



Cyrus A. Mead Papers (R0166)

Collection Number: R0166

Collection Title: Cyrus A. Mead Papers

Dates: 1861

Creator: Mead, Cyrus A., ca. 1840-1862

Abstract: The Cyrus A. Mead Papers contain photocopies of a letter written by Cyrus A. Mead during the Civil War to his sister in Eaton, Ohio. Serving with the 42nd Ohio Infantry in Camp Chase, Ohio, Mead noted the sickness in the regiment and remarked on the regimental officers, including Colonel James A. Garfield, who later became President of the United States.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot
(1 folder)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection are in the public domain.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Cyrus A. Mead Papers* (R0166); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The papers were loaned for photocopying to the University of Missouri by James E. Price on February 24, 1983 (Accession No. RA0163).

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, August 10, 1983. Revised by Kathleen Seale, October 22, 2020.

Biographical Note:

Cyrus A. Mead enlisted in Company A, 42nd Ohio Infantry, in late summer of 1861, probably in his hometown of Freedom, Ohio. Mead had been a student at the Western Reserve Eclectic

Institute at Hiram, Ohio, before the war, and he joined many other graduates of the school in that regiment. Its popularity undoubtedly had to do with its commander, Colonel James A. Garfield, former Principal of the Eclectic and Ohio state senator. Along with the rest of the 42nd and thousands of other soldiers from Ohio, Mead was trained at the large camp of instruction at Camp Chase, near Columbus, Ohio. Mead died of disease in March 1862.

Colonel Garfield was alarmed at the increasing spread of disease in his regiment. Garfield's Civil War letters, published as *The Wild Life of the Army*, contained repeated references to sickness in camp, and, on March 10, 1862, he wrote his wife that Cyrus Mead and Elam Chapman, another former student at the Eclectic, had visited him. Both were ill, and they tearfully pleaded for sick leaves to return home. Garfield told both of them of his own bouts with sickness, "talked to them till they felt brave," and sent them to be treated by the medical officer. His moral support was only a temporary palliative, for Garfield wrote on March 30, 1862 that Mead and Chapman had both died, probably of typhoid fever.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains photocopies of a letter written by Cyrus A. Mead during the Civil War to his sister in Eaton, Ohio. Mead's letter to his sister was written after his return to camp following a furlough and visit home. He remarked that, upon his return, his army comrades seemed "more reckless, less moral and refined" than they had been previously. He also noted the deplorable health of the regiment, which counted almost ten percent of its number on the sick list. Measles had already killed two members of Company A, almost two months before the 42nd sustained a casualty due to enemy action.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 Cyrus Mead letter, 1861

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