

Cronkhite, James H. Letters

James H. Cronkhite Letters

1862



Title Statement

Cronkhite, James H. Letters James H. Cronkhite Letters, 1862 Ms.1989.062

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Profile Description

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Revision Description

2020-09-01	Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags
2021-05-13	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.1989.062

Unit Date

1862

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

Four letters written by James H. Cronkhite (1827-1873), serving in Company I, 4th Minnesota Infantry during the American Civil War, to wife Jennie in Warsaw (Rice County), Minnesota, from camps and a division hospital in Mississippi.

Creator

Chronkhite, James H.

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 James Cronkhite Letters were purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in 1989.

Processing Information

The processing and description of the James Cronkhite Letters 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], James H. Cronkhite Letters, Ms1989-062, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

James H. Cronkhite was born in New York in 1827. Cronkhite married Jane Griffith in Rice County, Minnesota on August 6, 1860. During the American Civil War, he enlisted as a private in Company I, 4th Minnesota Infantry, mustering in on October 22, 1861. He was discharged on December 21, 1862, due to disability. The 1870 census lists James H. Cronkhite, a 44-year-old brick-maker, and Jennie Conkhite, 29, living in Rice County with two children and a domestic servant. James H. Cronkhite died in Warsaw (Rice County), Minnesota on September 20, 1873, and was buried in Warsaw Cemetery.

Scope and Content

This collection contains four letters written by James H. Cronkhite, a private serving in Company I, 4th Minnesota Infantry during the American Civil War. Written on patriotic stationery to his wife Jennie in Warsaw (Rice County), Minnesota from camps and a division hospital in Mississippi, the letters are dated between June and August 1862. On June 7, 1862, writing from Booneville [Mississippi], Cronkhite discusses personal matters and the false report of three deserters in his company, predicts that the war will end soon ("[T]he whole Rebel Army are put on less than half rations, and their resources are all cut off ..."), and mentions picking blackberries for dinner. Cronkhite writes from Camp Clear Creek on July 23, informing Jennie of having cholera and of undergoing treatment with opium and a mustard plaster. Cronkhite continues to write from the division hospital on August 8 and 23, discussing his illness and prospects for being sent north, remarking on the military efforts of men at home, and explaining the advantages of taking a commission as a first lieutenant rather than captain.

Keywords

Civil War

Diseases

Folk, historical, and patent medicine

Medicine

Medicine, Military -- History

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

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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General

This collection had originally been assigned the title "James Cronkhite Correspondence." The collection was assigned the new title "James Cronkhite Letters" during processing.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit Date 1862

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