

**Guide to the Austin Thompson Papers, 1863
MS0076**

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

Contact Information:

The Mariners' Museum Library
100 Museum Drive
Newport News, VA 23606
Phone: (757) 591-7782
Fax: (757) 591-7310

Email: Library@MarinersMuseum.org

URL: www.MarinersMuseum.org/library

Processed by Lisa Wilson, 2005

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository: The Mariners' Museum Library

Title: Austin Thompson Papers, 1863

Catalog number: MS0076

Physical Characteristics: 2 letters

Language(s): English

Creator(s): Austin Thompson

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection consists of two letters written by Austin David Thompson, 16th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, to his fiancée, Electa Churchill, in the spring of 1863. Both letters were written while Thompson's regiment was in Newport News, Virginia. The later one has an illustration of the "Encampment of U.St. Troops at Newport News, VA" as the letterhead.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Accession number

100

Accession date

1994

Restrictions

Collection is open to all researchers.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Austin Thompson Papers, 1863, MS0076, 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

Austin David Thompson, (b.1841), served with Company K 16th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. Residence, Bristol, Connecticut. Enlisted August 11, 1862; mustered as private

August 24, 1862. Promoted to Corporal 1863 and to Sergeant in 1864. Captured at Plymouth, NC, April 20, 1864; Parole date not known; Discharged June 8, 1865.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

The Austin Thompson Papers are in a single series. The material is arranged in ascending chronological order.

Series I: Correspondence. Comprised of two letters from Austin Thompson to Electa his. This is series housed in 2 folder files arranged chronologically.

FILE GUIDE

BOX 1

Folder 1 Finding Aid

Folder 2 Correspondence, February 1863

February 2, 1863. 3-page letter to Electa Churchill (his future wife). Expresses his longing to be with her and briefly describes campground as “the most pleasant place that we have ever been in since I enlisted.” Writes that Oysters cost 25 cents a quart.

Folder 3 Correspondence, March 1863

March 4, 1863. 3-page letter to Electa. Letterhead has large engraving entitled *Encampment of U.S.T. Troops At Newport News, VA*. Extra small print below pictures states *Entered according to an Act of Congress in the year 1861 by C. Bohn, in the Clerk's Office of the D.C. and Publ. by C. Bohn, Washington D.C.* Thompson details the duties of an orderly and his plans to visit Fort Monroe. Describes punishments occurring in camp.

MATERIALS REMOVED

No materials were removed from the collection

SOURCES CONSULTED

K. Nolin, Civil War Manuscripts Project, The Connecticut Historical Society.

SUBJECTS

Thompson, Austin David, b. 1841

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