

## **Microfilm-only collections acquired during the *Looking Back at the Civil War Project:***

### **Benson Family Letters, 1858-1863, Mf #1988**

The Benson Family Letters, 1858-1863, consists mostly of letters written from the Benson brothers (William E., George, and Joseph) to their sisters (Mary Francis and Sinae Ann). The brothers were serving in the Confederate Army during the Civil War and were reporting to their family from Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, and Mississippi. W. E. Benson and George Foster Benson both enlisted in Cosby's Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Mississippi Cavalry, Company D, and confronted Federal forces in Mississippi and later in North Alabama and Middle Tennessee. Joseph Benson served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mississippi Infantry, Company G and wrote a number of letters from Camp Fisher, Virginia, where hundreds of soldiers camped during the winter of 1861-1862 during their blockade of the Potomac River.

### **Moscow B. Carter (1825-1913) Papers, 1853-1908, Mf #1971**

The Moscow B. Carter Papers consist of family and military correspondence, fragmentary memoirs, genealogical notes, military documents, claims filed with the U.S. Claims Commission for wartime damages, and a leather-bound diary kept by Carter from November 20, 1861, to the fall of 1867.

### **Daniel Henry Chandler (1825-1913) Papers, 1862-1908, Mf #1979**

The Daniel Henry Chandler Papers consist of family and military correspondence, fragmentary memoirs, a pension certificate, and leather-bound diaries kept by Chandler from February 2, 1862, to November 26, 1864. He was mustered in as a three-year enlisted man on November 22, 1861, serving as a blacksmith in the 5<sup>th</sup> Indiana Battery, Volunteer Light Artillery.

### **James Litton Cooper (1844-1924) Collection, 1861-1864, Mf #1976**

The James Litton Cooper Collection consists of family and military correspondence (most of which are transcribed), fragmentary reminiscences in the form of newspaper articles, military documents, and additional newspaper clippings. The letters and military documents date from the Civil War or its immediate aftermath.

### **John G. Decker (1840-1921) Papers, 1861-1950, bulk 1861-1863, Mf #1964**

The John G. Decker Papers include a small collection of letters written by Private John G. Decker, Second Division, 32<sup>nd</sup> Indiana Infantry Regiment, Army of the Ohio, to his

family in Evansville, Indiana. John Decker and his twin brother Phillip joined the volunteer German unit organized in 1861 by Captain William Schnackenburg. The men were mustered in at Camp Nevin in Indianapolis and after training, headed south towards Louisville. John Decker's letters were written to his family back home, and provide interesting details about life as a soldier during the Civil War.

#### **Thomas Burr Fisher Papers, 1844-1922, Mf #1954**

This collection consists of the writings of Thomas Burr Fisher, a Civil War veteran and prominent Methodist minister. The collection is composed of two volumes of his autobiographical work, "Life on the Common Level," (1921) along with a transcription. Also included is "The Autobiography of the Reverend Thomas Burr Fisher," written in 1915.

#### **Adam J. Himmel Civil War Letters, 1861-1865, Mf #1980**

The Adam J. Himmel Civil War Letters, 1861-1865, were written by a German-born member of the 85<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry, Company K, during the Civil War. Himmel was mustered into service in Peoria, Illinois, on August 27, 1862. The letters in this collection, passed through the family to Himmel's great great-nephew, are all written to his brother George, who was a preacher. A religious man, Adam Himmel wrote frequently about his faith as well as his unshakable belief in the war.

#### **James C. Mates (1837-1898) Diaries, 1863-1865, Mf #1972**

These two small Civil War era diaries were penned by James Clubine Mates (born December 23, 1837, and died September 23, 1898) of the 101<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the Pennsylvania Infantry, USA, Company A. James Mates was 24 when he enrolled in the Federal Army in Pittsburgh in August 1862 and was mustered into service on September 11, 1862. Mates had been working as a farmer in Alleghany County, Pennsylvania.

#### **General Joseph B. Palmer Autograph Album, 1861-1862, Mf #1977**

The General Joseph B. Palmer Autograph Album, 1861-1862, was compiled by Palmer during his five months of captivity after his surrender at Fort Donelson in Dover, Tennessee, on February 15, 1862. The loss at Fort Donelson was a major defeat for the Confederate army. Palmer and his captured men were sent to Fort Warren prison in Boston in March 1862.

**Mary L. Pearre Diary and Photographs, 1863-1864, 1896, undated, Mf #1957**

The Mary L. Pearre Diary (1863-1864) written during the Civil War, reflects the personal musings of an educated woman who was unabashedly pro-Southern. Pearre's diary offers a compelling commentary on life on the home front during the Civil War.

**Perkins Family Letters, 1861-2000, bulk 1861-1864, Mf #1989**

The Perkins Family Letters, 1861-2000, bulk 1861-1864, contains a series of letters that were written to and from family members during the Civil War. The majority of the letters were written by Charles T. Perkins, who served in the C.S.A., 31<sup>st</sup> Tennessee Infantry Regiment, Company D. His slave, Jerry Perkins, accompanied him during his military service and brought his body home after his death during the Battle of Atlanta in 1864. The family lived in several regions of Tennessee, including Haywood County (Brownsville) and Williamson County. The letters (Folders 1 and 2) reveal the dynamics between a family and their slaves as well as other insights into daily life during the Civil War.

**G. F. Robinson (1840-1888) Letters, 1861-1864, Mf. #1969**

The G. F. Robinson Papers are comprised entirely of letters from George Franklin Robinson (1840-1888) to his wife Elvira J. Robinson (1840-1921) and children during the Civil War. Robinson was a member of the Confederate 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (Company A) of the South Carolina Battalion in Joseph Kershaw's Brigade. He enlisted in June 1862 and was discharged from the Federal prison camp at Point Lookout, Maryland, in June 1865; he had previously been taken prisoner in November 1864.

**Civil War Correspondence of the Wadsworth Brothers, 1861-1865, bulk 1863-1865, Mf #1995**

The Civil War correspondence of the Wadsworth brothers encompasses the entire era, 1861-1865. Predominant are letters received by Charles B. Wadsworth of Summerfield, Michigan, a farm and family man educated as a teacher at Oberlin College, Ohio. The letters are authored by his younger brothers, Elihu and Orry, who, at the inception of the Civil War, are both students at Oberlin College. Elihu joins Company H, 18<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry. Orry musters into Company B, 16<sup>th</sup> United States Colored Troops (USCT) at the rank of First Lieutenant.

**Mary Camp Webster (1840-1935) Memoir, ca. 1928-1935, Mf #1986**

The memoir was written by Mary Camp Webster (1840-1935) sometime between 1928 and 1935. Much of the memoir includes details about family history, including extensive

genealogical information, but Webster also briefly discusses a few events from the Civil War as they relate to family history.

**D. M. Woods Collection, 1835-1868, Mf #1968**

The D. M. Woods Collection, 1835-1868, was assembled by two Civil War collectors from Montgomery County, Tennessee. The materials included are mostly business receipts, a miscellaneous assortment of financial records that were originally in the possession of D. M. Woods, a Clarksville-based blacksmith and carriage maker. It appears that he worked with the Nashville-based T. M. Brennan foundry, also known as the Claiborne Machine Works, as well as the Clarksville-based company Whitfield, Bradley, and Company.

*Updated September 1, 2011 by Gwynn Thayer*