



**State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
Tennessee State Library and Archives**

**Henry Marshall Misemer  
Family Letters, 1861-1878 (bulk 1863-1865)**

---

**COLLECTION SUMMARY**

**Creator:**

Misemer, Henry Marshall, 1832-1865

**Inclusive Dates:**

1861-1878, bulk 1863-1865

**Scope & Content:**

This collection is comprised almost entirely of correspondence written by Henry Marshall Misemer (1832-1865) to his second wife, Martha Jane Bogart, during the Civil War. Cpl. Misemer served in Company F, 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, East Tennessee Cavalry, USA, along with Martha's brothers Solomon, Levi, and Charles Harrison Bogart. A few Bogart family letters are also included in the collection.

Misemer's letters describe in considerable detail the nature of the Federal assault against the South. On March 20, 1864, he discusses heading into West Point, Mississippi, where he helped burn corn and cotton and then destroy the railroad tracks. He also mentions capturing "negroes" as well as horses and mules. He helps kill or capture up to 1,000 Confederates during this expedition.

Misemer was captured by Nathan Bedford Forrest's troops on September 25, 1864. On March 24, 1865, he describes his imprisonment as "something similar to purgatory" even though he acknowledges that he is in good health. Later, on March 28, Misemer details (to his wife) the quality of life in a POW camp near Vicksburg, Mississippi. He writes, "A part of the time we was tolerable well fed and well treated and a part of the time nearly starved and kicked about and japed [sic] with the bayonette [sic] just anyway. But from all accounts we were in the best prison the Rebs have. It is almost a heaven compared with Andersonville, Georgia." Misemer was later paroled from the Cahaba, Mississippi, prison.

The collection also includes a number of observations about African Americans and Jews. In a letter written on June 16, 1864, by Levi Bogart to his sister Martha, he asks her about her thoughts on educating African Americans. He writes, "I wish to introduce that the nigger being educated. Are you for it or not? Why I can tell you what the fact Martha when I got to town I just see the niggers pacing [sic] the streets to and from with their books on the arms and some with spelling books....What do you think about it. I don't fancy it much myself."

In the same letter, Bogart comments on Jewish worship he witnesses, writing, "Well their [sic] is another peculiar kind of worship right close to our encampment, the Jewish style of worship. They gather to an old shed once every two weeks with all sorts of musical instruments & have a real hoe down bull dance. I think that about as disgusting a thing as my eyes ever witnessed but I reckon they think its the wright [sic] way to do Gods services."

Most notably, the collection includes an 1865 letter written by Solomon F. Bogart documenting the tragedy of the USS *Sultana* explosion on the Mississippi River near Memphis. The disaster killed around 1,800 of the steamboat's 2,400 passengers. The ship was severely overloaded and suffered a catastrophic mechanical failure of its boilers. Misemer, along with brothers-in-law Levi and Charles Harrison Bogart, died in the *Sultana* explosion.

The author of the aforementioned letter, Solomon F. Bogart, who survived the explosion, concludes his note to his sister Martha with the ominous words, "Death, Oh forget me not....Lost, Lost all is Lost." He loses two brothers in the explosion as well as his brother-in-law, Henry Marshall Misemer. The letter is his first report of the loss to Martha, whose husband Henry perished in the disaster.

**Physical Description/Extent:**

1 microfilm reel, 16 mm

**Accession/Record Group Number:**

Mf. 2008

**Language:**

English

**Permanent Location:**

Mf. 2008 (available only on microfilm)

**Repository:**

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

## **Administrative/Biographical History**

Cpl. Henry Marshall Misemer (1832-1865) was the son of Heinrich Misemer and Susannah Biebel (or Bible). His first marriage was to Margaret Jane Brown on January 25, 1855, and the couple had a daughter, Mary Elizabeth "Lizzy" Misemer. Margaret Jane died on August 31, 1857, and Misemer married Martha Jane Bogart on February 2, 1859; she had three brothers, Solomon (Sol), Levi (Lee), and Charles Harrison Bogart. At his death, Misemer left four young children with Martha Jane: Mary Elizabeth, from his previous marriage, as well as Charles Franklin, Margaret Ellen, and Laura Caroline.

During the Civil War Misemer served in Company F, 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, East Tennessee Cavalry, USA, along with Martha's brothers. He was captured by Nathan Bedford Forrest's troops on September 25, 1864, and paroled from the Cahaba, Mississippi, prison. Misemer, along with Levi Bogart and Charles Bogart, died in 1865 in the explosion of the USS *Sultana*. Misemer's widow Martha, who according to the donor later filed for a widow's pension, remarried a Dr. Daniels on February 28, 1872.

## **Organization/Arrangement of Materials**

The letters have been organized chronologically.

## **Conditions of Access and Use**

### **Restrictions on Access:**

None

### **Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:**

While the Tennessee State Library and Archives houses an item, it does not necessarily hold the copyright on the item, nor may it be able to determine if the item is still protected under current copyright law. Users are solely responsible for determining the existence of such instances and for obtaining any other permissions and paying associated fees that may be necessary for the intended use.

## **Index Terms**

### **Personal Names:**

Bogart, Charles Harrison, d. 1865  
Bogart, Levi, d.1865  
Bogart, Solomon  
Misemer, Henry Marshall, 1832-1865  
Misemer, Martha Jane Bogart

**Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:**

Sultana (Steamboat) -- History -- 19<sup>th</sup> century  
United States. Army. Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry, 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Subjects:**

African Americans -- Education -- History  
Jews -- United States -- Social life and customs  
Prisoner-of-war camps --Mississippi -- Vicksburg

**Geographic Names:**

Tennessee -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865  
Vicksburg (Miss.) -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Prisoners and  
prisons

**Document Types:**

Personal correspondence

**Acquisition and Appraisal**

**Provenance and Acquisition:**

The papers were loaned for microfilming on November 17, 2011, during the *Looking Back: The Civil War in Tennessee* digitization project in Athens, McMinn County, Tennessee.

**Processing and Administrative Information**

**Preferred Citation:**

Henry Marshall Misemer Family Letters, 1861-1878, Tennessee State  
Library and Archives

**Processing Information:**

Processing completed by Gwynn Thayer on April 18, 2012

**Existence and Location of Originals:**

Privately held

**Electronic Location and Access:**

<http://www.tn.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/mf2008.pdf>

## DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

### CONTAINER LIST

Contents/Item Title	Date	Box	Folder
Letter, to uncle (no transcription)	4/6/1861	1	1
Letter, L. M. Bogart to M. J. Misemer	2/14/1863	1	2
Letter, L. M. Bogart to M. J. Misemer	3/31/1863	1	3
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	6/5/1863	1	4
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	12/7/1863	1	5
Letter, Philip Misemer to brother Marshall	2/23/1864	1	6
Letter, Felix Misemer to uncle	3/6/1864	1	7
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	3/20/1864	1	8
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	3/21/1864	1	9
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	4/11/1864	1	10
Bill of sale for goods purchased by H. M. Misemer	4/15/1864	1	11
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	4/24/1864	1	12
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	5/2/1864	1	13
Letter, L. M. Bogart to sister Martha	6/16/1864	1	14
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	6/27/1864	1	15
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	7/13/1864	1	16
Letter, L. M. Bogart to sister Martha	7/13/1864	1	17
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	7/27/1864	1	18
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	8/8/1864	1	19
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	8/17/1864	1	20
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	9/19/1864	1	21
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	3/24/1865	1	22
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	3/28/1865	1	23
Letter, L. M. Bogart to sister Martha	4/4/1865	1	24
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	4/14/1865	1	25
Letter, Sol Bogart to sister Martha	4/17/1865	1	26
Letter, Sol Bogart to sister Martha	4/30/1865	1	27
Letter, Martha Misemer to brother Philip	June 1865	1	28
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	Undated	1	29
Letter, H. M. Misemer to wife Martha	Undated	1	30
Letter, H. M. Misemer to Martha	Undated	1	31
Letter, Ella Warren to sister Martha	March 15, 1878	1	32
Genealogical data compiled by donor and transcriptions created by donor in the donor's preferred order: chronological by author	Undated	1	33