

**Guide to the Thomas F. Burpee Papers, 1863
MS0075**

**The Mariners' Museum Library
at
Christopher Newport University**

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DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository: The Mariners' Museum Library

Title: Thomas Burpee Papers, 1863

Catalog number: MS0075

Physical Characteristics: 4 items

Language(s): English

Creator(s): Thomas Burpee

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of letters relating to the military service of Lt. Col. Thomas F. Burpee, 21st Connecticut Infantry. Two of the letters in the collection were written by Col. Burpee from Newport News, Virginia. The third letter, to Col. Burpee from J. Hamilton Lee, was also written in Newport News. The letters describe camp life and personal concerns during the Peninsula Campaign, and include a mentions of the USS *Monitor*, USS *Congress*, USS *Cumberland* and CSS *Virginia*.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Accession number

CA104

Accession date

1994

Restrictions

Open to all researchers.

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Preferred Citation

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Note to Users

Due to the fragile and rare nature of the collection, researchers are requested to handle the materials with caution and in accordance with prescribed archival practices. When using these materials, please preserve the original order of the collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH

Lt. Col. Thomas F. Burpee commanded 21st Connecticut Infantry during the Civil War. The Twenty-First was organized in August, 1862, recruited from Hartford, New London,

and Windham counties, and was assigned to the Army of the Potomac. They engaged in battles at Fredericksburg, VA, December 13, 1862, Suffolk, Va., April and May, 1863, Drury's Bluff, VA, May 16, 1864 and Cold Harbor, VA, June 3, 1864. On the 9th of June 1864, Burpee was mortally wounded at Washington, NC.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

The Thomas Burpee Papers are in a single series. The material is arranged in ascending chronological order.

Series I: Correspondence. Comprised of one letter to and two letters from Lt. Col. Thomas F. Burpee, and one envelope. This is series housed in 3 folder files arranged chronologically.

FILE GUIDE

BOX 1

Folder 1 Finding Aid

Folder 2 Envelope. Unaddressed envelope, stationary from the Headquarters Right Grand Division, Army of the Potomac, Official Business. In pencil written Health, Leave of Absence, Watt's guardian.

Folder 3 March 7, 1863. 2-page letter addressed to Thomas F. Burpee from J. Hamilton Lee.

Folder 4 December 16, 1863. 4-page letter addressed to Brother and Sister from Brother and Sister T. F. Burpee and A. (Adeline) M. Burpee. Thomas writes from camp at Newport News where he can see the river, five infantry regiments, two batteries and one cavalry. He writes about the weather, his tent, and his big appetite.

December 31, 1863. 4-page letter addressed to Brother and Sister from Thomas F. Burpee. Describes Newport News and says "We are directly opposite of and in plain view of the scene of the "World famed" fight between the Rebel *Merrimack* and the Frigate *Congress* and *Cumberland* and the *Monitor*. The hulk of the *Congress* is plainly visible still at low water but the *Cumberland* went down near the opposite shore in deeper water." Mentions Brig General Hickman and speaks highly of the Army administration.

MATERIALS REMOVED

No materials were removed from this collection

SOURCES CONSULTED

SUBJECTS

Burpee, Thomas F.

Congress (Frigate : 1841)

Cumberland (Frigate : 1842)

Monitor (Ironclad : 1862)

United States-History-Civil War, 1861-1865-Personal narratives

United States. Army. Connecticut Infantry Regiment. 21st (1862-1865)
Virginia (Ironclad : 1862)