

Camp of the 11th New York Battery Letter

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1864



Title Statement

Camp of the 11th New York Battery LetterCamp of the 11th New York Battery Letter, 1864 Ms.1991.068

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1991.068

Unit Date

1864

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

Letter from an unknown American Civil War soldier (possibly Chauncey S. Titus), writing from the camp of the 11th New York Battery on February 9, 1864, to "Dear Hattie," replying to her response to a "lonely hearts" advertisement recently placed by the soldier, and admitting that he had embellished his description to attract interest.

Creator

Titus, Chauncey S., 1837-1911

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Source of Acquisition

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Processing Information

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Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Camp of the 11th New York Battery Letter, Ms1991-068, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Although the writer of this letter is unknown, information within the letter suggests that it may have been written by Chauncey S. Titus. A roster of the 11th New York Artillery Battery seems to indicate that Titus was the only soldier within the battery to have enlisted as a private and to be serving within the battery as a lieutenant on the date that the letter was written. Chauncey S. Titus was born in Nelson (Madison County), New York in 1837. The 1860 federal census lists a Chauncey S. Titus, 25, living in the Nelson home of John S. and Delana Titus. After graduating from the University of Michigan, Titus attended Albany Law School and was admitted to the bar. A resident of Chittenango, New York, he enlisted for three years' service as a private in the 11th New York Battery on December 28, 1861; on March 1, 1862, he was promoted to corporal, and on March 28, 1863, to 2nd lieutenant. In 1865, he married Virginia Winters (1843-1912); the couple would have four children. Following the war, Titus entered a law partnership with Andrew Colvin but later became engaged in banking and business. By 1875, the Tituses were living in Albany, New York. Around 1901, Titus moved from Albany to New York City, where he became a member of the board of education. Chauncey S. Titus died in New York on January 10, 1911, and was buried in Rural Cemetery, Albany.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of a single (incomplete) letter written by an unidentified lieutenant (possibly Chauncey S. Titus), presumably serving in the 11th New York Artillery Battery during the American Civil War. Written from the 11th's camp on February 9, 1864, the letter is addressed to "Dear Hattie" and was written in reply to Hattie's response to a "lonely hearts" or pen pal advertisement placed in "The Waverly" (probably *The Waverly Magazine* of Boston) by the soldier. The writer admits to having embellished his physical description to attract interest. He infers personality traits based on Hattie's handwriting, mentions Hattie's recent return from boarding school, shares his opinion of such institutions, then notes that he has enclosed his picture and asks Hattie to send hers in return.

Keywords

Civil War

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

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Description of Subordinate Components

Letter

Unit Date 1864

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