

Sunderland Family Correspondence

MSS Collection #126

Scope & Content

This collection consists of 65 letters (64 originals and one photocopy) of John and Darwin Sunderland describe camp life, battles, hospitals, and medical care during the Civil War.

Dates

1837-1867

Availability

The collection is open for research.

Biographical Note

Darwin W. and John R. Sunderland, brothers from Rensselaer Falls, NY, were the sons of Albert and Prudence Sunderland. Both served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Darwin, who was born in Addison, Vermont, was a private in Company C of the 106th infantry regiment of the New York State Volunteers. He served in the Union army from August 6, 1862 until he died in combat on May 12, 1864 near Brandy (Spottsylvania), Virginia at the age of 23.

John was a private in Company K of the 11th Cavalry unit NYSV, or "Scott's 900." He enlisted in Canton on Dec. 22, 1863 and served until December 16, 1864 when he died of smallpox at the age of 22 at St. Louis Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Extent

3 boxes, .65 linear feet

Language of the Materials

English

Arrangement

Box 1

- Series 1. Correspondence and records of Darwin Sunderland

Box 2

- Series 2. Correspondence and records of John Sunderland

Box 3

- Series 3. Correspondence from friends and family to the Sunderlands
- Series 4. Student research papers

Provenance

This collection, along with the Graves Family correspondence was purchased at auction on April 8th, 2000 at Stiles Auction House, Rensselaer Falls, NY.

References

Smith, Thomas West. *The story of a cavalry regiment: "Scott's 900" Eleventh New York cavalry, from the St. Lawrence River to the Gulf of Mexico, 1861-1865*. [Chicago], Veteran association of the regiment, [1897].
E523.6 11th .S55

Creekman, Charles Todd. *The 106th New York Volunteers a Civil War heritage*. [US], C.T. Creekman, 1985.

Processing Information

Processed by the St. Lawrence University Libraries Special Collections staff.

Repository Details

Part of the St. Lawrence University Libraries manuscript collection.

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Collection Organization

Series 1 includes correspondence from Darwin Sunderland to his family, as well as service records from the National Archives. It also contains letters from the military regarding Darwin's death in battle and their reasoning for why his remains could not be recovered.

Series 2 includes letters from John Sunderland to his family, as well as service records from the National Archives.

Series 3 are correspondence related to other members of the Sunderland family.

Series 4 are student research papers from 2001. Each focuses on one of the brothers – "A Picture of a Soldier: The Civil War Letters of Darwin W. Sunderland, 106th Infantry Regiment" by Gregory Randolph and The Civil War Letters of John R. Sunderland: Introduction and transcription by Jeremy C. Mulligan. Also included is some of Jeremy Mulligan's research.

Related Collections

Call Number	Title
Mss. Coll. No. 002	Beach Papers
Mss. Coll. No. 006	Pryce Lewis Collection
Mss. Coll. No. 056	Goodrich Papers **The Goodrich papers contain letters and journals of P.H. Wells, who is featured in this collection, writing to Darwin Sunderland.
Mss. Coll. No. 064	Conkey - Bannister - Page Family Papers
Mss. Coll. No. 066	George O. Newbury Letters
Mss. Coll. No. 082	William H. Carr Diary
Mss. Coll. No. 083	William H. Davies Collection
Mss. Coll. No. 084	Orson Leroy Reynolds Collection
Mss. Coll. No. 085	Civil War Diary
Mss. Coll. No. 093	Wetherell Family Papers
Mss. Coll. No. 095	Robert Gilmore Papers

Mss. Coll. No. 125	Graves Family Correspondence
Mss. Coll. No. 129	Knapp Family Correspondence
Mss. Coll. No. 133	16 th New York Infantry Regiment Records
Mss. Coll. No. 137	George S. Parsons Correspondence
Mss. Coll. No. 138	Columbus Huntly Correspondence
Mss. Coll. No. 139	Crossman Family Papers
Mss. Coll. No. 174	Henry D. Payne Memoir
Mss. Coll. No. 191	Lewis Murray Civil War Memoir