

Chandler B. Gillam Papers

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<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm2007085377>

Prepared by Connie L. Cartledge

Collection Summary

Title: Chandler B. Gillam Papers

Span Dates: 1850-1919

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1861-1863)

ID No.: MSS85377

Creator: Gillam, Chandler B., 1833-1899

Extent: 300 items ; 2 containers ; 0.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Soldier and farmer. Correspondence, a diary, a journal, a photograph, family papers, writings, and other papers relating chiefly to Gillam's Civil War service with the Twenty-eighth New York Infantry Regiment, United States Army. The diary, written by W. L. Hicks, documents the history of the twenty-eighth regiment of New York.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Bowen, E. A.

Collier, Ellen C. (Ellen Clodfelter), 1927- Ellen C. Collier transcripts and related papers.

Gillam, Chandler B., 1833-1899.

Gilliam family.

Hicks, W. L. (Washington L.), -1885. W.L. Hicks diary and correspondence. 1861-1866.

Larned, Sarah--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Army. New York Infantry Regiment, 28th (1861-1863)

Subjects

Antietam, Battle of, Md., 1862.

Cedar Mountain, Battle of, Va., 1862.

Chancellorsville, Battle of, Chancellorsville, Va., 1863.

Kernstown, 1st Battle of, Winchester, Va., 1862.

Presidents--United States--Election--1864.

Places

Maryland--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

New York (State)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

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

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

Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Occupations

Farmers.

Soldiers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Chandler B. Gillam, soldier and farmer, were given to the Library of Congress by Ellen C. Collier in 2007.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Chandler B. Gillam is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Chandler B. Gillam are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Chandler B. Gillam Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Chandler B. Gillam (1833-1899) span the years 1850-1919, with the bulk of the material dating from 1861 to 1863. The papers are arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic.

The majority of the collection documents Gillam's daily life as a Union soldier with the volunteers of the Twenty-eighth New York Infantry Regiment during the Civil War from 1861 to 1863. Gillam, a farmer from Byron, New York, enlisted in April 1861 and went to Albany to be mustered in as a corporal; his company became Company F of the New York twenty-eighth regiment. The bulk of his letters are written to his wife, Sarah Larned, whom he married in 1856, and his parents. The letters dating 1861 document Gillam's tenure as a soldier, which he spent training, marching, waiting, and hoping for battle. They depict the enthusiasm of Gillam and his fellow soldiers about army service and their expectation of a speedy end to the war. As the war continued and his company suffered many casualties, Gillam looked forward to returning home and working on his farm. Gillam's letters include descriptions of the four major battles that his regiment participated in: Winchester, Virginia, in May 1862, Cedar Mountain, Virginia, in August 1862, Antietam, Maryland, in September 1862, and Chancellorsville, Virginia, in May 1863. At Chancellorsville Gillam was wounded in the foot by shell fire but quickly recovered. Gillam mustered out of the regiment on June 2, 1863, and returned to New York.

Also included in this collection is the diary of the regimental clerk of the twenty-eighth regiment, W. L. Hicks. A copy of this diary, including three letters of Hicks, and two broadsides, was found with Gillam's papers. Hicks's diary, dating from May 18, 1861 to September 4, 1862, chronicles the organization of the regiment in New York and its movements in Virginia and Maryland in 1862. The diary provides a description of camp life and describes various skirmishes and battles, including an account of the engagement and heavy losses suffered by the regiment at the Battle of Cedar Mountain in August 1862. Filed with the diary were two broadsides, one relating to Captain E. A. Bowen's service with the twenty-eighth regiment and the other comparing the platforms for the Democratic and Republican parties for the presidential campaign of 1864.

The miscellany files in the collection include certificates and a citation relating to Gillam's military service, items relating to the collection of Gillam's pension by his wife, and other family papers. There is also an early 1850 journal written by Gillam containing various jottings, drawings, and brief entries documenting his daily activities.

The transcripts of the correspondence and the diary were made in 2000 by the donor, Ellen C. Collier. Collier also provided background information about Gillam, Hicks, and the twenty-eighth regiment, filed at the beginning of the letters and the beginning of the diary. In addition, she prepared a brief summary of the letters as well as a full transcript of the correspondence of Gillam. Filed with the transcripts of the diary are photocopies of Hicks's pension papers from the National Archives and Records Administration.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and topic.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Originals, 1861-1865, 1895-1898, undated (14 folders)
BOX 1	Transcripts, 1861-1866, undated (4 folders)
BOX 1	Diary of W. L. Hicks and related material
BOX 1	Original, 1861-1866 (4 folders)
BOX 2	Transcript, 1861-1866, 1891, 1916-1919 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Journal of Gillam, 1850
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1856, 1862-1863, 1885-1890, 1899, 1908, 1916, undated (3 folders)
BOX 2	Photograph of Gillam, undated
BOX 2	Reunions of the Twenty-eighth New York Infantry Regiment, 1891-1894