

Collection Letters

Guide to the Second Lieutenant Almon Smith, 5th Wis. Battery Light Artillery Archival Collection, enlisted at Camp Utley, Racine, Wis., on Sept. 4, 1861, and died of disease on Aug. 23, 1862, in Iuka, Mississippi),

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository

Civil War Museum, Resource Center Kenosha, Wisconsin

Language of Material

Material in English

Abstract

This brief collection consists of 4 documents, 3 of which are letters that 2nd Lieutenant Smith wrote to his wife Myra.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Use Restrictions

No photocopying please

Preferred Citation

(Identification of item), Second Lieutenant Almon Smith (5th Wisconsin Battery, Light Artillery) Letters Collection, The Civil War Museum, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Provenance

Processing Information

Processed by Frederick J. (Rick) Holtz, 2011

Doc.#1 of 4: A 3 page letter from Almon to his wife, Myra, dated Oct. 3, 1861, from Camp Utley, Racine, Wis.

Noteworthy: Few leisure moments in camp.

Being measured for a dress uniform that will cost more than he planned for.

Speaks of his love and desire to correspond daily with Myra.

Doc. #2 of 4: A 5 page letter from Almon to his "Dear Wife" written on Oct. 4, 1861, from Camp Utley, Racine

Noteworthy: Again mentions there is little free leisure time.

Pleased to be finally getting his tent.

Witnessed the punishment of a soldier who "left his beat"(post) during a rainstorm and is now serving time in the guardhouse.

Reminds his wife Myra to "be cheerful" and "not be sad" saying that "Soon we will be together".

Mentions continuous rainy conditions at Camp Utley.

Asks, "How are your folks?", "What news?", and

"Write often".

Doc.#3 of 4: A four page letter from Lt. Smith to his wife Myra, written from Camp Utley, Racine, Wisconsin, on Oct. 19th, 1861.

Noteworthy: Writing after his dinner was his best time of the day to write her. Overwhelming “lack of privacy” and “much gabbing” that keeps him from organizing his thoughts into letter form. Mentions the “beauty of the day” and the closeness of his camp to Lake Michigan. Expresses thanks for receiving her last 2 letters. Looking forward to seeing Myra next week. His new uniform should be finished by the weekend. Did not receive a more recent letter from her asking, “Are you sick?”

Doc. #4 of 4: Death Notice of Almon Smith from the Fifth Battery Light Artillery (undated). It notes Lt. Almon Smith's enlistment date of Sept. 4, 1861, and his death from disease in Iuka, Mississippi on Aug. 23, 1862.