

The David & William Tyler Civil War Collection
MSS Collection #233
0.5 linear feet

Scope & Content

The collection consists of correspondence and a few poems created mostly by the brothers William and David Tyler after their enlistment in the 106th New York Volunteer Regiment in 1862. The other authors are other members from the regiment or other members of the Tyler family. There are 102 letters, poems, and other papers in this collection.

Dates

1862-1864

Creator

Over the Fall and Spring semesters of the 2024-2025 academic year, Remick Bakey (St. Lawrence '25) inventoried, transcribed, and arranged the materials into a manuscript collection. His work was part of a St. Lawrence On Campus Internship Program.

Availability

The collection is open for research.

Biographical Note

The Tyler brothers hailed from DePeyster, New York and the children of Norman and Louisa Tyler. William was born in 1845, as he celebrated his 19th birthday on February 22nd, 1864. David was likely a year or two younger than William. Other siblings of the brothers were Frank, Chauncey, Angeline, Ada, and Olive. The two brothers enlisted on August 12, 1862 under Captain Samuel Parker in Company C of the 106th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The regiment was mustered in Ogdensburg on August 27, 1862. On September 1st, the regiment boarded train cars and began its journey south. David died on February 6th, 1863 from complications from pneumonia and William was killed in action during the Battle of Cold Harbor, which took place between May 31 - Jun 12, 1864. Lloyd Washburn mentions in his letter of June 18, 1864 that he wrote to Mr. and Mrs. Tyler on the 7th of June informing them of William's death, meaning his death was no later than on that date. Most of the letters are addressed to the brothers' parents or at least one sibling, usually a sister, though sometimes more.

Extent

1 box, 0.5 linear feet.

Language of the Materials

English

Provenance

The collection was in the possession of Ann Bradburd, who donated the materials to St Lawrence University in the summer of 2024.

Processing Information

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

Repository Details

Part of the St. Lawrence University Libraries manuscript collections.

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Collection Arrangement

Date(s)	Author(s)	Important Topics and Notes
07-19-1862	William Tyler	News on leaving Camp Wheeler soon and obtaining the signup bonus
09-01-1862	David Tyler	Info on the 106 th camp in the Allegheny Mountains
09-02-1862	David & William Tyler	More on the camp of the 106 th and how they got there
09-18-1862	David Tyler	Asking about home and the family crops
09-20-1862	David Tyler	To a friend about the camp of the 106 th
09-22-1862	William Tyler	Routine of army life and desires for the family to write
09-24-1862	William Tyler	News of a battle near Harper's Ferry, likely part of the Maryland Campaign.

10-18-1862	William Tyler	Writes of a deserter and his fate
10-20-1862	David Tyler	Asking parents to get locals to respond to letters, asks for news on the harvest
10-22-1862	David Tyler	Normal update, was asked to name his niece, promises to bring little brothers rifles
11-01-1862	David & William Tyler	Asks for a parcel, no pay, raid on a Confederate supply column
11-03-1862	David Tyler	Updates in locals in the regiment, asking for a parcel
11-06-1862	David Tyler	What they cook, asking on home life, (racist language).
11-08-1862	William Tyler	Sending updates on fellow soldiers, update on deaths in the regiment
11-26-1862	David Tyler	Brothers received a box from home
11-26 & 27-1862	William Tyler	Same as above, regimental inspection
12-02-1862	William Tyler	Possibly not from the 2 nd , asking for a box of goods from home
12-05-1862	William Tyler	Updates on camp life, asking for another box
12-07-1862	David Tyler	Snowstorm, cooking, notes on the local girls
12-16-1862	William Tyler	Standard update, regiment moved to Greenland Gap briefly
12-19-1862	David Tyler	Asking for a box, rumors that Richmond fell, asking after Chauncey Covey who deserted
12-25-1862	William Tyler	Christmas greetings, old colonel tried to get his position back
12-2[7]-1862	William Tyler	106 th now in Martinsburg, what General Jackson did to the area in the past
01-01-1863	William Tyler	Response to a letter from home, more on the actions of Jackson in the area

01-02-1863	William Tyler	Standard updates, orderly sergeant going home to recruit for the company
01-04-1863	David Tyler	On the Wilson boys wanting their box, the weights of the brothers
01-07-1863	Virgil Wilson	Addressed to Mr. Tyler; update on the Tyler brothers, news of the movements of the Confederate army
01-12-1863	William Tyler	William has measles, others in the regiment sick as well
01-20-1863	William Tyler	David has a cold, William is better but still not on duty,
01-24-1863	William Tyler	William is over measles, more on the recruiting sergeant, lack of pay, men in hospital
01-27-1863	William Tyler	David is sick and has been moved to a private house with other sick men, letter is severely damaged
01-29-1863	William Tyler	William is better, David is worse, William is caring for David
02-03-1863	William Tyler	David has lung fever (pneumonia), asking parents to write to David
02-06-1863	Lt. Peter Robertson	Addressed to Mr. Tyler and containing news of David's death and burial, asking if David should be sent home
02-12-1863	William Tyler	William is sending some of David's things home
02-20-1863	William Tyler	Dated as January 20 th , but as it discusses sending David home it was written February 20 th
02-24-1863	William Tyler	Reflections on the death of David, sending home a likeness
02-27-1863	William Tyler	Sorrow over David and missing his funeral at home, thoughts on after life
03-31-1863	William Tyler	Received pay and is sending it home

04-05-1863	William Tyler	Poem, possibly by William
04-09-1863	William Tyler	On the suffering of local civilians
04-10-1863	William Tyler	On the camp, regiment health, the possibly coming draft, willingness for Union men to fight
04-13-1863	William Tyler	William has overcome a cough, the wheat is coming in, rumors of the capture of Fort Sumter
04-20-1863	William Tyler	William was on picket duty for a few days
04-25-1863	William Tyler	106 th moving to Grafton, Ohio temporarily
05-05-1863	William Tyler	On the move to Grafton, saw action at Philippi, mentions some of the wounded
05-29-1863	Virgil Wilson & William Tyler	Virgil writes to the Tyler family, rumors of Grant's death, and William writes to sister Angeline, and parents (missing).
06-16-1863	William Tyler	Engagement with a Confederate force at Martinsburg, part of the Gettysburg Campaign and one day after the 2 nd Battle of Winchester
06-17-1863	William Tyler	Mention of riots in New York, possibly the 1863 Draft Riots.
06-21-1863	William Tyler	Poem to sister, based William's comments.
06-27-1863	William Tyler	William received the likenesses of his sisters recently, Confederates in Pennsylvania
06-28-1863	William Tyler	Rebels took Martinsburg, General Hooker was around, 106 th involved in a skirmish
07-04-1863	William Tyler	James Gaddis in the hospital, fort at Harpers Ferry blown
07-09-1863	William Tyler	Camped at Antietam, hard battle in the previous days. on ictories all around in the news

07-13-1863	William Tyler	Thoughts on General Mead not attacking the Confederates, need for new boots
08-04 & 05-1863	William Tyler	The 106 th 's colonel has resigned, how the men cook and such
08-30-1863	William Tyler	News Forts Sumter and Wagner have surrendered, asking after James Gaddis
09-04-1863	William Tyler	Mentions of dysentery, 'Dills' is likely in reference to a common remedy of the time for malaria, and which included quinine, morphine, and other substances
10-04-1863	William Tyler	Regret over selling boots that didn't fit
11-13-1863	William Tyler	Updates on mail delays and other DePeyster locals, firing near Fredericksburg
11-20-1863	William Tyler	Lack of rain, how money isn't useful, the state of local terrain and the populace
11-29-1863	William Tyler	Frank is improving in health, it is unclear who Frank is
12-03-1863	William Tyler	The corps (III Corps) the 106 th was in was in a battle the Friday before (Mine Run), captain wounded 12-02
12-11-1863	William Tyler	Asking for a box
12-17-1863	William Tyler	To parents: building winter quarters and the Confederates are nearby To Angeline: Thinks she's improving in writing very quick
01-17-1864	William Tyler	Sorry mom is sick, wants to get a furlough but cannot, asking about maternal family members
01-24-1864	William Tyler	To parents: several locals sick, pictures too expensive, complaining about families who don't write to their sons

01-24-1864	William Tyler	To sister: On the weather and asking for a long letter on DePeyster news
01-29-1864	William Tyler	Death of Henry Wilson and how he'll be missed, lack of pay, going to church
02-04-1864	William Tyler	Confederate deserters coming to Union lines, unlikely to get paid till March
02-08-1864	William Tyler	Battle on the 7 th and it was a Union victory, info on regimental marches
02-14-1864	William Tyler	Got money and likenesses from home, rumor of being paid soon
02-21 & 22-1864	William Tyler	Lorrin Wilson started for home on the 20 th , celebrating his 19 th on the 22 nd
Undated, assumed 02-21-1864	William Tyler	Poem, titled <i>Soldier Rest</i> . Contained in Feb 21-22, 1864 folder
02-23-1864	William Tyler	To parents: division reviewed by Major General French To sister: happy to hear she's learning fast
03-02-1864	William Tyler	To parents: Some fighting the previous week, people coming through Union lines
03-02-1864	William Tyler	Notes on camp life and picket, joke regarding men doing women's work
03-18-1864	William Tyler	Making ready to march, asking for Angeline to write, update on weight, rumors Grant is taking command of the army
03-29-1864	William Tyler	The 106 th is now in the 1 st Brigade 3 rd Division, VI Corps under General Sedgwick, sending things for sisters
04-03-1864	William Tyler	About the drinking soldiers partake in, asking to get younger siblings to write more

04-07-1864	William Tyler	To parents: 5 men rejoined the company, list of surgeons To sister: Asking her to write more
04-09-1864	William Tyler	To Angeline, voices his dislike of the suffering the war causes
04-13-1864	William Tyler	To brother Chaucey, hoping he hasn't forgotten William, telling Frank to behave
04-13-1864	William Tyler	People from DePeyster are better, army is getting ready to move out, cuts off abruptly
04-17-1864	William Tyler	Army is getting ready to move, asking for a few items to be sent
04-24-1864	William Tyler	To parents: Standard updates, thoughts on the upcoming battles
04-24-1864	William Tyler	To sister: Happy to receive her letter, description of the landscape, thought on the losses of the war, envelope included with letter
05-08-1864	Norman and Angeline Tyler	Two letters sharing a sheet: Angeline speaks on family letters and the sickness of 'Adline Hurlbut'. Norman speaks on his health, the war, and life in DePeyster
05-13-1864	William Tyler	Darwin Sunderland's death on the previous day mentioned
05-17-1864	William Tyler	Update on the position and state of the army, informing of William Rounds' death
05-20-1864	William Tyler	To parents: Update on the fighting the 106 th is participating, list of wounded and killed
05-20-1864	William Tyler	To sisters: Speaks of a desire to be home and his concerns of living to do so again
06-18-1864	Lloyd C Washburn	Addressed to Tylers and carries news of William's death

08-12-1864	Virgil Wilson	Addressed to the Tylers, news a Confederate raid on a supply train,
Unclear	William Tyler	Autobiographical memo on the enlistment of the brothers
01-21	Arvilla Tyler	Undated, update on Frank to his parents, brothers, and sister by his wife
Undated	William Tyler	Poems "Oh Columbia" & "A Soldier's Tear"
03-23-1863/64	William Tyler	Letter has no year in its date, update to home and tips on writing for brother
04-20 & 21-186?	Unknown	Updates on comrades and the state of the army
Mystery Page	David Tyler	Missing the top 1/3 of the page, references collecting food from the locals, Colonel Judd leaving the regiment
Undated Page	Unknown	Part of a larger letter but the much is missing, writes about sickness in the regiment

Related Collection

Sunderland Family Correspondence MSS Collection #126

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