

Collection #
SC 3541

**THEODORE LONGWOOD
LETTERS, 1862–1863**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1862–1863

PROVENANCE: Brian and Maria Green, Kernersville, North Carolina, November 2018; January 2019

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

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ACCESSION NUMBER: 2018.0395; 2019.0018; 2019.0040; 2019.0180

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Theodore Longwood was born in Ohio County, Indiana, in 1843. In August 1862, he enlisted in Company C of the 7th Indiana Regiment. Longwood declined to re-enlist in the fall of 1863 and was transferred to Company C of the 20th Indiana.

In August 1864, he was listed as missing at the Battle of Weldon Railroad and was taken prisoner. Longwood was discharged in April 1865. After the war, he returned to Ohio County, where he married Mary L. Adkinson in September 1867. They soon moved Richland County, Illinois, where he died in 1877.

Sources:

Ancestry, Library Edition, accessed 28 November 2018

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is comprised of five letters written by Longwood to his parents and his brother from December 1862–October 1863.

Longwood writes to his parents from Camp Carrington, Indianapolis, in the letter dated 3 December 1862. Topics include the prospect of getting a leave for Christmas and inquiring if they had received his \$20 bounty from Rising Sun yet.

The letter dated 9 January 1863 is from the General Hospital near Alexandria, Virginia, to his parents. He says he is acting as a nurse in the hospital and isn't sure if he'll remain there or go back to his regiment. His duties are light and his health is good. He talks about receiving mail from his parents and his tardiness in not writing his friends at home.

In the letter of 7 February 1863, Longwood writes to his brother in Aurora, Indiana, from Army's General Hospital in Fairfax, Virginia. He reports that he is feeling better and is working as a nurse in the hospital until he is well enough to return to his unit. His letter of the 15th of that month, again, his brother, is somber in tone, missing family, and faith in God. He also reports he is the only nurse at the hospital with one patient so the work load was light.

On 11 February 1863, Longwood wrote to his parents in Aberdeen, Indiana, again from the Army's hospital. Both his health and the weather seem to be improving. He speculates on the length of the war and say that people in part of the country say the Hoosiers (Hussars) are the best fighters and the Union Army in the West is more successful than that in the East.

In his letter of 10 October 1863, Longwood writes to his parents from a camp near Raccoon Ford, Virginia. He explains that his and the regiment's three years of service agreement runs out soon. Those willing to sign on for another three years would get thirty days of furlough and a bonus of \$402.00 and would be called the Veteran's Corps. Theodore Longwood and his brother, Mort, both declined. He writes that he would rather get out sooner than receive the extras for agreeing to another three years. Those who declined would be transferred to another regiment for the remainder of their time in service. He states that he thinks about half of the regiment is going to re-up and remain with the 7th. Therefore, this letter explains the reason for Longwood's transfer to the 20th Indiana.

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