

FISH, EDWIN R., 1835-1863.

Edwin R. Fish papers, 1862-1863

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Fish, Edwin R., 1835-1863.
Title: Edwin R. Fish papers, 1862-1863
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 418
Extent: 1 microfilm reel (MF)
Abstract: Microfilm copy of the papers of Union soldier, Edwin R. Fish of New York who served in the 3rd New York Light Artillery.
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

Loaned for microfilming, 1963.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Edwin R. Fish papers, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by MRD, October 1963.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Edwin R. Fish (March 4, 1835-November 3, 1863) was born in Courtland County, New York and died in Army Hospital, Hilton Head, Folly Island, South Carolina. He enlisted in August

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1862 and the next month joined the 3rd New York Light Artillery at Newbern, North Carolina. He was in the battle of Kinston, North Carolina, on December 14, 1862. He moved with his unit to St. Helena, South Carolina in February 1863. He was in several skirmishes in the Hilton Head-Port Royal area and on Morris Island, June-July, 1863. He became ill with fever and diarrhea in July and was finally sent to the hospital on Folly Island in late August, 1863, where he later died. He was married and had two children, Charles and Carrie.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of a microfilm copy of the papers of Edwin R. Fish including 61 letters (58 by Fish and 3 by comrades concerning his death), which cover the period from August 28, 1862-November 5, 1863; one diary, January 1-October 17, 1863; a copy of a funeral sermon preached by Reverend O. L. Torrey, published in the Courtland, *New York Gazette and Banner*, March 24, 1864; and a photograph of Fish.

Letters contain information on food (hardtack is called "hardees"), morale, discipline, morals, officers, and religion. Fish deplored the drinking and immorality of Union soldiers with Negro women who did laundry for, and sold pies to, the soldiers. He criticized the ineptness of General David Hunter, General Joseph Hooker, and other high officers, as well as the greed of officers and speculators. His motives for fighting in the war were based on pride, duty, and loyalty to family and country.

