

**Guide to the Thomas F. Burpee Papers, 1863  
MS0075**

**The Mariners' Museum Library  
at  
Christopher Newport University**

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Processed by Lisa Wilson, 2005

## **DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY**

**Repository:** The Mariners' Museum Library

**Title:** Thomas Burpee Papers, 1863

**Catalog number:** MS0075

**Physical Characteristics:** 4 items

**Language(s):** English

**Creator(s):** Thomas Burpee

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection consists of letters relating to the military service of Lt. Col. Thomas F. Burpee, 21<sup>st</sup> Connecticut Infantry. Two of the letters in the collection were written by Col. Burpee from Newport News, Virginia. The third letter, to Col. Burpee from J. Hamilton Lee, was also written in Newport News. The letters describe camp life and personal concerns during the Peninsula Campaign, and include a mentions of the USS *Monitor*, USS *Congress*, USS *Cumberland* and CSS *Virginia*.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### **Accession number**

CA104

### **Accession date**

1994

### **Restrictions**

Open to all researchers.

### **Publication Rights**

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### **Preferred Citation**

Thomas Burpee Papers, 1863, MS0075, The Mariners' Museum Library

### **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 prescribed archival practices. When using these materials, please preserve the original order of the collection.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH**

Lt. Col. Thomas F. Burpee commanded 21st Connecticut Infantry during the Civil War. The Twenty-First was organized in August, 1862, recruited from Hartford, New London,

and Windham counties, and was assigned to the Army of the Potomac. They engaged in battles at Fredericksburg, VA, December 13, 1862, Suffolk, Va., April and May, 1863, Drury's Bluff, VA, May 16, 1864 and Cold Harbor, VA, June 3, 1864. On the 9th of June 1864, Burpee was mortally wounded at Washington, NC.

### **SERIES DESCRIPTION**

The Thomas Burpee Papers are in a single series. The material is arranged in ascending chronological order.

**Series I: Correspondence.** Comprised of one letter to and two letters from Lt. Col. Thomas F. Burpee, and one envelope. This is series housed in 3 folder files arranged chronologically.

### **FILE GUIDE**

#### **BOX 1**

**Folder 1** Finding Aid

**Folder 2** Envelope. Unaddressed envelope, stationary from the Headquarters Right Grand Division, Army of the Potomac, Official Business. In pencil written Health, Leave of Absence, Watt's guardian.

**Folder 3** March 7, 1863. 2-page letter addressed to Thomas F. Burpee from J. Hamilton Lee.

**Folder 4** December 16, 1863. 4-page letter addressed to Brother and Sister from Brother and Sister T. F. Burpee and A. (Adeline) M. Burpee. Thomas writes from camp at Newport News where he can see the river, five infantry regiments, two batteries and one cavalry. He writes about the weather, his tent, and his big appetite.

December 31, 1863. 4-page letter addressed to Brother and Sister from Thomas F. Burpee. Describes Newport News and says "We are directly opposite of and in plain view of the scene of the "World famed" fight between the Rebel *Merrimack* and the Frigate *Congress* and *Cumberland* and the *Monitor*. The hulk of the *Congress* is plainly visible still at low water but the *Cumberland* went down near the opposite shore in deeper water." Mentions Brig General Hickman and speaks highly of the Army administration.

### **MATERIALS REMOVED**

No materials were removed from this collection

### **SOURCES CONSULTED**

#### **SUBJECTS**

Burpee, Thomas F.

Congress (Frigate : 1841)

Cumberland (Frigate : 1842)

Monitor (Ironclad : 1862)

United States-History-Civil War, 1861-1865-Personal narratives

United States. Army. Connecticut Infantry Regiment. 21<sup>st</sup> (1862-1865)  
Virginia (Ironclad : 1862)