

Burgess, William Letter

William Burgess Letter

1886



Title Statement

Burgess, William Letter William Burgess Letter, 1886 Ms.1989.050

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)
560 Drillfield Drive
Newman Library, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 13:38:40 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Revision Description

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 2020-08-31 | Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags |
| 2021-05-10 | LM Rozema added missing notes for an unprocessed collection (abstract, source, processing, bio note), added FA title, added FA date from EAD, and added component with instances previously attached to collection level. |

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1989.050

Unit Date

1886

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

Letter from William Burgess, formerly a lieutenant in Company D, 6th Pennsylvania Reserves Regiment (aka 35th Pennsylvania Infantry), written on August 24, 1886, to General William D. Dixon discussing details of the Battle of Dranesville (Virginia) and the actions of General Edward Ord in that engagement.

Creator

Burgess, William

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The William Burgess Letter was purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in 1989.

Processing Information

The processing and description of the William Burgess Letter commenced and was completed in February 2022.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], William Burgess Letter, Ms1989-050, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

William Burgess was born in Fort Loudon (Franklin County), Pennsylvania on November 27, 1830. He married Margaret Ann Newman Burgess (1839-1930), and the couple would have five children. The 1860 federal census shows the family living in Franklin County, with William Burgess employed as a railroad agent. During the American Civil War, Burgess served as a lieutenant in Company D, 6th Pennsylvania Reserve Regiment (aka 35th Pennsylvania Infantry). (Later in life, Burgess was commonly known as "Captain Burgess," but the rank of captain seems to have been an honorific.) Following the war, Burgess returned to Franklin County and was elected to the Pennsylvania legislature for 1877/1878. In 1881, he was hired as a freight agent for the Cumberland Valley Railroad at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and he remained in this position until his death in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania on July 18, 1887. He was buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery, Chambersburg.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of a single, two-page letter written by William Burgess, formerly a lieutenant in Company D, 6th Pennsylvania Reserves Regiment (aka 35th Pennsylvania Infantry). Written on Cumberland Valley Railroad stationery, the letter is dated Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, August 24, 1886. Addressed to General William D. Dixon, the letter discusses details of the Battle of Dranesville, focusing on whether or not General Edward Ord dismounted to train the guns of Hezekiah Easton's artillery battery and Ord's orders to the 6th to "take that Battery (Rebel Battery) at the point of the bayonet ..."

Keywords

Civil War

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

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Description of Subordinate Components

Letter

Unit Date 1886

folder 1