

Manuscript Collection Inventory

Illinois History and Lincoln Collections
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Note: Unless otherwise specified, documents and other materials listed on the following pages are available for research at the Illinois Historical and Lincoln Collections, located in the Main Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Additional background information about the manuscript collection inventoried is recorded in the [Manuscript Collections Database](http://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/archon/index.php) (<http://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/archon/index.php>) under the collection title; search by the name listed at the top of the inventory to locate the corresponding collection record in the database.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Illinois History and Lincoln Collections
<http://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/index.html>
phone: (217) 333-1777
email: ihlc@library.illinois.edu

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 fifers, 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, potatos] 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 ("Chattahoochie 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.