

Manuscript Collection Inventory

Illinois History and Lincoln Collections

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Illinois History and Lincoln Collections
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I. George W. Sylvester Civil War Correspondence

Sept. 18, 1862 (Camp Yates, Springfield, Ill.) GWS to Amanda and children [waiting for recruits from Champaign, then company will join regiment in Alabama] 4pp.

[Nov. 1862?] (Portland, Ky.) GWS to Amanda and children [anxious for word from home as he has not received any mail yet] 3pp.

Dec. 1, 1862 (Nashville, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [attending church; friends dying from the measles; making rings from mussel shells from the Cumberland River] 4pp.

Dec. 14, 1862 (Nashville, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [wife found playing cards that were hidden at home, mailed one to him; brother Cy visits from 86th Ill. Vol. Inf.] 8pp.+ playing card

Dec. 20, 1862 (Nashville, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [word of defeat at Fredericksburg; Amanda might visit Indiana; visit to 86th, but Cy was not there] 4pp.

Jan. 10, 1863 (Nashville, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [Co. I is now known as Co. B; report on battle at Stone's River (Murfreesboro); Cy was wounded] 4pp.

Jan. 12, 1863 (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [concerned over debt at home; first reference to being a musician] 4pp.

Feb. 19, 1863 (Nashville, Tenn.) GWS to "Till" (sister) [lives in a tent with the other musicians- 3 fifiers, 5 drummers; asserts that the best present a soldier can receive is a letter] 4pp.

Feb. 28, 1863 (Nashville, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [anti-conscription; thinks war is taking too long; disease is killing too many; thinks Governors should call up an overwhelming force to end the war immediately; "we all desire peace;" new order: "no more newspapers is to come in the lines"] 4pp.

Mar. 17, 1863 (Nashville, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children
[rant about Copperheads and secessionists; GWS mad
that people at home asked Amanda if he was a "secesh"]
4pp.

Apr. 19, 1863 (Camp Schafer) GWS to Amanda and children
[musicians played at party for Sheridan, where he was
presented with a ceremonial sword and guns; officers
drank too much wine; consolidating regiments into
battalions] 4pp.

May 15-16, 1863 (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and
children [drill practice; complaints about the
officers; "officers don't know as much about drill as
the privates] 2pp.

May 24, 1863 (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and
children [false reports of the Union capturing
Richmond and Vicksburg; soldier recently executed for
desertion; no longer playing the fife because of
conflict with an officer, back to carrying a rifle;
brother Cy is unwell; asks for picture of Amanda] 4pp.

May 31, 1863 (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and
children [rumors of Grant abandoning Vicksburg;
predicts Confederacy will fall if Union can take
Richmond, Vicksburg, and Chattanooga; afraid that
Rosecrans will be sent East to command Army of the
Potomac] 4pp.

June 11, 1863 (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and
children [tried out the new sharpshooter guns- "Colts
revolving rifles;" expects good news from Vicksburg;
"if we cannot starve them we can fight them for 8 or
ten years if Uncle Sam will let us fetch our wives to
the Army so we could raise some new recruits"] 4pp.

June 28, 1863 (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and
children [GWS is sick; further admiration for
Rosecrans] 3pp.

July 4, 1863 (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and
children [army is preparing for advance on
Chattanooga; bought some 20 cent pints of beer to sweat
out his fever] 4pp.

- July 19, 1863 (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [tired of the army; predicts war will end soon; sends home his war diary (not in collection); jokes about bringing home a slave; deception in newspapers] 4pp.
- Aug. 6, 1863 (Bridgeport, Ala.) GWS to Amanda and children [describes land, value of U.S. dollar compared to Confederate; might be placed in a convalescent camp, but wants to get well to stay with his regiment; "it seems a man cannot get furlough until after he is dead"] 2pp.
- Aug. 12, 1863 (Bridgeport, Ala.) GWS to Amanda and children [told to be ready to march at any time with ten days ration; plenty of food: catfish, beef, corn, apples, peaches, potatoes] 2pp.
- Nov. 1, 1863 (Chattanooga, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [wounded in left shoulder; still trying to capture Lookout Mountain; uncertain of when he will be mustered out; new teeth for Amanda] 4pp.
- Nov. 9, 1863 (Chattanooga, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [back injury, cannot do much work; friend captured by the Confederates; shelled daily] 4pp.
- Nov. 19, 1863 (Chattanooga, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [still in hospital because of back injury; homesick] 4pp.
- Dec. 1, 1863 (Chattanooga, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [can limp around the hospital now; regiment left without him; talks about how Meade and Hooker can end the war, also mentions Sherman, Grant, Bragg, Lee, and Longstreet] 4pp.
- Dec. 13-16, 1863 (Chattanooga, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [attending church; Christian Commission brought them cheese and butter; had not seen women in so long; doctors recommended him for the Invalid Corps; homesick] 4pp.
- Dec. 25, 1863 (Chattanooga, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [regiment left for Knoxville; expects to be sent North with others from the hospital; shocked by Tennessee women and their chewing tobacco habits] 4pp.

- Apr. 1, 1864 (Louisville, Ky.) GWS to Amanda and children [describes a furlough: Chicago, Indianapolis, Lafayette; back with the 51st Ill.] 2pp.
- Apr. 4, 1864 (Nashville, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [quartered in the Zollicoffer House with 8000 men] 3pp.
- Apr. 30, 1864 (Cleaveland [sic], Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [advice to Amanda regarding property dispute at home] 4pp.
- June 23, 1864 (Chattanooga, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [300 Confederates captured by Hooker] 3pp.
- Aug. 3, 1864 ("Chattahoochee River, six miles from the front") [Chattahoochee River?] GWS to Amanda and children [list of towns they marched through on their way from Chattanooga] 4pp.
- Aug. 17, 1864 ("camp near Atlanta, Ga.) GWS to Amanda and children [describes fighting] 2pp. with additional pages missing
- Oct. 29, 1864 (Chattanooga, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [marched to Alpine and back; about to march to Decatur, Ala., to fight Hood; hopes they will not be marching all winter] 3pp.
- Nov. 16, 1864 (Pulaski, Tenn.) GWS to Amanda and children [recently sent home a picture and money; resolving debts at home] 3pp.

II. Sylvester Family Correspondence

- July 28, 1852, GWS (Attica, Ind.) to Amanda[?], 3pp.
- Aug. 3, 1863 [?] to Mary [Sylvester?], 2pp.
- May 8, 1876, William B. Sylvester (Attica, Ind.) to Alice Sylvester (Otterbein, Ind.), 2pp.
- Nov. 12, 1876, Hester[?] to Alice Sylvester, 2pp.

Dec. 18, 1876, James Sylvester (Attica, Ind.) to Homer, Ill., Postmaster [asks Postmaster to let William H. Sylvester know that William B. is dying] 1p.

Feb. 19, 1877, Mrs. M. Thompson [Mary Sylvester?] (Attica, Ind.) to William H. Sylvester (care of Homer, Ill, postmaster) William B.'s wife died [Western Union telegram], 1p.

Feb. 28, 1877, Hester to Willie [William H.] and Alice [Sylvester], 4pp.

[undated] (Jan. 22), M.B. Sylvester (Sidney, Ill.) to husband, 3pp.

[undated] Clinton Martin (Jersey, Ohio) to cousin, 3pp.

III. Other Materials

1852, three checks ("Bank of East Tennessee," "Bank of Tennessee," and "Georgia Rail-road and Banking Company"), Chattanooga, Tenn., 1852.

1866, George Sylvester's army pension records [photocopies]

Apr. 8, 1876, Toledo, Wabash & Western Railway Co. receipt [transferred one boxed organ from Attica, Ind., to William H. Sylvester in Homer, Ill.], 1p.

July 17, 1877, R.S. Hopkins Trade Palace, Homer, Ill., bill [materials purchased by William H. Sylvester over a 6 month period], 1p.

[undated] Handwritten acrostic poem, "AMANDA CATHARINE HERSHBERGER" by [?] Bonner, 1p.

[undated] Printed song [lyrics]; "The Battle of Stone's River" ("Composed by Sergeant L. V. Phillips, Co. H, 27th Reg. Ills. Vols."), 1p.

[undated] Printed song [music and lyrics]; "My Days are Gliding Swiftly By" ("composed by G. F. Root") ["Amanda C. Sylvester" inscribed on verso], 1p.

[undated] Printed song [lyrics]; "Forward! March!" ("by a private of the Twenty-First Michigan Infantry"), 1p.