

HUTCHINSON (EDWIN AND FAMILY) PAPERS
(Mss. 751)
Inventory

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

Reformatted 2003
Revised 2010

CONTENTS OF INVENTORY

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| SUMMARY | 3 |
| BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE..... | 4 |
| SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE | 4 |
| SERIES DESCRIPTIONS..... | 5 |
| CROSS REFERENCES..... | 7 |
| CONTAINER LIST | 10 |

Use of manuscript materials. If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please fill out a call slip specifying the materials you wish to see. Consult the Container List for location information needed on the call slip.

Photocopying. Should you wish to request photocopies, please consult a staff member. The existing order and arrangement of unbound materials must be maintained.

Publication. Readers assume full responsibility for compliance with laws regarding copyright, literary property rights, and libel.

Permission to examine archival materials does not constitute permission to publish. Any publication of such materials beyond the limits of fair use requires specific prior written permission. Requests for permission to publish should be addressed in writing to the Head, Public Services, Special Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, LA, 70803-3300. When permission to publish is granted, two copies of the publication will be requested for the LLMVC.

Proper acknowledgement of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

SUMMARY

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Size. | 221 items |
| Geographic locations. | Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, New York |
| Inclusive dates. | 1861-1872 |
| Bulk dates. | 1861-1865 |
| Language. | English |
| Summary. | Letters to members of his family and copies of official army orders of Edwin Hutchinson, son of Holmes Hutchinson, a medical cadet at the U.S. General Hospital, Annapolis, Maryland and an army surgeon attached to the 3 rd Maryland Volunteers, and the 137 th New York Volunteers during the campaigns in Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia of the Civil War. |
| Organization. | Arranged chronologically. |
| Restrictions on access. | Photocopies must be made from microfilm. |
| Related collections. | Charles W. Hutchinson and Family Papers, Mss. 1865 Holmes Hutchinson Family Papers, Mss. 751, 802, 881 |
| Copyright. | Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law. |
| Citation. | Edwin Hutchinson and Family Papers, Mss. 751, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La. |
| Stack location(s). | U:159, OS:H, Mss.MF:H |

BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE

Edwin Hutchinson was a medical cadet at the United States General Hospital, Annapolis, Maryland, and an army surgeon attached to the 3rd Maryland Volunteers and the 137th New York Volunteers during campaigns in Virginia, Tennessee, and Georgia in the Civil War. His father, Holmes Hutchinson (d. 1865), was an engineer working on New York State canal projects. Holmes was the president of the Oswego and Syracuse Railroad Company, and a director of the Ontario Steamboat Company. Edwin's brother, Charles W. Hutchinson, was a commission merchant and art collector from Utica, New York.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is comprised chiefly of letters from Edwin Hutchinson to his family which describe his duties at military hospitals and on battlefields during the Civil War. Letters (1861-1862) from Fort McQuade, Arlington Heights, Virginia, comment on military life in camp and his internship at the U.S. General Hospital in Annapolis. Letters (1862-1863) describe his duties during the Battle of Antietam, the Battle of Chancellorsville, and the Battle of Gettysburg. Also described are his experiences caring for the wounded after battles, during campaigns in northern Virginia, and near Chattanooga, Tennessee, and in the U.S. Army hospital at Stevenson, Alabama. Letters reflect on General Sherman's evacuation of Atlanta (1864), Sherman's march to the sea (Dec. 1864-March 1865), General Lee's surrender, and President Lincoln's assassination. Letters from New York City pertain to the settlement of Holmes Hutchinson's estate and Edwin's courses at medical school. Other papers include official orders and appointments to medical duties during the war, a diploma from Columbia College (1866), and two certificates of merit for services during the war (1872).

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

[The collection is arranged chronologically, but like items are described in groups below. See the Container List for description reflecting physical arrangement]

Series I, Correspondence, 1861-1865, undated

Earliest correspondence is made up of letters from Hutchinson to his mother and father while attached to the 14th Regiment, New York Volunteers, Army of the Potomac, stationed at Fort McQuade, Arlington Heights, Va. He discusses camp personnel, hospital supplies, health of soldiers, water conditions, and quality of food. Because he receives no pay for his services, he repeatedly states his need for money (1861-1862). In letters from July 1862, Hutchinson notes the lack of patriotism in the North and expresses his belief in the need to support the government.

A number of letters are written from battlefields and discuss positions of troops, numbers wounded, interaction with the Southern forces, routine and living conditions in the camps, morale of the soldiers, description of the countryside, reactions of the townspeople, and numbers of deserters (1862-1863). In one letter, written after the Battle of Antietam, Hutchinson mentions dressing the wounds of General Joseph Hooker (September 18, 1862). Another letter is written to Hutchinson's father from a fellow soldier, J.M. Stevenson, who tells that Edwin was taken prisoner during the Battle of Chancellorsville (May 7, 1863). This is followed by two letters from Edwin Hutchinson to his mother telling her of the battle itself and his time as a prisoner (May 7 and 16, 1863). Hutchinson also writes to his parents following the Battle of Gettysburg. He describes the progression of the fighting, the extent of the wounded, and marching through smaller towns after the battle (July 1-9, 1863). One letter mentions coming across a "Rebel spy" hanging from a tree (July 9, 1863).

Subsequent letters describe the journey through Kelly's Ford, Va., Louisville, Ky., and Murfreesboro, Tenn. (August-December 1863). A letter to Hutchinson's mother talks of visiting Nickajack Cave in Alabama (October 27, 1863), and letters to his father discuss the Battle of Wauhatchie and contain an attached map drawn by Hutchinson showing the line of battle from Kelly's Ferry to Chattanooga, Tenn. (November 6, 1863), and the battle with General Bragg's army at Mission Ridge (November 30, 1863). He also writes to his father describing the war as a "slaveholder's rebellion," and that the only way to defeat the enemy is to get rid of slavery. He believes, "where there is no slavery, there can be no insurrection" (December 4, 1863).

Beginning in 1864, letters from Hutchinson are written from his post as Surgeon in charge of the Division Hospital in Stevenson, Alabama. He writes to his family of the high prices of food in Alabama, shortsightedness of the Generals in failing to maintain an adequate transportation system in order to move food and clothing to the fighting men, and recreation of the soldiers at the hospital (January-May 1864). As a member of the 20th Army Corps under Gen. Hooker, Hutchinson writes in detail of the campaign through Georgia as well as his impressions of the people and the countryside (May-August 1864). In letters from Atlanta, Georgia, he describes conditions in the city, soldiers' attitude toward the National election, and mentions Gen. Sherman's orders for citizens to evacuate the city (September-November 1864). Letters from Savannah, Georgia, tell of the destruction of the countryside, the campaign from Atlanta to the coast, a description of the city, and activity at the U.S. General Hospital at Savannah (December 1864-February 1865).

On April 9, 1865, Hutchinson was detailed for duty as Surgeon-in-Charge of the Division Hospital at Goldsboro, North Carolina. A letter from Raleigh, N.C. tells of the march pursuing General Joseph Johnston's Army and the news of Lee's surrender to Grant (April 27, 1865). Hutchinson's last letter as a member of the Union Army is written from Richmond, Va., dated May 9, 1865.

Letters from New York City pertain to the settlement of Holmes Hutchinson's estate, discuss Edwin Hutchinson's school and hospital work, and provide general family news (October-December 1865, undated).

Series II, Military Papers, 1861-1872

Military papers include notification from the Surgeon General's office that Hutchinson passed his examination as a medical cadet, (September 24, 1861) as well as a document signed by Simon Cameron, Secretary of War, certifying that Hutchinson was accepted as a medical cadet (October 3, 1861). Also included is his appointment to the General Hospital, Annapolis, Maryland, (October 7, 1861). Special orders No. 215 from the Adjutant General's Office discharge Hutchinson from the service in order to enable him to accept a commission as Assistant Surgeon of the 3rd Maryland Volunteers, (September 6, 1862). Other papers include Hutchinson's appointment to surgeon of the 137th Infantry Regiment, N.Y.S. Volunteers, from the Surgeon General's Office, Albany, New York (August 25, 1863), his appointment as Surgeon-in-Charge of the Division Hospital at Stevenson, Alabama, (January 1, 1864), and his appointment as Surgeon-in-Charge of the Corps Hospital of the 20th Corps (January 10, 1865);

Other papers include Hutchinson's diploma from Columbia College (1866) and two certificates of merit for services during the Civil War (1872).

CROSS REFERENCES

| Subject | Date | Description of relevant documents |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Alabama--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Hospitals. | Jan.--April, 1864 | 11 letters describing conditions at the hospital, care of the sick, personnel, visits of U.S. Army general. |
| Antietam, Battle of, Md., 1862. | Sept. 1862 | 2 letters describing battle and duties during battle |
| Atlanta Campaign, 1864. | May--Nov., 1864 | 19 letters written during the campaign and from Atlanta. 20 th Army Corps, 2 nd division, Brig. Gen. John W. Geary. |
| Bragg, Braxton, 1817-1876. | Nov. 1863 | 6 letters re: Chattanooga Campaign |
| Chancellorsville, Battle of, Chancellorsville, Va., 1863. | May 1863 | 4 letters describing his duties during, and as a prisoner treating the wounded |
| Chattanooga, Battle of, Chattanooga, Tenn., 1863. | Oct.--Nov., 1863 | 6 letters re, mentioning Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge |
| Fort Ellsworth (Va.) | July 1861 | Mention of Marshall House, Colonel E. Elmer Ellsworth and Fort Ellsworth |
| Fort McQuade (Va.) | Aug. 1861 | 7 letters from, regarding military life in camp, strong fortification, poor water supply |
| Geary, John White, 1819-1873. | May--Nov., 1864 | 19 letters written by surgeon with, |
| Georgia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Civilian relief. | 1864 | Atlanta, September 1864 |
| Gettysburg, Battle of, Gettysburg, Pa., 1863. | June--July, 1863 | 6 letters describing march to and the battle of, duties, contact with Confederate soldiers |
| Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Assassination. | May 1865 | Letter, May 9, re march to Washington assassination of President Lincoln |
| Medical colleges--New York (State)--New York. | Oct. 1865 | 6 letters chiefly concerning settlement of father's estate |
| Medical students--Maryland--Annapolis. | Sept. 1861-Sept. 1862 | 44 letters, description and location of buildings, living conditions, servant necessary, course of study, duties, number of patients |

Hutchinson (Edwin and Family) Papers
1861-1872

Mss. 751
LSU Libraries, Special Collections

| Subject | Date | Description of relevant documents |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| North Carolina--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives. | April 1865 | 2 letters, letter of April 27, tells of news of Lee's surrender |
| Prices--United States. | 1864 | Complaint by US Army surgeon, January 7 |
| Savannah (Ga.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865. | Dec. 1864-- March 1865 | 7 letters describing Sherman's march to the sea and conditions in Savannah |
| Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891. | Sept. 1864 | Letter, September 10, re. Sherman's order to evacuate the city, Letter, September 29, re. |
| Sherman's March to the Sea. | Dec. 1864-- March 1865 | 7 letters describing Sherman's march to the sea and conditions in Savannah |
| Tennessee--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives. | Oct. 1863 | Description of trip from Virginia to, 2 letters |
| United States. Army. Maryland Infantry Regiment, 3rd (1861-1865) | 1864 | Letter, January 17, describing personnel of |
| United States. Army. Maryland Infantry Regiment, 3rd (1861-1865)--Surgeons. | Oct. 1862 -- May 1862 | 36 letters |
| United States. Army. Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, 33rd (1862-1865)--Bands. | Oct. 1864 | Concert by 33 rd Massachusetts Volunteers at Atlanta, Georgia, October 10 |
| United States. Army. New York Infantry Regiment, 137th (1862-1865) | 1864 | |
| United States. Army. New York Infantry Regiment, 137th (1862-1865)--Surgeons. | Oct. 1863 | 2 letters describing trip of surgeon in US Army |
| United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Medical care. | 1861-1865 | Treatment of Federal and Confederate soldiers and civilians |
| United States--History--Civil | 1862-1863 | Letters of US Army surgeon to members of his family |

Hutchinson (Edwin and Family) Papers
1861-1872

Mss. 751
LSU Libraries, Special Collections

| Subject | Date | Description of relevant documents |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| War, 1861-1865--Public opinion. | | complaining about lack of support from civilians to Civil War cause. |
| Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Civilian relief. | 1862-1863 | Virginia, October 1862 – May 1863 |
| Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives. | Oct. 1862 – May 1862 | 36 letters |
| Washington (D.C.)--Description and travel. | July 20, 1861 | Some description of the city and camp at, |

CONTAINER LIST

| <u>Stack</u> | | | |
|-----------------|------------|------------------|---|
| <u>Location</u> | <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder(s)</u> | <u>Contents (with dates)</u> |
| U:159 | 1a-1b | 1-7 | Series I, Correspondence, 1861-1865 Series II, Military Papers, 1861-1865 |
| OS:H | -- | 1 | Diploma from Columbia College (1866), Two awards of merit for services during the Civil War (1872) |
| Mss.MF:H | -- | -- | 2 reels - 1861-1865 |