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005-02-01
Edwin W. Arnold Correspondence
1862-1894

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Number: 005-02-01

Title: Edwin W. Arnold Correspondence

Creator: Arnold, Edwin Whipple, 1844-1904

Dates: 1862-1894

Quantity: 1 box (total .4 linear feet)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition: Unknown.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Unknown.

Processed by: The collection was processed by Tom Frawley in 2009; additions were made by Janaya Kizzie in 2011; finding aid revised by Kate Wells in 2018.

Conservation: Not applicable.

Language: Materials are in English.

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INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Separated material	None.
Published descriptions	Not applicable.
Location of originals	Not applicable.
Location of copies	Not applicable.
Publication note	Not applicable.
Subject headings	Arnold, Edwin Whipple, 1844-1904 United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives United States. Army. Rhode Island Infantry Regiment, 2nd (1861-1865) United States. Army. Veterans Reserve Corp. New Hampshire --History--Civil War, 1861-1865-- Sources Rhode Island-- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Sources Soldiers - Rhode Island - Correspondence. Washington, DC --History--Civil War, 1861-1865-- Sources Personal correspondence. lcgft

SEE ALSO

007-02-01, C. Fiske Harris Collection on Civil War & Slavery, Manuscripts
017-02, Arnold Family Papers
022-02, Rhode Island Soldiers & Sailors Society records

HISTORICAL NOTE

Edwin Whipple Arnold (1844-1904) was born in Rhode Island on June 28, 1844 to his parents Russell G. Arnold and Sarah Phillips Arnold (maiden name Whipple). He had two older brothers, Frederick and Henry, and one younger brother George. The family resided at 113 Friendship Street in Providence, RI.

During the Civil War, Arnold joined the 2nd Rhode Island Regiment of the Union Army on October 1, 1861. He served as a Private in Company D of that regiment until September 1862, when he took ill at U.S. General Hospital. He spent time recovering at a convalescent camp in Washington D.C. until July 1863. On July 16, 1863 he became a member of the Invalid Corps., or as it was later renamed, the Veteran Reserve Corps. He served as a Corporal in Company F of the 13th Regiment of the Veteran Reserve Corps. in West Lebanon and Concord, New Hampshire until November 1865. On November 13, 1865, he was mustered out of the Union Army.

In August of 1865, while serving his time in New Hampshire, Arnold met and married Louisa Armand, a French-Canadian. There is no record of the couple having children. Arnold died in Providence, Rhode Island on September 22, 1904. He is buried with the rest of his family in Pocasset Cemetery in Cranston, RI.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

This collection consists of letters written by Edwin W. Arnold¹ to members of his family during the period of December 22, 1862 – November 1, 1865 during his service in the Union army. Arnold kept up regular correspondence with his family during this time often writing two or three letters a month. Most of the letters are written to Arnold's mother, several are addressed to his father, two to his younger brother George, and one to his cousin Mary Whipple. Each of the letters is signed "Boy Ned," which must have been Arnold's nickname within the family.

The early letters, from December 22, 1862 to July 15, 1863, are written from or near the convalescent camp in Washington D.C. where Arnold was recovering from an illness. The content of these letters is mainly about family affairs, doctor's visits and daily life in the camp. Two letters of note contain references to President Lincoln. The letters dating July 31, 1863 – November 1, 1865 were written while Arnold was stationed in New Hampshire as a member of the Veteran Reserve Corps. Again, most of these letters are about family affairs, requests for things from home and Arnold's daily life as a soldier. Arnold mentions standing guard, provost duty, and dress parade among his responsibilities but did not go into great detail describing any of these things. Arnold served at a camp in West Lebanon, New Hampshire from August 1863 until January 1864. Many of the letters from this time describe the hard life of establishing a camp there, including sleeping in tents during wintry weather before the barracks had been built.

In January 1864, Arnold was transferred to a camp in Concord, New Hampshire where he would serve the rest of his time in the military. The letter dated June 6, 1864 describes a notable incident involving "subs," or soldiers who were paid to serve as substitutes for conscripted soldiers. On this day, according to Arnold, 300 substitutes who were newly stationed at the camp violently attempted to escape. Arnold describes how the rest of the men had to capture and detain substitutes. Many of the letters of this period describe work which involved Arnold looking after conscripted and substitute soldiers. Another incidence of violence among Union soldiers is described in the letter dated August 1, 1864. In a letter dated October 13, 1865, Arnold describes to his father a controversial letter which the soldiers had presented to the commanding officers demanding to be discharged from service. The letter was met with disapproval by the commanding officers and the soldiers threatened to go over their heads and send it to Washington. Many of the letters toward the end of Arnold's time in Concord describe the frustration of having to remain in the army after the war's end and the anticipation of being mustered out.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

The correspondence is arranged chronologically. Three letters appear to have been dated incorrectly by Arnold stating the year to be 1863 instead of 1864. These letters are in the folders 1/24/1864, 2/12/1864, and 3/1/1864. One folder is labeled 8/?/1865 because Arnold did not record the exact date of the letter. The folder 1/24/1864 contains two letters marked with same date.

¹ One letter, dated October 9, 1865, was authored by Arnold's wife, Louisa.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Title	Date	Folder
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1862-12-22	1
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-01-16	2
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-01-25	3
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-02-04	4
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-02-14	5
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-02-16	6
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-02-22	7
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-03-04	8
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-04-03	9
Edwin. W. Arnold to Russell G. Arnold	1863-04-10	10
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-04-12	11
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-05-15	12
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-05-25	13
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-06-04	14
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-06-07	15
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-06-19	16
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-07-02	17
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-07-04	18
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-07-15	19
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-07-31	20
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-08-01	21
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-08-06	22

Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-08-13	23
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-08-20	24
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-08-22	25
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-08-25	26
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-09-02	27
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-09-15	28
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-09-21	29
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-10-01	30
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-10-11	31
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-10-12	32
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-10-25	33
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-11-01	34
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-11-13	35
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-11-21	36
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1863-12-07	37
Edwin. W. Arnold to Family	1863-12-25	38
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1864-01-04	39
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1864-01-10	40
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1864-01-24	41
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1864-02-12	42
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1864-03-01	43
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1864-03-10	44
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1864-03-21	45
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1864-03-31	46

Edwin. W. Arnold to Russell G. Arnold	1864-04-25	47
Edwin. W. Arnold to Russell G. Arnold	1864-06-05	48
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1864-06-07	49
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1864-06-12	50
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1864-06-20	51
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1864-07-02	52
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1864-07-25	53
Edwin. W. Arnold to Russell G. Arnold	1864-08-01	54
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1864-08-12	55
Edwin. W. Arnold to Russell G. Arnold	1864-09-15	56
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1864-10-02	57
Edwin. W. Arnold to George R. Arnold	1864-11-9	58
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1864-11-13	59
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1864-11-20	60
Edwin. W. Arnold to George R. Arnold	1864-12-12	61
Edwin. W. Arnold to Russell G. Arnold	1865-04-01	62
Edwin. W. Arnold to Russell G. Arnold	1865-05-25	63
Edwin. W. Arnold to Russell G. Arnold	1865-06-18	64
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1865-07-25	65
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1865-08	66
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1865-08-06	67
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1865-08-09	68
Edwin. W. Arnold to Russell G. Arnold	1865-08-10	69
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1865-08-15	70

Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1865-09-03	71
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1865-09-16	72
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1865-09-21	73
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1865-09-22	74
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	1865-09-23	75
Edwin. W. Arnold to Russell G. Arnold	1865-09-25	76
Edwin. W. Arnold to Russell G. Arnold	1865-10-02	77
Louisa Arnold to Russell G. Arnold	1865-10-02	missing
Edwin. W. Arnold to Russell G. Arnold	1865-10-09	79
Edwin. W. Arnold to Russell G. Arnold	1865-10-13	80
Edwin. W. Arnold to Russell G. Arnold	1865-10-16	81
Edwin. W. Arnold to Russell G. Arnold	1865-10-25	82
Edwin. W. Arnold to Mary Whipple	1865-11-01	83
Edwin. W. Arnold to 'brother"	1894-09-02	84
Edwin. W. Arnold to Sarah P. Arnold	18??-10-17	85