

Enright, John Collins, Letters

John Collins Enright Letters

1861-1863



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1996.021

Unit Date

1861-1863

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection includes the transcribed war-time letters of John Collins Enright, first sergeant in the 18th Virginia Infantry, written from camps in northern and eastern Virginia, during the American Civil War.

Creator

Enright, John Collins, 1837-1900

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research.

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Source of Acquisition

The John Collins Enright Letters were donated to the Special Collections in 1996.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement and description of the John Collins Enright Letters commenced and was completed in April 2005.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], John Collins Enright Letters, Ms1996-021, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

John Collins Enright, a soldier in the 18th Virginia Infantry, was born on January 22, 1837, in Kilmeedy, County Limerick, Ireland. Emigrating to New York at age 11, he settled in Danville, Virginia in 1859. At the outbreak of the American Civil War, Enright joined the Danville Blues, which was mustered into Confederate service as Company A, 18th Virginia Infantry. He was promoted from corporal to second sergeant on October 15, 1861, and to first sergeant on March 1, 1862. Records indicate that Enright was discharged from the service on July 23, 1862, but he was assigned for the remainder of the war to the Quartermaster's Department in Richmond. (In the final letter of this collection, Enright indicates that he is no longer in the army but is employed cutting clothes in Richmond for the Confederate Army.)

Enright married Mary ("Mollie") Adams of Petersburg on May 7, 1863. He was taken prisoner during the evacuation of Richmond in 1865 but was soon paroled. Following the Civil War, he operated a tailoring business in Danville, counting among his customers several prominent Civil War-era families. He was a member of the Cabell-Graves Camp of the United Confederate Veterans and the Masonic Knights Templar. He died in Danville on October 13, 1900, and was buried in Danville's Green Hill Cemetery.

Among Enright's descendants have been two graduates of Virginia Tech: William Enright Stepp Sr. (class of 1924) and William Enright Stepp Jr. (class of 1969).

Scope and Content

This collection contains the letters of John Collins Enright, a soldier in the 18th Virginia Infantry during the American Civil War. The letters are in the form of transcripts (71 pages), made by Enright's wife in 1899. Enright writes from various locations in Virginia, including Danville, Manassas, Centreville, Germantown, Fairfax, Warwick, Yorktown, Richmond, and Charles City. His letters discuss his company's formation, early troop movements and skirmishes in northern Virginia, the Battle of First Manassas and its aftermath, camp activities, his duties as orderly sergeant, the Siege of Yorktown, the Battles of Williamsburg and Seven Pines and the Seven Days' Battles.

Keywords

Civil War

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

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Arrangement

The letter transcripts are arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Letters

Unit Date 1861-1863

folder 1