Lilley, David N.

David N. Lilley letters
1861-1864

Abstract: Letters from Delaware resident David N. Lilley to his sister Annie, written during his period of service in the Union Army during the Civil War.
**Descriptive Summary**

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Identification:</strong></th>
<th>MSS 219</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Creator:</strong></td>
<td>Lilley, David N.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title:</strong></td>
<td>David N. Lilley letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inclusive Dates:</strong></td>
<td>1861-1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extent:</strong></td>
<td>.3 linear ft. (38 items)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Language:</strong></td>
<td>Materials entirely in English.</td>
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**Administrative Information**

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<th><strong>Citation:</strong></th>
<th>MSS 219, David Lilley letters, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.</th>
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<td><strong>Shelving Summary:</strong></td>
<td>Box 1: Shelved in SPEC MSS manuscript boxes (1 inch)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong></td>
<td>Special Collections, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: <a href="http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/">http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/</a></td>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong></td>
<td>Gift of Mr. Thomas Lilley, April 1969.</td>
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<td><strong>Materials Available in Alternative Format:</strong></td>
<td>Access to digitized versions of the David Lilley Letters is available at the University of Delaware Institutional Repository. Transcriptions of the letters were produced by the staff of the University of Delaware Library Center for Digital Collections.</td>
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<td><strong>Access Restrictions:</strong></td>
<td>The collection is open for research.</td>
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Biographical Note

David N. Lilley (1842-1887), a Newark, Delaware, resident for most of his life, served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Lilley was born in 1842 in Cecil County, Maryland. He was one of twelve children in a family that moved near Newark, Delaware, when he was quite young. Lilley attended school in Newark briefly but gave up his studies in order to help support the rest of the family. Initially, he worked for his father as a well digger and quarry man; later he was employed at the Dean Woolen Mills.

In 1861, at the age of 19, Lilley enlisted in the Union Army, joining Company "C," 2nd Regiment, Delaware Volunteers. After training, he was assigned to the Blue and Elk Rangers, a local unit that was involved in many significant military engagements in both Maryland and Virginia. Lilley's letters to his older sister Annie Lilley, recount these wartime experiences. After being discharged in 1864, David Lilley returned to Newark where his mother, sister Annie, and other members of his immediate family still lived.

On February 15, 1887, David Lilley was the victim of a railroad accident which later required that his foot be surgically amputated. He died on February 24, 1887, from the resulting complications of lockjaw and blood poisoning.

Sources:


"David Lilley Funeral," Every Evening Wilmington, Delaware, February 25, 1887.

"Lilley's Funeral To Morrow," The Morning News Wilmington, Delaware, February 26, 1887.


Additional information in the biographical note is derived from material in the collection.
Scope and Content Note

This collection of Civil War letters consists of thirty-seven letters written between 1861 and 1864 by David N. Lilley to his older sister, Annie Lilley, who lived in Newark, Delaware.

In these letters David Lilley frequently asks Annie to relay information to other family members, especially his brother Alfred Lilley. There is one additional letter, dated May 11, 1863, written to Lilley's mother. The letters originated from places such as Camp Brandywine, Camp Andrews in Baltimore, and Falmouth, Virginia, chronicling Lilley's experiences during the Civil War. Lilley recounted anecdotes and social events from the camps where he was stationed, described military battles (including Fair Oaks and Chancellorsville), and related the harsh conditions that soldiers endured. He also discussed the relationship between "rebel" and Union soldiers and, in the letter written to his mother, recalled a visit from Abraham Lincoln.

Lilley's letters document the soldier's state of mind: Lilley was alternately content and optimistic or depressed and uncertain of his continued survival. Because of variations in handwriting, grammar, and style, it appears that Lilley may have had other soldiers write a few of the letters on his behalf. A number of the letters are also written on patriotic stationery.
Selected Search Terms

**Personal Names**

Lilley, David N.--Correspondence.

Lilley, Annie--Correspondence.

**Corporate Names**

United States. Army. Delaware Infantry Regiment, 2nd (1861-1864)

**Topical Terms**

Chancellorsville, Battle of, Va., 1863.

Fair Oaks, Battle of, Va., 1862.

Soldiers--Correspondence.

**Geographic Names**

Delaware--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Sources.

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

Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Sources.

**Form/Genre Terms**

Letters (correspondence)

**Occupation**

Soldiers.

**Personal Contributors**

Lilley, Annie, correspondent.

**Related Materials in This Repository**

MSS 218 Edward A. Fulton collection

MSS 295 Thomas M. Reynolds letters to Louisa J. Seward
Arrangement

The letters are arranged in chronological order.
Detailed Description of the Collection

Letter to Annie Lilley, 1861 July 11 [Box 1 F1]

2 pp.
Autograph letter signed. From Camp Brandywine near Wilmington, Delaware. Includes a brief note to Alfred Lilley.

PDF

Letter to Annie Lilley, 1861 July 20 [Box 1 F1]

1 p.
Autograph letter signed. From Camp Brandywine near Wilmington, Delaware.

PDF

Letter to Annie Lilley, 1861 August 8 [Box 1 F1]

1 p.
Autograph letter signed. From Camp Brandywine near Wilmington, Delaware.

PDF

Letter to Annie Lilley, 1861 August 13 [Box 1 F1]

4 pp.
Autograph letter signed. From Camp Brandywine near Wilmington, Delaware.

PDF

Letter to Annie Lilley, 1861 October 11 [Box 1 F1]

3 pp.
Autograph letter signed.

PDF

Letter to Annie Lilley, 1862 January 17 [Box 1 F2]

4 pp.
Autograph letter signed. From Winter Quarters at Camp Wilkes, Accomac County, Virginia.

PDF

Letter to Annie Lilley, 1862 March 30 [Box 1 F2]

4 pp.
Autograph letter signed. From Camp Andrews, Baltimore, Maryland.

Letter to Annie Lilley, 1862 April 6 [Box 1 F2]
2 pp.

Autograph letter signed. From Camp Andrews, Baltimore, Maryland.

Letter to Annie Lilley, 1862 May 3 [Box 1 F2]
2 pp.

Autograph letter signed.

Letter to Annie Lilley, 1862 May 31 [Box 1 F3]
1 p.


Letter to Annie Lilley, 1862 June 26 [Box 1 F3]
3 pp.


Letter to Annie Lilley, 1862 July 6 [Box 1 F3]
3 pp.

Autograph letter signed. From a battlefield near the James River in Virginia.

Letter to Annie Lilley, 1862 July 24 [Box 1 F3]
3 pp.

Autograph letter signed. From Harrisons Landing on the James River in Virginia.

Letter to Annie Lilley, 1862 July 25 [Box 1 F4]
3 pp.

PDF
Letter to Annie Lilley, 1862 July 27 [Box 1 F4]
1 p.
Autograph letter signed. From Harrisons Landing on the James River in Virginia.

PDF
Letter to Annie Lilley, 1862 October 5 [Box 1 F4]
3 pp.
Autograph letter signed. From Harpers Ferry.

PDF
Letter to Annie Lilley, 1862 November 28 [Box 1 F4]
3 pp.
Autograph letter signed. From Falmouth, Virginia.

PDF
Letter to Annie Lilley, 1863 January 4 [Box 1 F5]
1 p.
Autograph letter signed. From a camp near Brandy Station, Virginia.

PDF
Letter to Annie Lilley, 1863 February 27 [Box 1 F5]
2 pp.
Autograph letter signed. From Falmouth, Virginia.

PDF
Letter to Annie Lilley, 1863 April [Box 1 F5]
3 pp.
Autograph letter signed. From Falmouth, Virginia.
Letter to Annie Lilley, 1863 April 11 [Box 1 F5]

2 pp.

Autograph letter signed. From Falmouth, Virginia.

PDF

Letter to Annie Lilley, 1863 April 24 [Box 1 F6]

2 pp.

Autograph letter signed. From a camp near Falmouth, Virginia. Written by the hand of Corporal Rennard Allison.

PDF

Letter to Annie Lilley, 1863 April 27 [Box 1 F6]

2 pp.

Autograph letter signed. From a camp near Falmouth, Virginia.

PDF

Letter to mother of David N. Lilley, 1863 May 11 [Box 1 F6]

4 pp.

Autograph letter signed. From a camp near Falmouth, Virginia. Mentions a visit from President Abraham Lincoln. Includes a recounting of Lilley's experiences during the battle of Chancellorsville.

PDF

Letter to Annie Lilley, 1863 May 22 [Box 1 F6]

4 pp.

Autograph letter signed. From a camp near Falmouth, Virginia.

PDF

Letter to Annie Lilley, 1863 August 9 [Box 1 F7]

2 pp.

Autograph letter signed. From a camp near Morrisville, Virginia.

PDF

Letter to Annie Lilley, 1863 August 18 [Box 1 F7]

2 pp.

Autograph letter signed. From a camp near Morrisville, Virginia.
Letter to Annie Lilley, 1863 August 28 [Box 1 F7]

3 pp.

Autograph letter signed. From a camp near Morrisville, Virginia.

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Letter to Annie Lilley, 1863 September 23 [Box 1 F7]

3 pp.

Autograph letter signed. From the Second Regiment Delaware Volunteers Headquarters camp near Rappidan Station, Virginia.

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Letter to Annie Lilley, 1863 September 28 [Box 1 F8]

4 pp.

Autograph letter signed. From the Second Regiment Delaware Volunteers Headquarters camp near Rappidan Station, Virginia. Includes "a bit of our dear old flag" that David Lilley enclosed along with the letter.

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Letter to Annie Lilley, 1863 November 18 [Box 1 F8]

2 pp.

Autograph letter signed. From a camp south of the Rappahannock River.

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Letter to Annie Lilley, 1863 December 21 [Box 1 F8]

2 pp.

Autograph letter signed. From a camp near Brandy Station, Virginia. Letter written in a different hand.

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Letter to Annie Lilley, 1864 April 28 [Box 1 F8]

2 pp.

Autograph letter signed. From a camp near Brandy Station, Virginia.

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Letter to Annie Lilley, 1864 June 22 [Box 1 F8]
1 p.
Autograph letter signed. From a camp near City Point, Virginia.

PDF

Letter to Annie Lilley, undated [Box 1 F9]

1 p.
Autograph letter signed. From Camp Brandywine near Wilmington, Delaware.

PDF

Letter to Annie Lilley, undated [Box 1 F9]

3 pp.
Autograph letter signed. From a camp near Easton, Maryland.

PDF

Letter to Annie Lilley, undated [Box 1 F9]

1 p.
Autograph letter signed. From Camp Andrews, Baltimore, Maryland.

PDF

Letter to Annie Lilley, undated [Box 1 F9]

4 pp.
Autograph letter signed. From Harrisons Landing on the James River in Virginia.