

**Guide to the William R. Cheek Letter, 1862
Catalog Number MS293**

The Library at The Mariners' Museum

Contact Information:

The Library at The Mariners' Museum

100 Museum Drive

Newport News, VA 23606

Phone: (757) 591-7782

Fax: (757) 591-7310

Email: library@mariner.org

URL: www.mariner.org/library

Processed by: Lisa Wilson, 2006

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository: The Library at The Mariners' Museum

Title: William R. Cheek Letter, 1862

Catalog number: MS293

Accession numbers: CA118

Physical Characteristics: 1 letter

Language(s): English

Creator(s): William R. Cheek

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of one letter written by William R. Cheek to his aunt, Bettie. A private in the 12th Regiment of the North Carolina Infantry, Cheek writes a detailed account of the movements of the Confederate ironclad CSS *Virginia* in April 1862. He describes the *Virginia*. In the letter, Cheek also describes the health of the men of the unit and states that he expects to be discharged soon.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Accession number

CA 118

Accession dates

1995

Restrictions

Collection is open to all researchers.

Publication Rights

Copies of any materials may not be reproduced, published, or distributed, in any form without written permission from The Mariners' Museum.

Preferred Citation

William R. Cheek Letter, 1862: MS293

The Library at The Mariners' Museum, Newport News, Virginia

Note to Users

Due to the fragile and rare nature of the collection, researchers are requested to handle the materials with caution and in accordance with proscribed archival practices. When using these materials, please preserve the original order of the collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH

Little is known of William R. Cheek. According to his letter, he was a private in the 12th Regiment, North Carolina Infantry, Confederate States Army. The 12th Infantry Regiment, formerly the 2nd Volunteers, was organized near Garysburg, North Carolina, in May 1861 and the regiment served in General Garland's, Iverson's, and R.D. Johnston's Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia. In April 1862 Cheek's unit was stationed at Camp Arrington, Norfolk, Virginia. It is unknown if Cheek was a witness to the battle between the USS *Monitor* and *Virginia*, however, he witness actions of the *Virginia* in April 1862.

FOLDER LISTING

Folder 1 **Finding Aid**

Folder 2 **Correspondence, 1862**

April 12, 1862: Camp Arrington, Norfolk, VA

Three-page letter from William R. Cheek to his aunt, Bettie. Cheek writes a detailed account of the movements of the Confederate ironclad CSS *Virginia* in April 1862. He describes the *Virginia*. In the letter, Cheek also describes the health of the men of the unit and states that he expects to be discharged soon.

MATERIALS REMOVED

None

SOURCES CONSULTED

The Civil War in North Carolina, 12th Regiment North Carolina Infantry, Web page at <http://www.researchonline.net/nccw/unit75.htm>

National Park Service Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System, Web page at <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/soldiers.htm>

SUBJECTS

12th Regiment, North Carolina Infantry (CSA)

Cheek, William R.

CSS *Virginia* (Ironclad ; 1862)

USS *Monitor* (Ironclad ; 1862)

[United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives.](#)