

**Guide to the Charles K. Mallory Letters, 1862-1866
MS0315**

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

Contact Information:

The Mariners' Museum Library

100 Museum Drive

Newport News, VA 23606

Phone: (757) 591-7782

Fax: (757) 591-7310

Email: library@MarinersMuseum.org

URL: <http://www.MarinersMuseum.org/library>

Processed 2005

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository: The Mariners' Museum Library
Title: Charles K. Mallory Letters
Inclusive Dates: 1862-1866
Catalog number: MS0315
Physical Characteristics: 26 pages of photocopied letters
Language: English
Creator: Mallory, Charles K. (Charles King), 1844-1863

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Charles King Mallory was a native of Hampton, VA, the eldest son of Judge Charles King Mallory, Esq., of Elizabeth City County, VA, and Martha A. (Skinner) Mallory of Edenton, NC. His father was well known for owning the first slaves to escape to Fort Monroe and receive protection there under General B. F. Butler, in May of 1861. The younger Mallory joined the Confederate cause as a midshipman. He served aboard the CSS *Beaufort* and was the gallant 'Young Mallory' who had been the first to board the *Congress* (Frigate : 1842) after the ironclad CSS *Virginia*'s attack on her on March 8, 1862. Later serving aboard the CSS *Chattahoochee*, he was fatally wounded in its boiler explosion on May 27, 1863. He died on June 1, 1863 at age 18. His remains were sent home for burial at St. John's Episcopal Church Cemetery, Hampton Virginia.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This is a photocopied collection of letters pertaining to Confederate midshipman, Charles King Mallory. One letter commends Mallory's actions during the March 8th attack of the CSS *Virginia* on the USS *Congress* to his father. Two letters are from Mallory from aboard the CS floating battery *Drewry* while on the James River. The remaining letters are related to his service aboard the CSS *Chattahoochee*.

The CSS *Chattahoochee* was a side wheeled gunboat with a complement of about 120 crew, officers and enlisted personnel. Her armament included four 32 pounder guns, one 32 pounder rifled gun and one 9 inch gun. She was built at Saffold, Georgia under the supervision of Confederate States Naval lieutenant Catesby Ap Roger Jones, who had served earlier that year aboard the CSS *Virginia* and commanded it when Captain Franklin Buchanan was wounded during her engagement with US Steam Battery *Monitor*. Jones was succeeded by Lieutenant John Julius Guthrie on February 4, 1863. Plagued by constant machine failure, the vessel was eventually sunk by the explosion of a boiler on May 27, 1863, near Blountstown, Florida, killing 18 men, among them Mallory. After the explosion and sinking of the vessel, many of her crew were sent to Georgia, to serve on the CSS *Savannah*. The last six letters in the collection are letters of condolence to the family on the death of their son.

The letters are organized into one folder. They are arranged chronologically.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Accession number

CA69

Accession date

1966

Restrictions

Collection is open to all researchers.

Publication Rights

Copies of any materials may not be reproduced, published, or distributed, in any form without written permission from The Mariners' Museum.

Preferred Citation

Charles K. Mallory Letters, 1862-1866, MS0315, The Mariners' Museum Library

Note to Users

When using these materials, please preserve the original order of the collection.

RELATED MATERIALS

The location of the original Charles King Mallory letters is unknown.

Other letters written by Charles King Mallory to his father are located in Section 1 of the Mallory Family Papers, 1668-1930, at the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia. The Virginia Historical Society also has a photograph of Midshipman Mallory.

Transcriptions in Microsoft Word format of two of the letters in the collection are available for consultation in the Library. Transcripts may be converted to portable document files at patron request.

FILE GUIDE**BOX 1**

Folder 1 Finding Aid/ Background Information

Folder 2 Correspondence 1862

March 13, 1862: Gosport Dockyard, Commandant's Office

CSN Flag Secretary James Barron Hope to Charles Mallory, Sr.

Commends his young son Charles and his actions aboard the CSS *Virginia* during its engagement of the 8th and 9th. Writes that he saw Charley on the 8th "black with powder & of a resolute & cheerful aspect – as gallant a looking young fellow as man ever saw!" 1 page.

September 4, 1862: CSS floating battery *Drewry*, James River

Charles K. Mallory to his mother. Received her letter but not the fruit she sent. Asks her opinion about whether to buy a gray cap and jacket with the \$50.00 he has. 2 pages.

September 19, 1862: CSS floating battery *Drewry*, James River
Charles K. Mallory to his mother. Writes to her about food – fruit, beef, vegetables and butter. 2 pages.

Feb 25, 1863: *Chattahoochee*, off Chattahoochee, FL
Charles Mallory to his father. Says Captain Jones was detached from vessel and sent on Army duty to Texas and that he was respected by all the men. Lt. Guthrie arrived to take his place. They've been painting the ship and expect a large number of ladies from Columbus to visit. 2 pages.

March 21, 1863: *Chattahoochee*, off Chattahoochee, FL
Charles Mallory to his father. Writes that he is disappointed that the *Chattahoochee*, newly painted, cannot make its way to sea. Mentions Captain Jones being detached and Lt Guthrie ordered to take command. 4 pages.

May 18, 1863: *Chattahoochee*, off Chattahoochee, FL
Charles Mallory to his father. Writes that he was sick, but has recovered. Mentions the climate and the mosquitoes. Asks his father to write the Secretary of the Navy to get him an assignment with a sea-going vessel. 2 pages.

May 22, 1863: *Chattahoochee*, off Chattahoochee, FL
Charles Mallory to his father. Reassures his father that he is well and again asks to be attached to a sea-going vessel. 2 pages.

May 29, 1863: *Chattahoochee*, FL
John Julius Guthrie to Charles K. Mallory Sr., Liberty VA. One-page letter that tells Mallory of the explosion and the nature of the wounds his son received. "Your son was badly scalded, on both hands and feet, and his face, his case is a serious, though I trust not dangerous one."
Recommends he come immediately to Columbus.

June 4, 1863: Columbus, GA
W. C. Jones to C. K. Mallory Sr. Offers sympathy and the details of his son's death and burial. 2 pages.

June 15, 1863: Columbus, GA
F. G. Wilkins to Chas K Mallory Sr. Notification of Charles K. Mallory's death in the explosion of the boiler of the *Chattahoochee*. 1 page.

July 24, 1863: U.S. Flag Ship *Savannah*, off Savannah, GA

W. C. Jones to Charles K Mallory, Sr, Liberty VA. Informs him of the crew's new assignment. Assures him that the ladies of Columbus will attend to his son's grave. Thanks him for the invitation to visit. 2 pages.

July 27, 1863: Columbus, GA
E. P. Carter, President of National Soldiers Friends Society to Mrs. Mallory. Letter of sympathy. 4 pages.

April 17, 1866: Columbus, GA
Mary Ann Williams to Mr. Mallory. Answers Mallory's inquiries about his son's deed prior to the accident and the condition of his gravesite. 3 pages.

June 27, 1866: Columbus, GA
Mary Ann Williams to Mr. Mallory. Shares details about her family and expresses sympathy. 4 pages.

SOURCES CONSULTED

Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships, in eight volumes; compiled by the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Naval History Division, Navy Department, Washington; published by the U.S. Government Printing Office; reprint edition, 1977; (2:506).

Brent, M. "The Mallory Family." *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 15, no. 3 (January 1908): 329-334.

SUBJECTS

Mallory, Charles K. (Charles King), 1844-1863

Chattahoochee (Sidewheel gunboat : 1863)

Drewry (Gunboat : 1863)

Virginia (Ironclad : 1862)

United States-History-Civil War, 1861-1865-Naval operations, Confederate.

Confederate States of America. Navy-Sea life.