

Columbus Huntly Correspondence Mss Coll. 138

Biographical

Columbus Huntly was a resident of Potsdam, NY who enlisted in the United States Army November 21, 1861. Huntly held the position of private in the 92nd New York State Infantry. He participated in the battle of Fort Anderson (March 13-15, 1863) and was stationed there during the following months. The 92nd Infantry was organized at Potsdam, N.Y., and mustered in January 1, 1862. They then left state for Washington, D.C., March 5, 1862 and participated in many battles such as the Battle of Williamsburg, the Battle of Fort Anderson, and the Battle of Fair Oaks.

Scope & Content.

This collection contains thirteen letters of the correspondence between Columbus Huntly and Elenor Huntly that took place between December 13, 1863 and July 3, 1864 while Columbus was serving in the Union army during the Civil War. Columbus and his wife were residences of Potsdam during his service. This collection also contains one letter written to a Mr. Abnus Owen, another resident of Potsdam, by Columbus. The letters discuss a variety of topics, from camp life and the progress of the war to Columbus' military payments and the problems that may arise at home in Columbus' absence. The letters are arranged in chronological order from oldest to most recent.

Sources

<http://www.civilwararchive.com/Unreghst/unnyinf7.htm#15>
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~stlawgen/ROSTERS/92F.HTM>

Provenance

Purchased from Charles Appfelbaum in April, 2003.

Folder

1863

- 1 **March 1**, New Berne, NC. Letter to Mr. Abnus Owen from Columbus Huntly. This letter discusses camp life in North Carolina and the payments that he has sent home to Potsdam.
- 2 **April 19**, Fort Anderson, New Berne, NC. Letter to Elenor Huntly from Columbus Huntly. Discusses camp life and home life with his wife.
- 3 **April 20**, New Berne, NC. Letter to Mr. Abnus Owen from Columbus Huntly. Writes about the two months of back pay that he will be sending express to his wife. He says that he thinks the war will be over soon, based on what the rebel prisoners are saying.
- 4 **December 13**, New Berne, NC. Letter to Elenor Huntly from Columbus Huntly. Discusses his financial earnings and that he has decided to enlist again in the army to get the bounty.

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- 5 **January 28**, Fort Anderson, New Berne, NC. Letter to Elenor Huntly from Columbus Huntly. Discusses the money he will receive because he reenlisted that he will now send to his wife and how many rebels are dissenting in the area surrounding Fort Anderson, NC.

- 6 **February 13**, New Berne, NC. Letter to Elenor Huntly from Columbus Huntly. This letter discusses the fact that Columbus will not be coming home before the middle of March because the draft was pushed back. The letter also talks about financial situations at home and about how many soldiers are engaging in immoral acts, but Columbus is not.
- 7 **March 11**, New Berne, NC. Letter to Elenor Huntly from Columbus Huntly. This letter discusses the fact that there are no rebels around the fort at the time, even though they were still expecting a fight. Columbus thinks that he will be coming home in two weeks if everything remains quiet.
- 8 **March 14**, New Berne, NC. Letter to Elenor Huntly from Columbus Huntly. Discusses the fact that the rebels had of yet not attacked the fort. Columbus says that he will not be able to come home for another 2 or 3 weeks.
- 9 **April 2**, New Berne, NC. Letter to Elenor Huntly from Columbus Huntly. Discusses how Columbus will not be home until at least May. The letter also talks about Elenor buying a house so that they do not have to move west after the war.
- 10 **April 4**, New Berne, NC. Letter to Elenor Huntly from Columbus Huntly. Discusses how Columbus will not leave the army until he receives his final payments. He still hopes to be home by May.
- 11 **April 10**, New Berne, NC. Letter to Elenor Huntly from Columbus Huntly. Discusses how Columbus wants Mr. Abnus Owen to collect his town bounty for him, and that he will be home in May. He also discusses how camp life is quiet now and that they get plenty to eat, although he says food is expensive.
- 12 **June 18**, Bermuda Hundred, VA Letter to Mr. Abnus Owen from Columbus Huntly. Discusses a battle that took place at Cold Harbor near Richmond, VA. They won the battle but lost 14 men and 79 were wounded. He also talks about how his unit is about to attack a city that is heavily armed with rebels.
- 13 **July 3**, Petersburg, VA. Letter to Elenor Huntly from Columbus Huntly. Describes how Columbus will not be able to leave for home until the 12th or 13th of July. He says that he will be spending a night in Albany during his trip home. In this letter it Columbus says that he will not write again until he is on his way home.
- 14 **June 18**, Alexandria, VA. Letter from Columbus' friend Eugene who is also in the army. Talks about food and other friends.