

# Sunderland Family Correspondence, 1837-1867

Mss. Coll. No. 126

.75 linear feet

## Biographical

Darwin W. and John R. Sunderland, brothers from Rensselaer Falls, NY, were the sons of Albert and Prudence Sunderland. Both served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Darwin, who was born in Addison, Vermont, was a private in Company C of the 106th infantry regiment of the New York State Volunteers. He served in the Union army from August 6, 1862 until he died in combat on May 12, 1864 near Brandy (Spottsylvania), Virginia at the age of 23.

John was a private in Company K of the 11<sup>th</sup> Cavalry unit NYSV, or "Scott's 900". He enlisted in Canton on Dec. 22, 1863 and served until December 16, 1864 when he died of smallpox at St. Louis Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana. He was 22 at the time of his death.

## Scope and Content

This collection consists of 65 letters (64 originals and one photocopy), transcriptions of letters, 9 envelopes, photocopies of national archives records and research papers on both Darwin and John Sunderland prepared by St. Lawrence University students. Letters describe camp life, battles, hospitals, and medical care during the Civil War.

## Organization and Arrangement

The Collection is divided into 4 series as follows:

Series 1: National Archives records; Letters from or about Darwin W. Sunderland, 1861-1864.

Series 2: National Archives records; Letters from or about John R. Sunderland, 1864.

Series 3: Letters from friends and family members to the Sunderland family 1837-1867.

Series 4: Student research papers on Darwin & John, research materials and draft transcriptions

## Provenance

This collection, along with the Graves Family correspondence was purchased at auction on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2000 at Stiles Auction House, Rensselaer Falls NY.

## References

Smith, Thomas West. *The story of a cavalry regiment: "Scott's 900" Eleventh New York cavalry...*  
[Chicago] Veteran association of the regiment [1897] E523.6 11th .S55

Creekman, Charles Todd. *The 106<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers a Civil War heritage.* [US] C.T. Creekman, 1985.  
E523.5 106th .C74 1985

## Abbreviations used:

*s/p* = sheets/pages (number per letter)    **photo**= photocopy    *env*= includes envelope

Series 1

<u>Box/Folder</u>		
1	1	Photocopies of service records of Darwin W. Sunderland from the National Archives
	2	National Archives records prior to 8/6/1862

Correspondence regarding Darwin (39 total)

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Heading</u>	<u>s/p</u>	<u>env</u>		
	<b>1861</b>						
1	3	Dec 16	Albany Barracks	"Mother, I received..."	1/4	x	<u>original</u> <u>transcript</u>
	<b>1862</b>						
	4	Jan. 09	Albany Barracks	"Father and Mother..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	5	Jan. 14-17	Albany Barracks	"I am now about to..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	6	Jan. 24	Albany Barracks	"I now am about..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	7	Oct 19	New Creek, Va.	"Father, Mother, Sisters..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	8	Nov. 9	Beaton Station, Va.	"Mother, I seat myself..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	9	Dec 8	New Creek, Va.	"Home. Tomorrow we..."	1/1	--	original transcript
	10	Dec. 10-11	Greenland Gap, Va.	"After breakfast the Capt..."	2/4	--	original transcript
	11	Dec. 13	Greenland Gap, Va.	"Dec. 11 we went in the..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	12	Dec. 19	New Creek, Va.	"Mother and Father..."	1/3	--	original transcript
	13	Dec. 28	Martinsburg[h], Va.,	"Home, well I have not..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	<b>1863</b>						
	14	Feb. 5	Martinsburg, Va.	"Sister Emma I thought I..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	15	Feb. 24	Martinsburg, Va.	"Home, well I have not..."	1/2	--	original transcript
	16	Feb-Mar	North Mountain, Va	"Home, I received a letter..."	1/2	x	original transcript
	17	Mar. 22	North Mountain, VA	"Home, I have looked..."	1/4	x	original transcript
	18	April 27	Webster, Va.	"Home, well I take the..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	19	May 4	Grafton, Va.	"Mother, I take this..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	20	June 5	Washington DC	"Sister Emma, as I have..."	1/1	x	original transcript
	21	June 21	Maryland Heights, Md.	"Home, well I once more..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	22	June 23	M'land Heights, Md.	"Home, I now take my..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	23	June 28	M'land Heights, Md.	"I now resume my seat..."			photo. transcript
	24	July 9	South Mtn Pass, Md.	"All hands at home..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	25	July 13	(In the field)	"Home, well here we are..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	26	July 15-17	Sharpsburg & Harpers F	."Home, ..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	27	July 18-21	Loudon Valley	"Well, here we are after..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	28	Jul. 20	Warrenton City (?)	"Sister Emma, it is with..."	1/2	--	original transcript
	29	July 23-30	Manassas Gap, Va.	"Here we are after..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	30	Sept. 27	Near Culpepper, Va.	"Home, well I presume..."	1/4	x	original transcript
	31	Nov. 11	Brandy Station, Va.	"Mother, I take my pen..."	1/4	x	original transcript
	32	Dec. 3	Brandy Station, Va.	"Mother, I take my pencil..."	1/1	--	original transcript
	33	Dec. 18	Near Brandy, Va.	"Mother, I take..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	<b>1864</b>						
	34	Feb. 1	Near Brandy, Va.	"Mother, I seat myself..."	1/2	--	original transcript
	35	Feb 2—Mar 2	Near Brandy, Va.	"Home, I seat myself..."	1/4	--	original transcript
	36	May 13	In the field	"Mr. Sunderland: Dear Sir: (from Capt. Peter Robertson)	1/3	--	original transcript
	37	June 4	Field of battle	"Madame, In compliance..." (from priv. Charles Lenple)	1/3	--	original transcript
	38	June 7	Headquarters 106 <sup>th</sup>	"Mrs. P.E Sunderland:..."	1/2	--	original transcript



**Series 4—Student Research Papers**

- 3    69    *A Picture of a Soldier...The Civil War Letters of Darwin W. Sunderland, 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment*  
By Gregory Randolph ('01)
- 70    *The Civil War Letters of John R. Sunderland*—Introduction and transcription by Jeremy C. Mulligan (2 copies)
- 71    Research materials related to Mulligan's project