

## Finding Aide for Elon Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin

Guide to the Elon F. Brown letter collection (b. approx 1839-d. August 19, 1869), Teacher, enlisted, Co H, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Regiment May 19, 1861-Jun 29, 1864, Promoted to Captain July 27, 1864, Co D 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment USCT. Mustered out November 4, 1865.

### DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

#### Repository

Civil War Museum, Jack D. Michaels Resource Center Kenosha, Wisconsin

Language of Material  
Material in English

#### Abstract

This collection consists of 40 documents, letters from Elon to his family while serving with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin and the 45<sup>th</sup> USCT and some return letters from the family members .

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

#### Preferred Citation

(Identification of item) Elon Brown Collection, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Regiment and 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment USCT. Letters Collection, The Civil War Museum, Kenosha, Wisconsin

#### Provenance

#### Processing Information

Processed by Bruce T. Klem, 2017

#### Biographical Note:

Elon Brown, born in 1839 in New York, 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest child of James and Malvina Brown. Family of 3 brothers and 4 sisters. .Was raised in Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin in the 1850s. Enlisted on May 19, 1861, into Company H, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Regiment. Fought with the 2<sup>nd</sup> at Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam was wounded and subsequently promoted. Discharged in June 1864 to be an officer, Captain Company D, in the 45<sup>th</sup> USCT on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1864. 45<sup>th</sup> eventually assigned to Edinburg and Brownsville, Texas to provide border security. Mustered out on November 4, 1865. Lived with a friend from service, Henry Whitney for a brief period. Moved to Bridgeport Connecticut. In April 1866 Elon moved to Manchester, New Hampshire to teach at the New Hampshire Business College. April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1867 Elon married Sarah Whitney and a son, Norman was born a year later. Elon had developed health issues as a result of service , a hearing loss in one ear and impairment in the other that forced him to resign from teaching. He was also afflicted with a sometime bloody cough. Elon died on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1869. Occupation given as teacher, residing in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. Enlisted at the age of 22.

### COLLECTION LIST:

- Doc. #1 of 40 : Letter to friend, Eugene, August 29, 1859. Harvest work, crops, corn, potatoes, wheat, oats and barley. Weather was dry summer.
- Doc. #2 of 40: Letter to family, May 29, 1861, Camp Randall, Randall Guards, Regiment strength, Camp life, Union Cause, drilling, enlistment reasons, length of war.
- Doc. #3 of 40: Letter to family August 28, 1861, Camp Kalonama, Washington DC. Ft. Corcoran, Sherman's Brigade, King's Brigade(2nd, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin, 79<sup>th</sup> New York, 19<sup>th</sup> Indiana, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fire Zouaves), 1<sup>st</sup> Fire Zouaves(Elsworth's), Battle of Bull Run, Confederate strength estimate, Unit health, Individual health, marching, heatstroke, effects of heat on soldiers.
- Doc #4 of 40: Letter to family from James Brown, brother, October 26, 1861, Arlington, rumors of the war, individual health, can visit Elon.
- Doc #5 of 40 Letter to family from Mitchell Brown, brother in Berdan's Sharpshooter Regiment, Camp of Instruction January 1862, had been sick, fever, unit lost members due to Measles, weapons, Spencer Magazine Rifle, copper bullets, no firing caps needed, 6 men tents, weather, drilling.
- Doc #6 of 40 Letter to family from James Brown, brother, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1862, Camp Arlington, visit with Elon, picket duty, rations, type and quality, drilling, camp life.
- Doc #7 of 40 Letter to family from Elon, February 18, 1862, Fort Tillinghast, Virginia, news of Union victories, victory effect, Fort Donelson fall, winter weather, road conditions, visit to Congress.
- Doc #8 of 40 Letter to family from Elon, January 2, 1862, Fort Tillinghast, Arlington, Va, visits to brothers, poor mail service, Mason Slidell affair, England entering the war, picket duty, attitude toward the war, disease, argue.
- Doc #9 of 40 Letter from Elon to family, March 21, 1862, camp near Alexandria, Va, money woes, unit on the march, capture of Manassas, support of McCellan, march to Centreville, Mitchell in hospital, lung disease, boarding ships at Alexandria to Peninsula.
- Doc #10 of 40 Letter from Mitchell to family, April 2, 1862, General Hospital, Washington DC, mail problems, illness, colt revolving muskets, Fortress Monroe, dangers of picket duty, medical treatment for pneumonia.
- Doc #11 of 40 Letter from Elon to family, May 2, 1862, near Fredericksburg, Va., poor mail service, Mitchell discharge, camp sickness.
- Doc #12 of 40 Letter from Elon to family, Sept 5, 1862, Arlington Heights, Va, James wounded Battle of Brawners Farm & aftermath, McClellan soldiers' feeling toward.
- Doc #13 of 40 Letter from Elon to family, Sept 19<sup>th</sup>, 1862, Keedysville, Md, Battle of Sharpsburg aftermath, Union brigade hospital, Battle South Mountain, wounded care, Iron Brigade strength, soldier morale, letters from home.

- Doc #14 of 40 Letter from Elon to family, Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1862, Camp near Aquia Creek, Va., Battle of Fredericksburg aftermath, morale, James wound, Union cause.
- Doc #15 of 40 Letter from Mitchell to sister, Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, 1863, Bristol, state unknown, James death, smallpox, hospital care.
- Doc #16 of 40 Letter from Elon to family, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1863, Camp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wis Inf, near Aquia Creek, Va, political sentiments from home, morale of the Army of Potomac, war in the West, General Hooker, winter weather, Virginia roads.
- Doc #17 of 40 Letter from Elon to family, March 1<sup>st</sup>, Camp, 2<sup>nd</sup> WI Inf, near Aquia Creek, Va, Learns of death of sister Lucinda, thoughts on life, unit rumors, road conditions and weather, individual health.
- Doc #18 of 40 Letter from Elon to sister, March 18, 1864, US General Hospital, Frederick, Md. Visit to brother's grave, family issues, visit with Russell on the march, personal feelings of family loss, nearing end of enlistment.
- Doc #19 of 40 Letter from Elon to family, June 11, 1864, US General Hospital, Frederick, Md. Reenlists for three years, unsure of future assignment, brother Mitchell's enlistment in 40<sup>th</sup> WI Inf.
- Doc #20 of 40 Letter from Elon to family, July 28, 1864, Camp William Penn, near Philadelphia, Pa, receives commission, visits Sun Prairie, ordered to 45 USCT Company D in PA, Early's "Great Raid, Company officer duties.
- Doc #21 of 40 Letter from sister
- Doc #22 of 40 Letter from Elon to family, Oct 13<sup>th</sup>, 1863, US General Hospital, Frederick, Md Battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, Russell taken prisoner, exchange camp in Annapolis, Elon poor health enters hospital June 29, poor mail service, light duty
- Doc #23 of 40 Letter from Elon to family, Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, 1863, US General Hospital, Frederick, Md, illness "used up", hospital life, letter writing, soldier morale, mail service, discharges, reenlistment, war feelings of common soldier, Christmas and civilian support, regiment as family.
- Doc #24 of 40 Letter from Eliza D. to Daniel McCrae, Sept 30, 1863. Learns of sister Lucinda's death, Elon's health.
- Doc # 25 of 40 Letter from Elon to family, Nov 14. 1864, Camp Casey, Va. Near Washington D. C. in Arlington. Lee's mansion. Teaching soldiers. Ex-slaves should make good citizens. Colored troops first rate.
- Doc # 26 of 40 Letter from Russell to family, date unknown, Campbell Hospital, Ward F, Washington D.C., Winter weather, discharge from service, Wisconsin land availability, feelings on receipt of letters..

- Doc #27 of 40 Letter from Russell to family, date unknown, Campbell Hospital, Washington D.C. return to company, general health, future plans.
- Doc #28 of 40 Letter from Russell to family, March 15, 1865, Campbell Hospital, Washington D. C. return to Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, guard duty., health.
- Doc #29 of 40 Letter from Elon to family, April 28, 1865, Camp in field near Petersburg, VA. Grief over Lincoln's death, end of campaign, health.
- Doc #30 of 40 Letter from Elon to family, Sep 22, 1865, Edinburg, Texas. Co D, 45<sup>th</sup> USCT, 2 Brigade, 2 Div, 25<sup>th</sup> Corps. Discharges of soldiers, 1 year men, weather, health, plans for future, letter writing.
- Doc #31 of 40 Letter from Elon to family, Oct 3, 1866, Manchester, NH. Teaching, future travel plans, support for home.
- Doc #32 of 40 Letter from Sarah Brown to sister-in-law, Oct 11, 1867, Manchester, NH. Elon's wife, illness, new baby, Elon's work.
- Doc #33 of 40 Letter from Sarah Brown to sister-in-law, Oct 30, 1869, Manchester, NH. Elon's funeral, son Norman, Sarah's remarks, Elon's status in community, after life, belief in God.
- Doc #34 of 40 Letter from James to parents, Sep 22, 1873, Menomonie, WI, Land availability, money concerns. Debts.
- Doc #35 of 40 Letter from sister to family, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1874, Cedar Falls, Wisconsin, Dunn County, James death, Typhoid fever.
- Doc #36 of 40 Letter from Robert Brown to sister, Feb 20, 1875, State University, Madison, WI. Poor mail service, helping with finances, financial situation, travels over the past year, visits to East Coast, family situations.
- Doc #37 of 40 Letter from G. Mcrae to brother, April 18, 1877, Hickman, marriage to Susan Johnson, financial issues, trouble with Robert.
- Doc #38 of 40 Letter from Elise to family, June 22, 1889, Cedar Falls, WI, strawberry picking, Frank Brown illness, Addison's family visit.
- Doc #39 of 40 Letter from Mitchell to family, date unknown, General Hospital Judiciary Square, DC lack of hearing back from Elon, expedition to the Southern coast.
- Doc #40 of 40 Letter from Daniel McCrae to Rosa, April 2, Soldiers Home, weather, health, write.