

MSA 89

Dan Mason (1839-1865) Letters, 1861-1866

Scope & Content

Dan Mason of Glover, Vermont, enlisted for the Civil War on September 26, 1861. He mustered in as corporal, Company D, of the Sixth Vermont Volunteers. He was later promoted to sergeant. In 1864 he re-enlisted and was made captain of Company H, 19th U.S. Colored Troops.

During his years of service Mason wrote to his fiancée, Harriet B. Clark. In March 1865 he took a leave of absence, returned to Vermont, and married her; afterwards he returned to duty. On November 20, 1865, he died of dysentery at the Post Hospital, Brownsville, Texas. He is buried in Glover. Mason was at the Battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg, among others.

The collection contains the letters which Dan sent to Harriet throughout the years he was at war. It also contains two letters written by Major William Welsh to Mrs. Mason after Dan's death. A detailed, item-level inventory of the collection as well as typed transcripts of all of the letters produced by the donors is also included.

Two items in the collection are included in Benjamin A. Botkin's *A Civil War Treasury of Tales, Legends, and Folklore* (New York, 1960), VHS call no. 973.79 B657:

- page 64, letter dated Feb. 5, 1862 (Folder 2)
- page 68, poem with a letter dated May 7, 1862 (Folder 3).

Photocopies of these pages from the Botkin book are in Folder 0. The former mentions becoming that Mason was going to become the regimental bugler, but no further mention of bugling appears in this collection.

In late 1865 Mason mentions sending home photos of men in his regiment, but no photographs were received by the VHS with this collection.

The collection was donated to the Vermont Historical Society in 1989 by John Owen Mason, Maud Mason, and Dan Mason. (ms. acc. no. 89.7).

Inventory

MSA 89

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Folder 1 | Donors' inventory, introduction, list of people mentioned |
| 2 | Letters, October 1861-March 1862 |
| 3 | _____, April 1862-October 1862 |

MSA 89
Dan Mason Letters
Page 2

- 4 _____, November 1862-July 1863
- 5 _____, August 1863-November 1863
- 6 _____, January 1864-August 1864
- 7 _____, September 1864-April 1864
- 8 _____, May 1865-October 1865
- 9 Letters from Major William Welsh, 1866
- 10 Typed transcripts of letters, October 1861-July 1862
- 11 _____, August 1862-July 1864
- 12 _____, August 1864-October 1895

Joye Mudgett
August 1993

Priscilla Page
November 1993