



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

G. F. ROBINSON (1840-1888)
LETTERS
1861-1864

Prepared by:

Gwynn Thayer
Archival Technical Services

Date completed: November 23, 2010

Microfilm Accession Number: 1969

MICROFILM ONLY

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

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 7th 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. The collection was provided to TSLA for microfilming during the *Looking Back at the Civil War* project in 2010. The original letters were returned to the donor. Most of the 59 letters are intact and legible, but the last folder contains quite a few letter fragments or undated letters.

The collection is significant because Robinson was a member of one of the elite units in Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia during the Civil War, and took part in a number of major battles on the eastern front. Kershaw's Brigade saw some of the heaviest action of any brigade—North or South—in the war. Robinson wrote on the eve or in the wake of several of the war's largest battles, including Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg (after which he drew a map [see letter from July 18, 1863] of Lee's march northward). He was, in fact, critical of Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania (he wrote on July 18, 1863, "I think our confederacy is gone up the spout.") and several months afterward continued to be pessimistic about the war's outcome, noting on September 26, "I see no prospect of peace at this time." In the fall of 1863, Robinson was detached westward with Kershaw's Brigade and Lt. General James Longstreet's corps to play a pivotal role in the Battle of Chickamauga. He continued to write from places such as Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Greeneville before returning to Lee's army in the east in spring 1864. He served in the lines around Petersburg, Virginia, during the heavy fighting there.

Robinson died on October 21, 1888. His wife, who resided in Pickens County, South Carolina, later applied for a widow's pension in April 1919. The couple had been married since August 1857 and raised ten children.

CONTAINER LIST

1. Copies of background information on the Robinsons
2. July 30, 1861; to sister
3. August 15, 1861; to brother (Germantown, Fairfax County)
4. September 11, 1861; to "Eelvira" (? County, Virginia)
5. September 16, 1861; to brother and sister (Fairfax County, VA)
6. November 10, 1861; to brother (Fairfax County, VA)
7. January 16, 1862; to brother (Fairfax County, VA)
8. February 12, 1862; to brother and sister (Centerville, VA)
9. June 28, 1862; to wife and children (Camp at Petersburg)
10. August 1, 1862; to wife (Camp of Instruction)
11. August 21, 1862; to wife (Richmond, VA)
12. September 5, 1862; to father, wife and children (Leesburg, Loudoun County, VA)
13. September 22, 1862; to wife and children (Camp near Martinsburg, VA)
14. September 25, 1862; to wife and children (Camp near Martinsburg, VA)
15. October 5, 1862; to wife and children (Camp near Winchester, VA)
16. November 14, 1862; to wife and children (Camp near Winchester, VA)
17. November 24, 1862; to wife and children (Fredericksburg, VA)
18. November 30, 1862; to wife and "connections all" (Camp at Fredericksburg, VA)
19. December 7, 1862; to wife and children (Camp near Fredericksburg, VA)
20. December 27, 1862; to wife and children (Camp near Fredericksburg, VA)
21. January 4, 1863; to wife and children (Camp near Fredericksburg, VA)
22. January 11, 1863; to wife and children (Camp seven miles from Fredericksburg, VA)
23. January 23, 1863; to wife and children (Camp seven miles from Fredericksburg, VA)
24. February 15, 1863; to wife and children (Spotsylvania County, Virginia)
25. February 28, 1863; to wife and children (Camp near Fredericksburg, VA)
26. March 17, 1863; to wife and children (Camp near Fredericksburg, VA)
27. May 26, 1863; to wife and children (Camp near Fredericksburg, VA)
28. May 30, 1863; to "Elury" and children (Camp near Fredericksburg, VA)
29. April 7, 1863; to wife and children (Camp near Fredericksburg, VA)
30. April 10, 1863; to "Elviry" (Camp near Fredericksburg, VA)
31. April 22, 1863; to "Elviry" (Camp near Fredericksburg, VA)
32. June 3, 1863; to wife and children (Camp near Fredericksburg, VA)
33. June 23, 1863; to wife and children (Camp Shanadore [sic] River)
34. June 28, 1863; to wife and children (Camp Chambersberg [sic])
35. June 30, 1863; to sister (Camp near Martingrove (?) Virginia)
36. July 18, 1863; to "Elviry" (Winchester, VA)
37. July 29, 1863; to wife and children (Staunton, VA)
38. August 9, 1863; to wife (Staunton, VA)
39. August 14, 1863; to father and mother (Munro [sic] Co., VA)

40. August 16, 1863; to wife (Staunton, VA)
41. September 2, 1863; to wife (Camp near Frederick Hall, VA)
42. September 15, 1863; to "Elviry" (Augusta, GA)
43. September 26, 1863; to wife and children (Camp near Chattanooga, TN)
44. November 22-28, 1863; to wife and children (Camp near Knoxville, TN)
45. January 1, 1864; to wife and children (Camp near Knoxville, TN?)
46. January 14, 1864; to wife and children (Camp near Rusileville [sic], TN)
47. February 2, 1864; to "Elviry" (Camp near Rusileville [sic], TN)
48. March 23, 1864; to "Elviry" (Camp near Greeneville, TN)
49. April 1, 1864; to wife and children (Camp near Bristol, TN?)
50. April 23, 1864; to wife (Camp near Garmons ville, VA?)
51. April 25, 1864; to wife and children (Camp near Gardenville, VA?)
52. June 25, 1864; to wife and children (in line of battle at Petersburg, VA)
53. July 8, 1864; to "Elviry" (Camp at Petersburg, VA)
54. July 21, 1864; to wife and children (Petersburg, VA)
55. July 29, 1864; to wife and children (Line of Battle near...?)
56. August 2, 1864; to "Elviry"
57. August 28, 1864; to wife (near Winchester, VA)
58. September 27, 1864; to "Elviry" (Port Republic, Shenandoah Valley)
59. September 29, 1864; to "Elviry" (Camp 14 miles from Shenandoah Valley)
60. October 14, 1864; to "Elviry" (Camp near Strasburg, VA)
61. Letter fragments/incomplete letters/incomplete dates