



BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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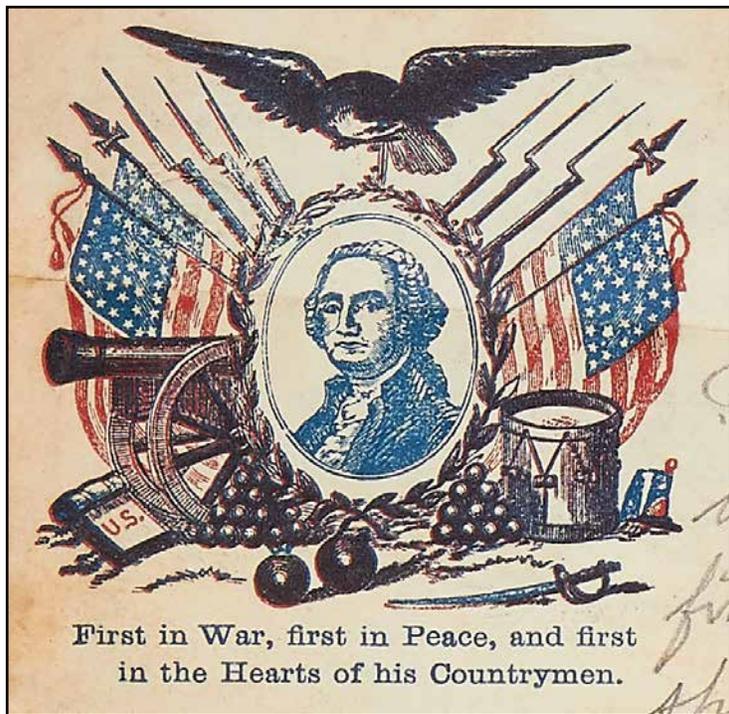
Private Edward Duffy

[Archive]: New Jersey Civil War Letters

New Jersey: 1861

\$1500





An archive of seven letters, 4 with envelope. All items about very good with tears and folds from mailing.

A collection of 7 letters written by Private Edward Duffy and his family while he was serving under General Theodore Runyon in the New Jersey militia

during the Civil War. These letters are from his three month volunteer enlistment period in 1861 and discuss the New Jersey encampment as well as moving to Washington D.C. to provide additional defenses for the city. In one letter he writes, "I had a spy arrested and had to take him to Washington to headquarters to get orders what to do with him and we had to take him to prison. The man that we arrested is postmaster of Camden and we heard that he was going to the South." He is most likely discussing Samuel Hanna who was the postmaster of Camden at the time. A reply from Duffy's brother discusses the spy situation and reads, "they care nothing for our country – they would sell it but we will not judge of this matter – it will all come out in trial and then they will learn to behave themselves." The letter also discusses the poverty of soldiers, "I am sorry you are so bad off for paper, tobacco and money, it appears to be a general complaint among soldier men and between you and me money is very scarce with most of folks...Cheer up though, do not despond, I will see what can be done for you."

Once at camp he writes about the daily routine and the lack of resources saying, "the rifles I told you about we have not got yet and there is no chance of getting them I think although the Colonel says we will get them." He continues saying that with the rifle shortage men are given muskets for the time being. Duffy also writes about the work of setting up camp and daily tasks the soldier's face, "the men was a working as hard as we near all the time for they was a pitching tents on the new camp ground. The tents is all pitch and now we are a working at a battery a digging and throwing dirt for three hours every day with diving and turning out every time that a gun is fired." This unit, as well as similar militias, were some the first soldiers enlisted in the Civil War. Following his three months with this outfit, Duffy reenlisted with the 7th New Jersey.

A modest but interesting archive of letters detailing an early unit in the Civil War. [BTC#423533]

Copy right.



The Union and the Constitution.

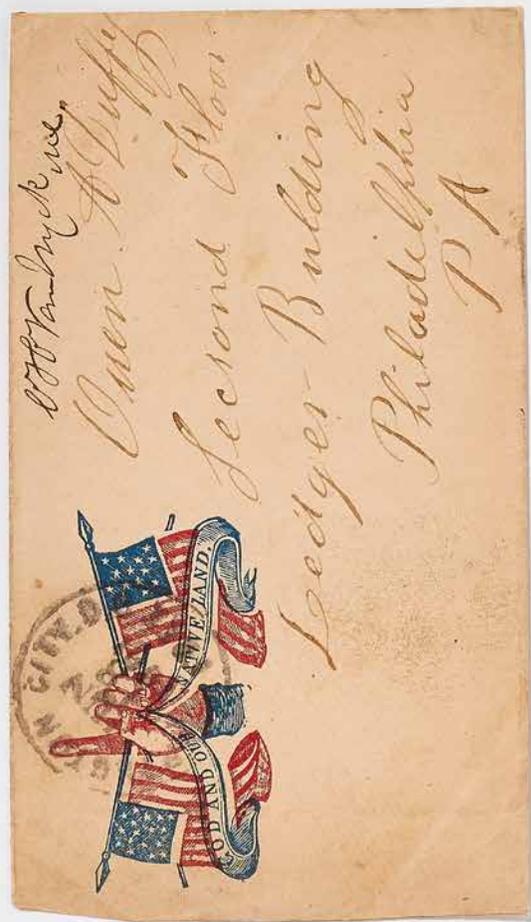
Philadelphia, May 25th, 1861.

My Dear Brother - I received yours of the 21st, and was glad to hear from you. Such fellows as those you tell me you had arrested, whether knaves or fools, should be well looked after - I'm afraid there are a great many of them - they care nothing for our country - they would sell it - but we will not judge of this matter - it will all come out on trial, and then they will learn how to behave themselves. I will send your letter to sister Mary, perhaps to-morrow, and then you will hear from her next week. I took your last to Kate's and let her read it, as I did the one before it, and she said she would write to Mary. I didn't know that a sister was entitled to draw on the relief fund, but I suppose you would not give her the privilege without it was so.

Washington May 29th

My Dear Brother I recd your papers of last
and this week and miss very that I told you not to
write till you heard from me for we are not more than
one mile from the long bridge that crosses the potomac
river at Washington and all better that is adjacent to
the ^{regiment} will come to it so you can write to me as
often as you can and the oftener the better
we left the camp on the other side of the river on Friday
morning at two o'clock and got here at daylight and
then we went to work to build cedar huts to sleep in
on Saturday morning four of us was detailed to guard the
wagons that was to fetch our tents and other things from
the other camp and we never sleep any till Monday
morning at three o'clock and then we made that we would
not go after another load till we got some sleep the other
men was a working as hard as we was all the time for
they was a pitching tents on the new ^{camp} ground the tents is all
pitch and now we are a working at a battery a digging
and throwing dirt for three hours every day with
drilling and turning out every time that a gun is fired
we have got about four or five houses rest out of
twenty four but we would not say anything if we
got a plenty to eat but we dont see a piece
in the ledgers that said that we had cleared
our quarter master out but that are so but
we would do it if we could for he is a damn

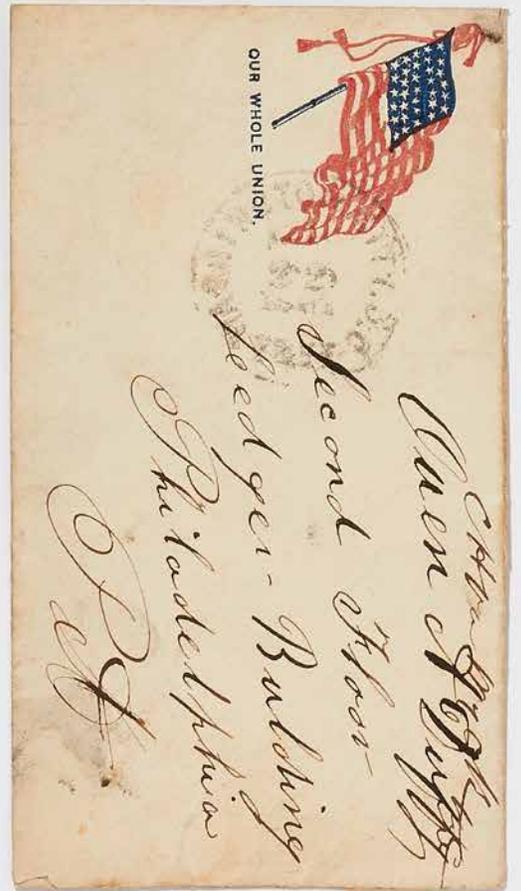
Camp P Trenton June 7th
My Dear Brother i write to let
you now that i am well and that
i recievd your papers that you sent
me if you had looked at that
paper that you sent me you
woud of seen the sickness of
the man that me and Smith
had arrested and in a nother
page you will see an account of
it they is nothing to write a
bout but wat you hear in the
papers except the rumess in
the camp about wat we ar going
to do but we doant leave any
thing of them for we hear twenty
of them in a day we ar still a
working at the trenses and
we expect to finish them in two
or three week's if we ar cep at
them but we doant knowether
we will be or not for some says
that we ar to be in Trenton



11
Mays

Camp Washington

Dear Brother i write to
let you now that i am
well at present and was
glad to hear that you
were all well at home
in my last i told you
that we were a going to
encamp and since then
we are got fairly settled in
camp as i have got nothing
to write about i will give
you account of it so far on
Saturday we started for camp
which was about two miles
from the city and we got
there about 11 o'clock
and then we had to get
our rations and get our
breakfast which we got a
bout two o'clock and



Second Floor of a Barn June 17th

My Dear Brother i write to let you now that
i recerd your letters of the 12th and 14th and also
several papers but wad i woud of write before but i
was not well for two or three days and i int
will now i dont know wat is the matter with me
i think it is a hevy cold but the ~~Doc~~ Doctors
doant give you any thing but a doas of salts no
matter wat is the matter with you and if that
doant soote you you can go to the hospital
and stay there till you ar well for they doant
want any sick people in camp and if you go
there you run a chand of getting something worse
than you got so you had better stay where you
ar if you can i am not in the camp now for they
ar about forty of us about two miles from our
camp on the road leading to Alexander A
and we doant let any body pass on that
road without a pass from Head quarters
we have to walk to the camp if we want
oney thing to eat i have not been to the camp
for two days but i mane to stan my guard
wich is about fore hours a day and some days
oney two the other two men from our
compny fetches wat i eat to me wich is not
much for i cant eat but i hope in my
next that i am well i wrote a letter to
Sister Mary and another to Kate
on last Sunday a week and i have not

Camp May 21th

Dear Brother I received
yours of the 18th and was
glad to hear that you
was all well when I
received your letter I had
a spy arrested and had
to take him to Washing-
ton to head quarters and
to get ~~him arrested~~
orders not to do with
him and we had to
take him to prison
The man that we arres-
ted is post master
of Camden and we had
heard that he was going
to the south he was
found in the camp
and he could not tell

very much
Queen of Duffy

Second Floor Ledger

Building Philadelphia

PA



First in War, first in Peace, and first in the Hearts of his Countrymen.

Washington July 22/61

Dear sister I write these lines hoping they will find you in good health and spirits I received your letter

the 10th and was very glad to hear from you Edward was to see me 2 days ago he looks very well we are expecting money very soon they say congress has got a bill up to raise our salary 4 1/2 wont that be fine I tell you it will we have some very hard times of late the boys like it very well it saves us many a hard drill they are sending a grate many home now discharged unfit for duty the doc says they are glad to get of I think they say they are recruited in Philadelphia for to fill up tell me in your next no more at present. Yours truly J. S.

Quinn & Guffy
Second Floor
Ledger Building
Philadelphia
Chas McKee



"DEATH TO TRAITORS."