

Morgan, Richard S. and Celia Papers

Richard S. and Celia Morgan Papers

1860-1867

Title Statement

Morgan, Richard S. and Celia PapersGuide to the Richard S. and Celia Morgan Papers MS 00265

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS 00265

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/813

Unit Date

1860-1867

Unit Date

1862-1865

Language

English

Creator

Morgan, Richard S., d. 1865

Creator

Morgan, Celia Frary, b. February 10, 1842

Extent

0.17 Linear Feet

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

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Acquisition Information:

Purchase. Mss. Acc. 2010.237.

Processing Information:

Accessioned and minimally processed in April 2010 by Ute Schechter, Warren E. Burger Archivist. Further arrangement and description by Jeffrey Flanagan, SCRC Staff, in May-June 2010.

Preferred Citation:

Morgan family papers, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Biographical Information:

The following information was provided by the seller and has not been verified: "Richard S. Morgan, a Chicago apothecary. In 1862 he was an Assistant Post Apothecary at the Federal Drug Store, Camp Douglas, IL. During the course of the next 2 1/2 years, Richard resumes working in various positions in Chicago. He marries Celia Frary, a Morris, IL schoolteacher in Grundy Co., Ill. in 1863, and they have a baby daughter. The couple becomes estranged due to the husband's alcoholism, the baby dies, and Richard dies of diphtheria on April 7, 1865 in the hospital at Camp Butler, Springfield, IL where he had recently taken an apothecary post and enlisted in the 91st IL." Further information about this individual or organization may be available in the Special Collections Research Center Wiki:

http://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/Richard_S._Morgan.

Scope and Contents

This collection, 1860-1867, consists mainly of letters between Richard S. Morgan, a Chicago apothecary and Celia Frary, a Morris, Illinois schoolteacher, who married in Grundy County, Illinois in 1863. The correspondence begins in the Fall of 1862 when Richard was an Assistant Apothecary at the Federal Drug Store, Camp Douglas, Illinois. In addition, there is correspondence with parents, other family members and friends, three photographs, and teachers' certificates.

Keywords

Photographs

Alcoholism--Social aspects

Alcoholism--United States--19th century

Courtship--1860-1870

Pharmacists--United States--History--19th century

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

Arrangement of Materials:

This collection is currently being processed. Therefore, description and date range may change periodically. Researchers may wish to consult with a staff member for further information in advance of using the collection.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1: Correspondence

Unit ID id70880

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/80277

Unit Date 1861-1867

Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence between Richard S. Morgan and Celia Frary, as well as correspondence from friends, family members, and acquaintances from 1862 to 1867. Topics of letters include Richard's work as an apothecary at various military camps and shops, the couple's courtship and subsequent marriage, the couple's marital issues, Richard's alcoholism, and the couple's separation. Topics of letters between Celia and others include Celia's work as a schoolteacher, mail order purchases, advertisements, family news, and updates from friends.

Correspondence between Richard S. Morgan and Celia Frary

Unit ID id70986

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/80281

Unit Date 1862-1864

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

The following, selective listing was provided by the seller: Hand drawn sketch by Richard, "Good Night", appx. 6.5" x 7", pencil, showing the courting couple out in front of Celia's home in Morris. Included with 1862 letter. CDV of young woman, with caption, "A 'Copperhead' friend of mine...", included with 1864 letter by Richard (while estranged) 1862 letter, Sheperdsville, KY, surgeon David Leroy, 91st IL 1862 letter, Trenton, TN, Andrew J Haynes, IL 4th Cavalry, etc." The following excerpts have been provided by the seller: "Richard, Camp Douglas, 1862 - "After refreshing the inner man I took the State St cars to Camp Douglas...Oh Ye Gods and little fishes what a sight, 9000 ragged dirty slovenly -bevermined Secesh in abundance - and lots of Uncle Sam's boys. Butternut and blue are the cardinal colors here."; "Woke in the morning...by the booming of a big brass cannon about 20 yards from Head Quarters..."; "I finally saw Dr McVickars - he gave me a situation as Assistant Post Apothecary...\$3.50 is for clothing which I will get and it is a splendid uniform crimson trimmed and a gold lace shoulder strap with a green velvet ground and Excula pius (the god of Medicine) sign thus on arm [small drawing.]; "...half an hour ago there were a lot of guerillas brought in from Colorado - the roughest toughest men this side Pandemonium I ever gazed on..." Richard, Camp Douglas, 1862 - [courtship] "...I could not begin to count how many times I have pulled off my boots, and like a 'guilty thing' sought my lonely chamber...I have paid you visits on evenings when I ought to have sent you straight off to bed...but instead have kept you up..."; "I must; will see you and Morris...or I will go and fill my pockets with 2 dollars worth of change all in coppers, jump into the lake...and become a thunderation wet, moist, damp, unpleasant mortal Body." Richard, circa Sept 27, Oct. 11, 1864, Chicago - "This has been an exciting day in Chicago - Gold has fallen and the Draft has commenced...I stand a pretty good chance of drawing a prize - and receiving my death warrant."; "I have spent nearly all the time since I saw you last in trying to escape the Draft and last night was in the 6th Ward. They have enough money to buy substitutes but can't get them for they were 100 days men at St. Louis & are sent to the front. I have to report...tomorrow..."

Correspondence between Richard S. Morgan and Celia Frary

Unit ID id70987

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/80282

Unit Date 1864-1867

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents

The following excerpts have been provided by the seller: Richard, Mar. 18, 1865 - "I am now Post Apothecary at Camp Butler...I am teaching some colored soldiers to read - how are you abolitionist?; next Sunday if I have time I am going to preach to them in their barracks." Richard, March 20, 1865 [last letter, Camp Butler, Apothecary, enlisted in 91st IL] "My regt is in New Orleans. I look well in uniform. I am altering my privates coat into officer putting staff buttons on it; tearing off[f] the cord and putting a stripe on my pants. I have two contrabands to wait on me. They clean my boots etc...I do nothing but fill ward prescriptions; examine the sick. I have touched more small pox; measles today than you can shake a stick at...I have charge of all the Porter Ale Wine; Whiskey medicine; keep the key in my pocket. What a jolly temptation is it not?"; "Geo Hand had his brother here. He has just gone home with him a corpse. I

am used to this however." Celia, April 3, 9, 1865 - "RICHMOND is Taken! Taken at last almost beyond doubt! So Father Abraham say...to days paper says Grant has been fighting for three days and has taken twelve thousand prisoners and fifty pieces of artillery. I am so rejoiced I can scarcely write."; "This present battle will fill the hospitals again. Our brave soldiers may God bless them in this world and the next."; "Dear Richard if you will be a good boy and can show me that you do not drink at all I will try and make you a visit sometime this summer..."

Correspondence from Family, Friends, and Acquaintances

Unit ID id70988

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/80283

Unit Date 1861-1865

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents

The following excerpts have been provided by the seller: David Leroy, Surgeon, 91st IL, Sheperdsville, KY, Dec. 1862 - "We are...located at present in this little town of Shepperssville to guard the bridge over Salt River on the Louisville; Nashville R.R. The bridge has been destroyed by the Rebels 3 times in the last six months, been two fights or rather skirmished." [Lists promotions of various 91st soldiers.] Mary E. Robinson, Akron, OH, Oct. 27, 1861 - "We have war news every day. They are doing considerable for the Soldiers here. They have started a dime society for their benefit. They have received \$35.00 and the ODD fellows presented them with fifty more and they meet once a week to sew for them." J. Macalister, M.D., Chicago, Aug. 31, 1865 [to Celia] - "...the cause of your sorrow is no more. Alas! that one so young; & who might have been so respected should have thus died - "

Correspondence from Family, Friends, and Acquaintances

Unit ID id70989

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/80284

Unit Date 1866-1867

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (folder)

Series 2: Ephemera

Unit ID id70881

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/80278

Unit Date 1860-1865

Scope and Contents

This series contains photographs of Frary and Morgan, Celia Frary's Illinois teaching certificates, passes belonging to Richard S. Morton from 1862 from Camp Douglas and another identified camp, and a photocopy of their marriage certificate.

Ephemera

Unit ID id70996

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/80285

Unit Date 1860-1865, undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (folder)