

SHERWOOD (EMILY D. AND FAMILY) PAPERS

Mss. 2566

Inventory

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

Reformatted 2003
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CONTENTS OF INVENTORY

SUMMARY	3
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE	4
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE	4
INDEX TERMS.....	5
CONTAINER LIST	6

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SUMMARY

Size.	0.3 linear ft.
Geographic locations.	Ritchfield, Illinois; Corinth, Mississippi; Memphis, Tennessee; Georgia
Inclusive dates.	1853-1865, undated
Bulk dates.	1862-1864
Language.	English
Summary.	Correspondence among Sherwood family members, including brothers Frederick and Charles, cousin Thad, and their mother in Ritchfield, Illinois. The Civil War letters comment on activities, health, and camp life of the Illinois 50th Regiment; battles at Fort Donelson, Tennessee; Corinth, Mississippi; and Atlanta; relations with contrabands and attitudes toward African Americans and Confederate women.
Restrictions on access.	No restrictions on access.
Related collections.	None.
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials in this collection has expired, and they are therefore in the public domain.
Citation.	Emily D. Sherwood and Family Papers, Mss. 2566, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack locations.	S:121

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Emily D. (née Jones) Sherwood's family owned a farm in Quincy, Illinois. She was married to Charles M. Sherwood and the two had at least two sons, Frederick (1837-1921) and Charles. The brothers served in the Illinois 50th Regiment during the Civil War and fought in battles throughout the South.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The earliest letters in the collection concern personal and family matters (1853-1856), while Civil War letters comment on activities, health, and camp life of the Illinois 50th Regiment. Of note are letters between Fred Sherwood and his mother, which provide news from Camp Corinth, Mississippi, complain about the army's handling of the war, discuss damage to Illinois farms by secessionists ("secesh"), and thoughts on freeing slaves (1862). Letters from Harriet to Fred describe the plight of African Americans in Chicago and Cairo (1862), and letters from Emily express her concern for her sons (1863). Other correspondence relates to the presence and behavior of African Americans in Union military camps; Union attitudes toward the Confiscation Act and the possible colonization of freedmen; prejudice towards African Americans in the North; and punishment given to African American cooks convicted of stealing Union army food (August 12, 25, November 13, 1862, December 1863).

Letters from Frederick and his cousin Thaddeus to their respective mothers describe their arrival in Rome, Georgia, and the garrison of the city, mention the improving health of Charles, and the fact that mail will be more difficult to send as there is a greater chance of interception by Confederate forces (1864). Other letters among various members of the Sherwood and Willcox families describe family news, particularly the death of Harriet Willcox's grandfather and the marriage of Josephine Downes (Emily's cousin), and discuss matters related to the war, including Emily's hopes to see her sons return alive (January-April 1863). A number of letters are written between Emily and Frederick, including one recounting a dream Emily had about her son's capture and death, while Frederick relates news from camp and the front, expresses concern over his mother's circumstances, and informs her of sermons and songs he has sent with his letters (August-December 1864). Other letters from Frederick to Emily describe Savannah, remark on Thaddeus' promotion, joke about marriage, and inform her of his imminent discharge (1865).

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found throughout the entire collection.

Farmers--Illinois.

Freedmen--United States.

Illinois--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Sherwood family.

Sherwood, Charles.

Sherwood, Emily D.

Sherwood, Frederick.

United States. Army. Illinois Infantry Regiment, 50th (1861-1865)

United States. Army--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
S:121	1	1-6	Papers, 1853-1865, undated