

# James M. Drake Civil War letterMS.0402

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1862 August 26



## Title Statement

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## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

MS.0402

**Unit ID**

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**Unit Date**

1862 August 26

**Language**

English

**Creator**

Drake, James M., ?-1863

**Extent**

1 items

**Physical Location**

Manuscripts stacks

**Repository**

Virginia Military Institute Archives

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

There are no restrictions

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**Preferred Citation**

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## Biographical / Historical

Union soldier James M. Drake of Sharon, Massachusetts, served with the 33rd Massachusetts Infantry (Company M and later K). He was a 1st Sergeant in his company and a lawyer in civilian life. He was killed on October 29, 1863 in Raccoon Ridge, Tennessee.

## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of one letter (dated August 26, 1862) from James M. Drake to his father. Drake presents his views on slavery, discusses the beauty of the Alexandria, Virginia, mentions inaccuracy of northern Civil War news, and discusses Union officers' view of Stonewall Jackson.

## Keywords

United States. -- Army. -- Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 33rd (1862-1865)

Virginia—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Regimental histories -- Massachusetts Infantry -- 33d

Alexandria (Va.)—History

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

Correspondence

Slavery

Jackson, Stonewall, 1824-1863

McClellan, George B. (George Brinton), 1826-1885

## Description of Subordinate Components

**Letter to father**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5252

**Unit Date** 1862 August 26

**Language** English

**Creator** Drake, James M., ?-1863

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Alexandria, Virginia. Letter regards James M. Drake's views on slavery, discusses the beauty of the city, mentions inaccuracy of northern war news, and discusses Union officers' view of Stonewall Jackson.

**Keywords**

Alexandria (Va.)—History—

Alexandria (va.)—History

Correspondence

Slavery

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Personal narratives

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Regimental histories -- Massachusetts Infantry -- 33d

United States. -- Army. -- Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 33rd (1862-1865)

Virginia—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

Jackson, Stonewall, 1824-1863

McClellan, George B. (George Brinton), 1826-1885

### **Transcription**

Alexandria Va., Aug. 26th 1862.

Dear Father- Having a very few leisure moments I will now write to you once more - since I may not have an opportunity to do so again for some time to come.

Since I last wrote to you we have moved to this place - or rather we marched to this place last Sunday. We are now about 8 miles from Washington on the west bank of the beautiful Potomac and just on the boundary of the city of Alexandria. You will remember that here Col. Ellsworth was killed. I was in the "Marshall House" this morning and saw the very spot on which he was shot. This is a rank Secession place and is only kept quiet by the presence of a large number of soldiers.

It is a very wealthy and beautiful city and in times of peace must be a very desirable place to live in, and I should like to live here provided I owned 50 or 100 good "n\_s". Nothing like slavery for this climate, it relieves the white man and is all the black is good for and when you have seen as much of them as I, you will think so too. We are under orders to leave this place tomorrow at sun rise to march 70 miles - what do you think of that with 35 or 40 pounds on your back and a gun. The weather is very hot and the roads are very dry and dusty. Gen. Pope's in great danger of being taken with all his army, and reinforcements are being sent as fast as possible. Don't you believe all your Northern papers say, the fact is the army of the Union is in great danger of a complete defeat.

McClellan [ McClellan ] & Burnside have both gone to Pope's assistance and he still needs more. McClellan's army passed through here yesterday. He has now but 60,000 or 65,000 men. Most of our officers have a great fear of Jackson. That he is the most able General on this continent no one can disputes but when we get all our forces in the field we shall be more than a match for him. We now expect soon to be in the field and I believe I soon shall have a chance to sight my rifle on an enemy of the Old Flag - and I believe I shall be sure of my mark [missing/tear in document] fall first. When I may write again I can't say. Sharon boys are all well. We are to march to Culpeper Va where the battle was a few days since. Sharon boys are all well. Remember me to all the folks. Write soon. Direct to Washington D. C. Co. M. 33d Regt Mass. V. Yours truly, J. M. Drake.