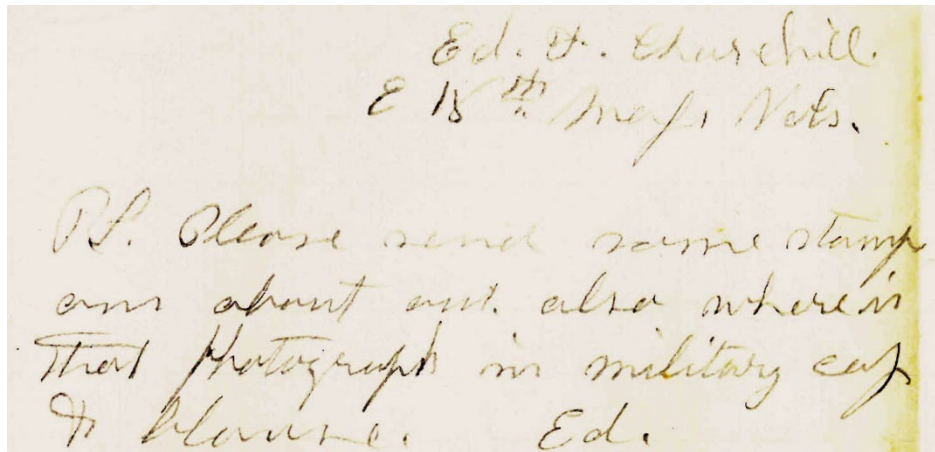


Guide to MS-213:

Sergeant Edmund F. Churchill Letters



Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections and College Archives

Chloe Parrella
Summer 2017

MS-213: Papers of Edmund F. Churchill

Processed by Chloe Parrella' 19,
Brian C. Pohanka Summer Intern, August 2017

Size

1 box, 0.25 cubic feet

Location

Collections Room

Dates

Inclusive: August 16, 1862 - July 13, 1864

Bulk Dates: January 3, 1863 - July 13, 1864

Provenance

This collection was purchased in May of 2016 from the William Reese Company by Musselman Library Special Collections.

Biographical Note

Edmund Findlay Churchill was born in February 1842, the son of Isaiah and Polly Churchill, and was twenty years old when he enlisted as a private in Company E of the 18th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, along with his twin brother Isaiah. Edmund's brothers Theodore and Frederick also served in the war, but did not survive.

Edmund was a 20-year-old farmer from Plympton, Massachusetts when he enlisted on August 9, 1862. His letters offer an in depth look at the battles the 18th Massachusetts partook in, such as Antietam, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg, as well as the day-to-day activities of the regiment. Churchill was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on May 1, 1863 and is one of only a dozen men from his regiment that were cited for their bravery after the battle of Fredericksburg. It was after this battle that Churchill became the color bearer for his regiment after safely bringing the colors off the field while under heavy fire from the Confederates. He was mustered out on September 2, 1864 and died in 1921.

Scope and Content Note

This collection includes numerous letters, in a single box, in good condition written by Edmund Churchill to members of his family at home, chiefly his father and sister, Charlotte. There are fifty-two letters to Charlotte, twenty-one to his father, and four to his brother-in-law. There is

one letter from Edmund's father, as well as two letters from his brother Theodore to their father. Also included are several pages of Churchill's "diary", which he entitled *Memoranda*, which cover major events on a monthly basis. Several pages of background are included, provided by the previous owner. The location given for each letter was derived from information provided on the envelopes.

Series Description

This collection is divided into four Series. **Series I:** Letters from Edmund to his sister Charlotte, **Series II:** Letters from Edmund to his father, Isaiah, **Series III:** Other letters between members of the Churchill family, **Series IV:** Diary Entries of Edmund Churchill.

Box List

Box 1

Series 1: Letters from Edmund to his sister, Charlotte

1-0 Finding Aid and Biographical Information

1-1 Letters from 1862

- New York City, August 16, 1862
- Sharpsburg MD, October 16, 1862
- Falmouth VA, December 10, 1862
- Falmouth VA, December 28, 1862

1-2 Letters from January to May 1863

- Falmouth VA, January 3, 1863
- Falmouth VA, January 19, 1863
- Falmouth VA, January 27, 1863
- Falmouth VA, February 6, 1863
- Falmouth VA, February 11, 1863
- Falmouth VA, February 17, 1863
- Falmouth VA, February 29, 1863
- Falmouth VA, March 4, 1863
- Falmouth VA, March 7, 1863
- Potomac Creek Bridge VA, March 18, 1863
- Unknown location in Virginia, March 21, 1863
- Falmouth VA, March 27, 1863
- Falmouth VA, March 31, 1863
- Falmouth VA, April 4, 1863
- Falmouth VA, April 13, 1863
- Falmouth VA, April 14, 1863
- Falmouth VA, April 18, 1863
- - Unspecified location, April 24, 1863
- - Unspecified location, May 6, 1863

- Falmouth VA, May 15, 1863
- Falmouth VA, May 26, 1863

1-3 Letters from June - December 1863

- Morrisville VA, June 1, 1863
- Aldie VA, June 25, 1863
- Hagerstown MD, July 14, 1863.
- Unknown location in Virginia, July 18, 1863
- Bealeton VA, August 6, 1863
- Beverly Ford VA, August 16, 1863
- Beverly Ford VA, August 24, 1863
- Beverly Ford VA, September 8, 1863
- Beverly Ford VA, September 15, 1863
- New Baltimore VA, October 22, 1863
- Three Mile Station VA, November 1, 1863
- Beverly Ford VA, December 24, 1863
- Beverly Ford VA, December 28, 1863

1-4 Letters from Edmund Churchill to his sister, Charlotte

- Beverly Ford VA, January 4, 1864
- Camp Barnes VA, January 9, 1864
- Camp Barnes VA, January 24, 1864
- Beverly Ford VA, February 7, 1864
- Beverly Ford VA, February 10, 1864
- Camp Barnes VA, March 8, 1864
- Camp Barnes VA, March 20, 1864
- Beverly Ford VA, April 2, 1864
- Spotsylvania VA, May 13, 1864
- Jericho Ford VA, May 24, 1864
- Unspecified location, May 30, 1864
- Petersburg VA, June 26, 1864
- Petersburg VA, July 10th, 1864

Series II: Letters from Edmund to his Father, Isiah

1-5 Letters from 1862

- Unspecified location, September 8, 1862
- Sharpsburg MD, October 29, 1862
- Falmouth VA, November 26, 1862
- Falmouth VA, December 10, 1862
- Falmouth VA, December 25, 1862
- Falmouth VA, December 27, 1862

1-6 Letters from 1863

- Falmouth VA, January 12th, 1863
- Falmouth VA, January 13th, 1863
- Falmouth VA, February 19th, 1863
- Falmouth VA, February 25th, 1863
- Falmouth VA, March 7th, 1863
- Falmouth VA, April 14th, 1863
- Falmouth VA, April 27th, 1863
- Falmouth VA, May 6th, 1863

1-7 Letters from 1864

- Camp Barnes VA, March 8th, 1864
- Beverly Ford VA, April 17th, 1864
- Spotsylvania VA, May 16th, 1864
- Seedy Grove VA, June 10th, 1864
- Petersburg VA, July 13th, 1864

Series III: Other Letters Between Members of the Churchill Family

1-8 Letters from Edmund Churchill to his brother-in-law, David Sumner Plummer.

- Beverly Ford VA, March 15th, 1864
- Camp Barnes VA, April 30th, 1864
- Charles City Court House VA, June 15th, 1864
- Petersburg VA, July 10th, 1864

1-9 Letter from Isaiah Churchill to his son Edmund Churchill

- Plympton MA, June 27th, 1864

1-10 Letters from Edmund's brother, Theodore, to their father

- Fort Warren, Boston Harbor, February 16, 1862
- Falmouth VA, December 5, 1862

Series IV: Diary Entries of Edmund Churchill

1-11 Diaries from 1862

- September 4-30, 1862
- October 1-31, 1862
- November 1-30, 1862
- December 1-21, 1862
- December 22-31, 1862

1-12 Diaries from 1863

- January 1-20, 1863
- January 21-31, 1863
- February 1-28, 1863
- March 1-30, 1863

- April 1-30, 1863
- May 1-6, 1863
- May 7-31, 1863
- June 1-22, 1863 (Incorrectly wrote the date as June 22 twice)
- June 24-30, 1863
- July 1-12, 1863
- July 13-31, 1863
- August 1-21, 1863
- August 22-31, 1863
- September 1-30
- October 1-31, 1863
- November 1-30, 1863
- December 1-31, 1863

1-13 Diaries from 1864

- January 1-31, 1864
- February 1-29, 1864
- March 1-16, 1864
- March 17-31, 1864
- April 1-30, 1864
- May 1-9, 1864
- May 8-14, 1864
- May 15-28, 1864
- May 29-31, 1864

Contact Information

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