

CARLOS BRAINERD CIVIL WAR LETTERS

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library – The Folklife Center
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creator:** Carlos M. Brainerd (1838 – 1926)
- Title:** Carlos M. Brainerd Civil War Letters
- Dates:** 1862 - 1864
- Abstract:** Thirty-one letters written by Carlos M. Brainerd, a member of the 118th NY Regiment during the Civil War, to his fiancée Frances (Frank) Seeley in Queensbury, Warren County, NY.
- Quantity:** 1 folder
- Identification:** Archives & Manuscripts: Personal and Family Collections

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Carlos M. Brainerd was born 13 January 1838 in Leyden, Lewis County, NY, a son of Asher Brainerd and Clarissa Palmer. In 1850 Carlos, aged 11, was living with his older, married sister Eunice Brainerd Miller in Queensbury, Warren, NY. His parents and brother Anson were still in Leyden. In 1855 he is still there in a household which now includes Eunice and John's baby, Emmy, and Robert Graham, Irish-born boarder, who is a blacksmith. Robert and his wife Hellen are mentioned in the letters. Eunice also figures in the letters as the beloved sister who filled the role of mother to Carlos (although apparently his mother lived until 1879).

Carlos enlisted in Company A, New York 118th Infantry Regiment on 06 Aug 1862. He was promoted to full corporal, and was captured at Fair Oaks, VA. He was paroled and he mustered out on 13 Jun 1865 at Annapolis, MD. The letters cover dates between August 1862 and December 1864.

In 1865, at the time of the census, he was home in Queensbury, living with Eunice and John Miller, whose daughter Emmy has died, sometime before April of 1864. Shortly after that Carlos moved to Wisconsin, where he married Frances Seeley, the recipient of his letters, on 12 October 1865, in Black Creek, Outagamie County. Carlos was a farmer on all his census listings in Wisconsin except 1905 when he listed as a landlord.

Carlos and Frances (Frank) had three children born between 1866 and 1868. In 1889 Frank died, and two years later Carlos married her sister, Cynthia. Cynthia died sometime between 1908 and 1912, when Carlos married Ella J. Root. There are no known children from the last two marriages.

Carlos M. Brainerd died 7 May 1926 in Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

There are thirty one letters, starting with one from Plattsburg, NY, where Carlos M. Brainerd mustered into the 118th New York State Volunteer Infantry (“The Adirondack Regiment”) to serve for three years. They follow his travels to Washington D.C. and thenceforth to various camps and fortresses in Northern Virginia. The last letter is in another hand and addressed to his “Dear Sister” [Eunice] from Salisbury Prison in 1864 instructing her on how to send mail to him: “Direct to me, Prisoner of War, Salisbury Prison, N.C. 3rd Squadron 10th Division.

INDEX TERMS

Topics: Civil War

Places:/Important People: see index appended

Form/Genre: Letters

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Carlos M. Brainerd Civil War Letters
The Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library
Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: The Folklife Center was given photocopies of the letters by a patron who acquired the copies from the Wisconsin Historical Society because her great-grandfather (Adophus Guyette) was in the 118th and in the same Confederate prison as Brainerd was.

The originals remain at the Wisconsin Historical Society [Wisconsin Historical Society Archives #141798]. Folklife Center volunteer Jane Arnold transcribed the letters in 2014. A copy of the transcription has been cataloged and shelved, and a copy sent to the Wisconsin Historical Society. [June 2016].

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Wolfe Burke, June 2016

The following index is keyed to the transcription of the letters:

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White House [plantation in Virginia]	15	23
Yorktown, VA	14,15,17	22,23,26

See also:

A.W. Holden Civil War Letters; Folklife Center, Archives 22nd NY
 Cunningham, John L. Three Years with the Adirondack Regiment: 118th New York Volunteers Infantry. For Private Circulation, 1920 Holden 973.781 Cun
The Civil War Letters of Albert E. Higley, compiled by Joan F. Aldous, 1986. Holden 973.74 Hig 22nd NY
 Heidorf, Christian J. Shoulder Arms!: Letters and Recollections of the 22nd New York Volunteers... Glens Falls, NY: Chapman Historical Museum, 1998. Holden 973.7 Hei