

CRYDENWISE, HENRY M.
Henry M. Crydenwise letters, 1861-1866

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Crydenwise, Henry M.
Title: Henry M. Crydenwise letters, 1861-1866
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 52
Extent: .25 linear ft. (1 box)
Abstract: Papers of Union soldier Henry M. Crydenwise, who served in Company A of the 90th New York Infantry Regiment and later as Captain of Company A of the 1st Regiment Corp D'Afrique which became Company A of the 73rd New York Infantry Regiment.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source

Unknown.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Henry M. Crydenwise letters, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by SS, June 20, 1972.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Henry M. Crydenwise, Union soldier, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Crydenwise, farmers, of Ostego County, New York. He enlisted in 90th New York Infantry Regiment, Company A, while still in school. He was stationed in Key West (Florida), with the rank of sergeant from December, 1861 until December 1862. Here he had little to do and became quite involved in the activities of the community, particularly the Methodist Church. In December of 1862, he was transferred to Beaufort (South Carolina) where the regiment participated in a few skirmishes before they went back to Key West in February, 1863. May of that year saw them transferred to Louisiana, where they participated in the siege of Port Hudson. In November of 1863, Henry was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant, then made Captain of Company A of the 1st Regiment Corp D'Afrique which later became Company A of the 73rd Infantry Regiment. They had guard duty at Port Hudson as well as forming a guard for shipping until March of 1865. They took part in the Red River Campaign after which Henry was detached from his company to serve as head of the Freedman's Bureau in Demopolis, Alabama. He was mustered out of the Army in January of 1866. He then went to work as an overseer on a plantation near Vicksburg, Mississippi. Crydenwise was married to Sarah on February 25, 1865, just before the Red River Campaign.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of 165 letters, most of which were written by Hems Crydenwise to his family in Ostego County, New York. The letters give vivid descriptions of the areas in which he lived and also details of the engagements that he took part in, particularly around Port Hudson. He shows sympathy and feeling for the people of the South although he was an ardent abolitionist. About one-third of the letters were written from Key West, Florida, the remainder from Louisiana and Alabama. The Louisiana letters are very complete in describing the siege of Port Hudson and the duties and feelings involved in leading an African American company. Two letters were written by his wife Sarah during the time Henry was in the Alabama Freedman's Bureau. They show homesickness and unhappiness that does not appear in his letters of the same period. Also two letters were written by W.F. Roe, a friend of Henry's during the stay in Key West. All the letters are well written and particularly enlightening about the personal feelings of a soldier.

Arrangement Note

Materials arranged in chronological order.

Container List

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	1861
1	2	1862 January-April
1	3	1862 May-August
1	4	1862 September-December
1	5	1863 January-April
1	6	1863 May-August
1	7	1863 September-December
1	8	1864 January-April
1	9	1864 May-August
1	10	1864 September-December
1	11	1865 January-April
1	12	1865 May-August
1	13	1865 September – 1867 January
