



Summer 2019

## MS – 213: Papers of Edmund F. Churchill

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## MS – 213: Papers of Edmund F. Churchill

### Description

This collection includes numerous letters, in a single box, in good condition written by Edmund Churchill to members of his family at home, chiefly his father and sister, Charlotte. There are fifty-two letters to Charlotte, twenty-one to his father, and four to his brother. There is one letter from Edmund's father, as well as two letters from his brother Theodore to their father. Also included are several pages of Churchill's "diary", which he entitled Memoranda, which cover major events on a monthly basis. Several pages of background are included, provided by the previous owner. The location given for each letter was derived from information provided on the envelopes.

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### Keywords

history, letters, family, diary

### Disciplines

Cultural History | History | United States History

**Guide to MS-213:  
Sergeant Edmund F. Churchill Letters**

Ed. F. Churchill.  
E 18<sup>th</sup> Mass Vets.  
P.S. Please send some stamps  
and about what else where is  
that photograph in military cap  
to please. Ed.

**MS – 213: Papers of Edmund F. Churchill**

(1 boxes, 0 cubic feet)

Location: Collections Room

Inclusive Dates: August 16, 1862 - July 13, 1864

Bulk Dates: January 3, 1863 - July 13, 1864

*Processed by: Chloe Parrella' 19, Brian C. Pohanka Summer Intern, August 2017*

**Provenance**

This collection was purchased in May of 2016 from the William Reese Company by Musselman Library Special Collections.

**Biographical Note**

Edmund Findlay Churchill was born in February 1842, the son of Isaiah and Polly Churchill, and was twenty years old when he enlisted as a private in Company E of the 18th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, along with his twin brother Isaiah. His younger brother Frederick also participated in the conflict, but Edmund was the only brother to survive. He was a farmer from Plympton, Massachusetts before he became a soldier. He enlisted on August 9, 1862 and his subsequent letters offer an in depth look at the battles the 18th Massachusetts partook in, such as Antietam, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg, as well as the day to day activities of the regiment, until his final letter dated July 13, 1864. Churchill was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on May 1, 1863, and is one of only a dozen men from his regiment that were cited for their bravery after the battle of Fredericksburg. It was after this battle that Churchill became the color bearer for his regiment after safely bringing the colors off the field while under heavy fire from the Confederates. He was mustered out on September 2, 1864 and passed away in 1921.

**Scope and Content Notes**

This collection includes numerous letters, in a single box, in good condition written by Edmund Churchill to members of his family at home, chiefly his father and sister, Charlotte. There are fifty-two letters to Charlotte, twenty-one to his father, and four to his brother. There is one letter from Edmund's father, as well as two letters from his brother Theodore to their father. Also included are several pages of Churchill's "diary", which he entitled *Memoranda*, which cover major events on a monthly basis. Several pages of background are included, provided by the previous owner. The location given for each letter was derived from information provided on the envelopes.

**Subjects**

United States History

United States History - Civil War, 1861-1865

United States History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Correspondence

United States. Army History  
United States. Army History - Civil War, 1861-1865  
United States. Army History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Correspondence  
Massachusetts - History - Civil War, 1861-1865  
Massachusetts - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Correspondence

### **Series Description**

This collection is divided into four Series. **Series 1:** Letters from Edmund to his sister Charlotte, **Series 2:** Letters from Edmund to his father, Isaiah, **Series 3:** Other letters between members of the Churchill family, **Series 4:** Diary Entries of Edmund Churchill.

### **Box List**

#### **Box 1**

1-0 Finding Aid and Biographical Information

#### **Series 1: Letters from Edmund to his sister, Charlotte**

1-1 Letters from 1862

- New York City, August 16, 1862
- Sharpsburg MD, October 16, 1862
- Falmouth VA, December 10, 1862
- Falmouth VA, December 28, 1862

1-2 Letters from January to May 1863

- Falmouth VA, January 3, 1863
- Falmouth VA, January 19, 1863
- Falmouth VA, January 27, 1863
- Falmouth VA, February 6, 1863
- Falmouth VA, February 11, 1863
- Falmouth VA, February 17, 1863
- Falmouth VA, February 29, 1863
- Falmouth VA, March 4, 1863
- Falmouth VA, March 7, 1863
- Potomac Creek Bridge VA, March 18, 1863
- Unknown location in Virginia, March 21, 1863
- Falmouth VA, March 27, 1863
- Falmouth VA, March 31, 1863
- Falmouth VA, April 4, 1863
- Falmouth VA, April 13, 1863
- Falmouth VA, April 14, 1863
- Falmouth VA, April 18, 1863
- Unspecified location, April 24, 1863
- Unspecified location, May 6, 1863

- Falmouth VA, May 15, 1863
- Falmouth VA, May 26, 1863

1-3 Letters from June - December 1863

- Morrisvill VA, June 1, 1863
- Aldie VA, June 25, 1863
- Hagerstown MD, July 14, 1863.
- Unknown location in Virginia, July 18, 1863
- Bealton VA, August 6, 1863
- Beverly Ford VA, August 16, 1863
- Beverly Ford VA, August 24, 1863
- Beverly Ford VA, September 8, 1863
- Beverly Ford VA, September 15, 1863
- New Baltimore VA, October 22, 1863
- Three Mile Station VA, November 1, 1863
- Beverly Ford VA, December 24, 1863
- Beverly Ford VA, December 28, 1863

1-4 Letters from Edmund Churchill to his sister, Charlotte

- Beverly Ford VA, January 4, 1864
- Camp Barnes VA, January 9, 1864
- Camp Barnes VA, January 24, 1864
- Beverly Ford VA, February 7, 1864
- Beverly Ford VA, February 10, 1864
- Camp Barnes VA, March 8, 1864
- Camp Barnes VA, March 20, 1864
- Beverly Ford VA, April 2, 1864
- Spottsylvania VA, May 13, 1864
- Jericho Ford VA, May 24, 1864
- Unspecified location, May 30, 1864
- Petersburg VA, June 26, 1864
- Petersburg VA, July 10th, 1864

**Series 2: Letters from Edmund to his father, Isaiah**

1-5 Letters from 1862

- Unspecified location, September 8, 1862
- Sharpsburg MD, October 29, 1862
- Falmouth VA, November 26, 1862
- Falmouth VA, December 10, 1862
- Falmouth VA, December 25, 1862
- Falmouth VA, December 27, 1862

1-6 Letters from 1863

- Falmouth VA, January 12th, 1863

- Falmouth VA, January 13th, 1863
- Falmouth VA, February 19th, 1863
- Falmouth VA, February 25th, 1863
- Falmouth VA, March 7th , 1863
- Falmouth VA, April 14th, 1863
- Falmouth VA, April 27th, 1863
- Falmouth VA, May 6th, 1863

1-7 Letters from 1864

- Camp Barnes VA, March 8th, 1864
- Beverly Ford VA, April 17th, 1864
- Spottsylvania VA, May 16th, 1864
- Seedy Grove VA, June 10th, 1864
- Petersburg VA, July 13th, 1864

**Series 3: Other letters between members of the Churchill family**

1-8 Letters from Edmund Churchill to his brother, David Churchill

- Beverly Ford VA, March 15th, 1864
- Camp Barnes VA, April 30th, 1864
- Charles City Court House VA, June 15th, 1864
- Petersburg VA, July 10th, 1864

1-9 Letter from Isaiah Churchill to his son Edmund Churchill

- Plympton MA, June 27th, 1864

1-10 Letters from Edmund's brother, Theodore, to their father

- Fort Warren, Boston Harbor, February 16, 1862
- Falmouth VA, December 5, 1862

**Series 4 Diary entries of Edmund Churchill**

1-11 Diaries from 1862

- September 4-30, 1862
- October 1-31, 1862
- November 1-30, 1862
- December 1-21, 1862
- December 22-31, 1862

1-12 Diaries from 1863

- January 1-20, 1863
- January 21-31, 1863
- February 1-28, 1863
- March 1-30, 1863
- April 1-30, 1863
- May 1-6, 1863

- May 7-31, 1863
- June 1-22, 1863 (Incorrectly wrote the date as June 22 twice)
- June 24-30, 1863
- July 1-12, 1863
- July 13-31, 1863
- August 1-21, 1863
- August 22-31, 1863
- September 1-30
- October 1-31, 1863
- November 1-30, 1863
- December 1-31, 1863

1-13 Diaries from 1864

- January 1-31, 1864
- February 1-29, 1864
- March 1-16, 1864
- March 17-31, 1864
- April 1-30, 1864
- May 1-9, 1864
- May 8-14, 1864
- May 15-28, 1864
- May 29-31, 1864