

**Guide to the John Cary Letter, 1862  
MS0334**

**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:** John Cary Letter, 1862

**Catalog number:** MS0334

**Physical Characteristics:** One item

**Language(s):** English

**Creator(s):** John Cary

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

John Cary gave his sister an eyewitness account of the Battle of Hampton Roads on March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 1862, writing just two days after the ironclads *Virginia* and *Monitor* fought. He did not try to duplicate the details of the battle as given by the newspapers but offered instead what he saw and experienced and his opinions.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Accession number**

CA23

**Accession date**

unknown

**Restrictions**

Open to all researchers.

**Publication Rights**

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**Preferred Citation**

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**Note to Users**

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**

With just one letter from John Cary, there is too little information to identify him with accuracy. The Battle of Hampton Roads is well-documented.

## **FILE GUIDE**

### **BOX 1**

#### **Folder 1**

March 12, 1862: Norfolk

John Cary to his sister Eliza Cary in Richmond. Handwritten copy, 2-pages. Writes about the Battle of Hampton Roads which he witnessed from about 200 yards above the Sewells Point battery at the water's edge. He was one amongst "the thousands of troops that lined the shore," and whose "excitement when the *Cumberland* went down can better be imagined than described. Everyone yelled at the top their voices, some jumped, some threw their hats in the air, and one old fellow rolled over and over in the sand." He wrote "I saw [the *Virginia*] fire her first shot and then saw her pour broadside after broadside in the U.S. vessels and the land battery..." "I saw the *Cumberland* fall on her side then sink. I saw the *Congress* burning by moon light." He offers a brief description of the *Monitor*, referring to it as the Ericsson: "The Ericsson is small, carries only two guns, she stood up to the *Virginia* manfully and I don't think was hurt." He believed, however, that the *Virginia* was damaged more than the papers admitted.

### **MATERIALS REMOVED**

No materials were removed from this collection

### **SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **SUBJECTS**

Hampton Roads, Battle of, Va., 1862

Virginia (Ironclad : 1862)

Monitor (Ironclad : 1862)

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