

**Guide to the Augustus B. Sage Letter, 1862  
Catalog Number MS332**

**The Library at The Mariners' Museum**

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## DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

**Repository:** The Library at The Mariners' Museum

**Title:** The Augustus B. Sage Letter, 1862

**Catalog number:** MS332

**Accession number:** CA1

**Physical Characteristics:** Four-page letter handwritten in ink

**Language(s):** English

**Creator(s):** Augustus B. Sage

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of an eight-page letter from Augustus B. Sage, a captain in the New York 170<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, to his sister. Sage writes about his travels from the Washington Navy yard to the Regiment's encampment near Newport News on the steamer *Connecticut*. He describes a fight between several officers of the regiment and the captain of the *Connecticut* and recounts his actions in the event. He states that some of the officers were drunk on board the ship. The *Connecticut* arrived the next morning in Hampton Roads, and Sage lists many of the ships he sees. Sage recounts that he has seen the charred remains of the USS *Congress* and USS *Cumberland*.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Accession number**

CA1

**Accession date**

**Restrictions**

Collection is open to all researchers.

**Publication Rights**

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**Preferred Citation**

Augustus B. Sage Letter, 1862: MS332

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

**Note to Users**

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**

### **August B. Sage**

Augustus B. Sage was born in Connecticut in 1842. Little information exists of Sage's early life. In 1858, Sage and a small group of men formed an "Antiquarian Society" in New York City for the study of coins and medals. In time, this society would be renamed the American Numismatic Society. The first meeting of this new society took place on March 15, 1858 at Sage's home in New York City. Additional meetings were also conducted at Sage's home and he was elected Corresponding Secretary and Curator.

Sage joined enlisted as a Captain in the 170<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry Regiment (Volunteers) in August of 1862. The unit was sent to Washington, D.C. and then Newport News, Virginia (see below for a brief history of the unit). Sage's resigned his commission in December 1862 due to ill health. By July 1863, Sage had recovered and returned to his unit. He rose to the rank of Colonel before resigning in December 1863. Sage returned to New York City and became a lawyer. Sage died of pneumonia on February 19, 1874.

### **170<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry Regiment (Volunteer)**

On July 17, 1862, Colonel Peter McDermott received authority to recruit this regiment as the second of the Corcoran Legion or Brigade. It was organized at Staten Island, and mustered in the service of the United States for three years on October 7, 1862. Recruiting of companies occurred principally in New York City and Brooklyn. The regiment left New York on October 16, 1862. It served in Casey's Division in the defenses of Washington, from October 1862. The regiment next served in Corcoran's Brigade, Department of Virginia, at Newport News, Virginia, from November 19, 1862 and in the same brigade, Peck's Division, 7th Corps, at Suffolk, Virginia, from January 1863. From April 1863, the regiment served in Murphy's Brigade, Corcoran's Division, 7th Corps and from July 16, 1863 in Corcoran's Brigade, King's Division, 22nd Corps. The regiment served from January 1864 in 2nd Brigade, Tyler's Division, 22nd Corps and in 4th Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Corps, from May 17, 1864. For the rest of the war, the regiment served in the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Corps and was commanded by Colonel James P. McIvor. The regiment was honorably discharged and mustered out July 15, 1865, at Munson's Hill, Virginia.

The regiment saw service at: Newport News, Va.; Suffolk, Va.; Deserted House; Edenton Road; Providence Church Road, Nansemond River; Seaboard & Roanoke Railroad; Blackwater; Holland House; Carrsville; Dix's Peninsula Campaign; Washington, D.C.; Rapidan Campaign; Spottsylvania Court House; North Anna River; Pamunkey; Totopotomoy; Cold Harbor; Petersburg; Jerusalem Plank Road; Weldon Railroad; Strawberry Plains; Deep Bottom; Ream's Station; Boydton Plank Road; Hatcher's Run; Dabney's Mills; Watkins' House; Appomattox Campaign; Boydton and White Oak Roads; Crow's House; Fall of Petersburg; Sailor's Creek; High Bridge; Farmville; and Appomattox Court House. During its service the regiment had 7 officers and 62 enlisted men killed in action; 3 officers and 58 enlisted men died of wounds; 2 officers and 97 enlisted men of diseases and other causes.

## FOLDER LISTING

### Folder 1      Correspondence

**November 20, 1862:** Newport News, VA

Eight-page letter from Augustus B. Sage to his sister A. V. Sage. Sage writes about his travels from the Washington Navy yard to the Regiment's encampment near Newport News on the steamer *Connecticut*. He describes a fight between several officers of the regiment and the captain of the *Connecticut* and recounts his actions in the event. He states that some of the officers were drunk on board the ship. The *Connecticut* arrived the next morning in Hampton Roads, and Sage lists many of the ships he sees. Sage recounts that he has seen the charred remains of the USS *Congress* and USS *Cumberland*. He states that he also got a view of the USS *Monitor* and USS *Galena*.

### MATERIALS REMOVED

None

### SOURCES CONSULTED

Phisterer, Frederick. *New York in the War of the Rebellion*, 3rd ed. Albany: J. B. Lyon Company, 1912.

### SUBJECTS

USS *Congress* (Frigate ; 1842)

USS *Cumberland* (Frigate ; 1842)

United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Battle of Hampton Roads.

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