

Cobb, William Tell

William Tell Cobb Papers

1802-1965

Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Mss. 98 C63

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/2530

Unit Date

1802-1965

Language

English

Extent

0.50 Linear Feet

Extent

188 items

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

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Biographical Information:

William Tell Cobb (1840-1913) served in the Union Army during the Civil War, as a private in the 20th Pennsylvania Infantry, an orderly sergeant in Company F, 5th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers from 1861-1862, and as a private in Company B, 2nd U.S. Cavalry from 1862-1864. He also served in the U.S. Navy as an ordinary seaman on the ships Allegheny, Daylight, Shenandoah, and Princeton from 1864-1865.

Edwin Cobb (b. 1838), younger brother of William Tell Cobb, served in the U.S. Navy as well, as a 1st Lieutenant on the ship C. W. Holmes in 1862.

Scope and Contents

Letters of William Tell Cobb (1840-1913), of Mauricetown, New Jersey, and his brother, Edwin Cobb (b. 1838), also of Mauricetown, New Jersey. William Cobb participated in the battles of Fair Oaks and 2nd Manassas while in the Army, and the battle of Fort Fisher while in the Navy; he describes these battles in his letters. Edwin Cobb provides an eyewitness account of the battle between the "Monitor" and the "Merrimac". Other topics dealt with in the letters are camp conditions and everyday life in the Army and Navy, interaction between Union and Confederate soldiers, and the financial difficulties faced by William Tell Cobb and his family during the war. The collection also includes a photo of William Tell Cobb, his copy of "The Soldier's Guide" and a collection of typescripts of the letters

Keywords

Correspondence

Typescripts

Charleston (S.C.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Bull Run, 2nd Battle of, Va., 1862

Fair Oaks (Henrico County, Va.), Battle of, 1862

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

United States. Army. New Jersey Infantry Regiment, 5th

United States. Army. Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, 20th

United States. Navy

Merrimack (Frigate)

General

Additional information may be found at <http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaead/published/wm/viw00070.frame>

Arrangement of Materials:

This collection is organized into three series. Series 1 contains letters and typescripts; Series 2 contains miscellaneous material; and Series 3 contains transcripts. This collection is arranged into series by item description and then by chronologically by date.

Description of Subordinate Components

Letters

Unit ID id1737

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/226410

Unit Date 1802-1823

Unit Date 1861 December

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Mostly from William Tell Cobb, a soldier in the Union Army, to his father, Samuel Cobb of Mauncetown, New Jersey. Letters describe Union camp conditions and skirmishes with Confederate troops in Virginia and West Virginia. There are 12 letters included, each with typescripts.

Letters

Unit ID id1738

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/226411

Unit Date 1862 January 4-December 28

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Mostly from William Tell Cobb, in camps in Northern Virginia and the Peninsula, to his father, Samuel Cobb, of Mauricetown, New Jersey. Letters describe camp conditions, the battles of Four Oaks and 2nd Manassas, the death of William's wife, and William's attempts to get promoted or transferred to another regiment. Included in the letters is a drawing done by William of the position of artillery at Harrison's Landing, Virginia. Also included is a letter from William's brother Edwin Cobb to his father, giving an account of the battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac. There are 26 letters included, each with typescripts.

Letters

Unit ID id1739

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/226412

Unit Date 1863 February-December

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Mainly from William Tell Cobb, in camps in Virginia and Maryland, to his father, Samuel Cobb, of Mauricetown, New Jersey, at the Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, fighting at Fredericksburg and Aldie, Virginia, and the lateness of wages. There are 10 letters included, each with typescripts.

Letters

Unit ID id1740

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/226413

Unit Date 1864-1865

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Mostly from William Tell Cobb, in camp near Mitchell's Station, Virginia and on board Union Navy vessels in the Atlantic to his father, Samuel Cobb, of Mauricetown, New Jersey. Letters describe interaction between Confederate and Union troops along picket lines, life in the Navy, the Cobb family's financial problems, the battles of Fort Fisher (North Carolina), and conditions in Charleston, South Carolina after the city was

captured by Union forces. There are 15 letters included, each with typescripts.

Miscellaneous items relating to William Tell Cobb

Unit ID id1741

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/226414

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (folder)

Scope and Contents

The folder contains miscellaneous items as well as an envelope, a soldier's manual, a photograph, and negatives.

Transcripts

Unit ID id4521

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/226415

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 6 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Typescripts of letters written by William Tell Cobb and his brother, Edwin Cobb, during the Civil War. Includes copy of transcripts on computer disk and information about a photo of William Tell Cobb.