington to
Arlington Heights. Mentions General Doubleday, Commander of the fort, as the man who fired the
first gun at Sumter, and mentions talk among the camp about General McDowell allowing
Stonewall Jackson through without trying to stop him.

January 4, 1863. *Camp near Vicksburg.*
Writes home of various movements and encounters while in Col. Pitt's regiment, East Tennessee
Volunteers, Vaughn's Brigade.

September 27, 1863. *Camp in New Iberia, La.*
William Harper writes to his wife of news from camp. Instructs her to direct mail by way of New
Orleans, otherwise they go through New York.

January 26, 1864. *Camp at Newport News, Va.*
Describes proceeding up James River on steamer *George Washington* to bring up a signal station
and destroy grain being shipped to Richmond and stored at Brandon Farms. Incomplete.

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March 26, 1864. *Baltimore by recruiting officer*
Mentions state and city bounty for recruits.

April 19, 1864. *From Chestertown to James [L.] McCullough*
Regarding income taxes owed by soldiers. Incomes assessed when soldiers came home to vote.

October 12, 1864. *West Willington*
Mentions a soldier who is sick with dysentery and needs medicine and talks about a neighbor who has gone south to bring home the remains of his dead brother.

October 30, 1864. *Camp in Cedar Creek, Va.*
From Henry to Elvira. "You said that the rebels were coming from Canada, robbing the banks etc."

December 22, 1864. *Post Hospital, Paducah, Ky.*
Announcing death of a soldier.

[date unknown] 1864. *Camp in Charlestown, Va.*
Mentions that the six musicians in the company were told to bring water to soldiers, and when one wouldn't, he was tied to a tree. Incomplete.

January 22, 1865. *Camp Babcock, Va.*
From Henry, in drum corps, to Vira. Inquires of home, writes of the campground

January 25, 1865. *Camp Babcock at Summits Point, Va.*
From Henry to Vira. Gen. Sheridan highly thought of among soldiers. Henry sends a picture of the general home.

May 4, 1865. *Camp Brightwood, Washington, D.C.*
From Henry to Vira. Tells that the fighting is "all done around here," and that he'd heard of the surrender of General Kirby Smith. He also mentions the fact that troops were no longer being sent to New Orleans.

May 9, 1865. *Camp Brightwood, Washington, D.C.*
From Henry to Vira. Mentions that the 6th Corps was expected at Alexandria.

May 13, 1865. *Camp Brightwood, Washington, D.C.*
From Henry to Vira. Expects to be at home in a month, was reviewed by Generals Wilcox and Philip Sheridan.

December 18, 1866. *Hartford, Ct.*
R.W. Roberts to Dr. A. Morrison requesting a birth certificate of a soldier in order for his widow to receive her pension.

INDEX TERMS

Letters (correspondence)

United States. Army--Military life.

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

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives.

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CONTAINER LIST

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Location

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Letters, 1861-1866