

ELWOOD, JOHN W. (JOHN WILLIAMS), 1842-1933

John W. Elwood papers, 1851-1930

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Elwood, John W. (John Williams), 1842-1933
Title: John W. Elwood papers, 1851-1930
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 593
Extent: .75 linear feet (2 boxes) and 1 oversized papers box (OP)
Abstract: Papers of Union soldier John Williams Elwood of Washington County, Pennsylvania, who served in Company A, 22nd Regiment, Pennsylvania Cavalry (Ringgold Volunteer Cavalry).
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

Gift, 1981.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], John W. Elwood papers, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by DJC, 1981.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

John Williams Elwood (January 1, 1842-193[?]), a cabinet maker and a Civil War veteran, was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, the son of Robert M. and Elizabeth Elwood. Elwood served as a corporal in Company A, 22nd Regiment, Pennsylvania Cavalry (Ringgold Volunteer Cavalry) in the Union Army, but was promoted to Sergeant by the time he was discharged in 1865. After the war, he returned to Coal Center, Pennsylvania. There he married Jennie Cole, and remained in Washington County for the rest of his life. Elwood was active as a Civil War veteran and helped organize several Ringgold Cavalry reunions. He maintained a steady correspondence with other Ringgold Cavalry veterans, and published a history of the battalion (Elwood, John Williams. *Elwood's stories of the old Ringgold Cavalry, 1847-1865*; Coal Centre, Pennsylvania, 1914.)

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the papers of John Williams Elwood from 1851-1930. The papers include 54 letters (October 1, 1861-February 20, 1928), 52 pieces of military correspondence, 21 legal and financial papers, 83 copies of reminiscences used for Elwood's Ringgold Cavalry history, 7 photographs and miscellaneous items including Elwood family material, newspaper clippings, and information about Ringgold Cavalry reunions. The military correspondence, the reminiscences, and most of Elwood's personal correspondence deal with the Civil War activities of the Ringgold Cavalry (Pennsylvania Cavalry, 22nd Regiment), which was active in the Shenandoah Valley and Romney campaigns: in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia from 1862-1865.

Elwood's papers consist of 33 letters (October 2, 1879-February 20, 1928), largely written to and from Civil War veterans and their families. Many were recopied by Elwood for use in his Ringgold Cavalry history. Thirty pieces of military correspondence, ranging from orders to pension documents, are scattered throughout the collection. There are nine documents and letters (April 11, 1883-August 22, 1904) regarding a split in the Methodist Episcopal Church, Beallsville, Washington District, over the behavior of the pastor there. The papers indicate that there was dissatisfaction with the pastor for some time, but when he refused to take action against a member who had beaten his wife, Elwood and two other men demanded that the pastor be relieved of his post. As a result of the difference, Elwood's and two other families were expelled from church membership. Other documents in the collection are Elwood's enlistment and discharge papers from the Union Army, and correspondence with the Department of the Interior regarding the publication of the Ringgold Cavalry history. Much of it consists of copies of letters from other Ringgold Cavalry members reminiscing about their particular experiences during the war. Folder 1 includes an official list of the battles in which the Ringgold Cavalry fought; folder 4 contains a roster of the 18 members of the Ringgold Cavalry (as of June 29, 1861).

The collection also contains photocopies of letters written by Capt. James P. Hart ([?]-January 12, 1908) also of the Ringgold Cavalry that were lent to Elwood to assist in writing the Ringgold Cavalry history. These letters include personal correspondence to his father, brother Dave, and sister "Lib" during the Civil War. There is also military correspondence: orders and messages sent to Hart from other military personnel. There is an excellent discussion of a rift that occurred

between the cavalry men and their captain, John Keys, while Hart was still a lieutenant, as well as a description of tension that developed among the men when a few were suspected of being copperheads.

Arrangement Note

Arranged by record type.

Container List

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Correspondence: October 1, 1861-December 21, 1862
1	2	Correspondence: January 23, 1863-November 10, 1866
1	3	Correspondence: October 2, 1879-October 22, 1907
1	4	Correspondence: February 1906-February 20, 1928 and undated
1	5	Elwood family information
1	6	Photographs
1	7	Church-related information
1	8	Legal/financial papers
1	9	Legal/financial papers and official documents
OP1	1	Land warrant, February 5, 1961
OP1	2	Newspaper, 1931
1	10	Miscellaneous clippings
1	11	Miscellaneous

Ringgold Cavalry historical information

1	12	Ringgold Cavalry History: General Information
1	13	Ringgold Cavalry History: 1847
1	14	Ringgold Cavalry History: 1860
1	15	Ringgold Cavalry History: 1861
1	16	Ringgold Cavalry History: 1862
2	1	Ringgold Cavalry History: 1863
2	2	Ringgold Cavalry History: 1864
2	3	Ringgold Cavalry History: 1865
2	4	Ringgold Cavalry History: postwar
2	5	Ringgold Cavalry History: undated
2	6	Ringgold Cavalry reunion broadside
