



Wichita State University Libraries
Special Collections and University Archives

Joseph Mason Papers

Collection Summary

Title:	Joseph Mason Papers
Call Number:	MS 87-03
Size:	0.25 linear feet
Acquisition:	Donated by Pat Seely for the great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren of Joseph H. Mason, January 8, 1986.
Processed By:	Unknown, 1987; Reprocessed by JEF, 12-17-1997; MN, 10-2008
Note:	None
Restrictions:	None

Literary Rights

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Restrictions

None

Content Note

Joseph Mason's papers contain the correspondence of a Confederate soldier with his wife and family during the U.S. Civil War. Dating from June to November 1862, some of the letters describe camp conditions and the difficulties that faced the men. Mason's death from pneumonia in December 1862 is documented in the collection. Letters and manuscripts written by other family members are also included.

Detailed Description: Series Listing

Series 1	Box 1 FF 1-10	Correspondence
Series 2	Box 1 FF 11	Book

Detailed Description: Box and Folder Listing

Series 1 – Correspondence

Box 1	FF 1	Contains four letters from Joseph H. Mason to his wife, Mary A. Mason, Kaufman, Texas, June 31 (sic) - August 14, 1862: (1) 6-31-1862 (sic), letting her know that he is well; (2) 7-16-1862, describing his activities at Camp Bass, Smith County, Texas; (3) 7-29-1862, letter to his mother explaining to her the plans for a march to Boston in Bowie County, Texas; (4) 8-14-1862, regarding camp life and the difficulty he is having securing a horse.
Box 1	FF 2	Contains six letters from Mason to his wife, September 2- 29, 1862: (1) 9-2-1862, letting her know he is well and about the death of James C. Peace; (2) 9-4-1862, Mason writes that his company will start for Fort Smith and he includes a list of items he will need; (3) 9-6-1862, Mason writes that he is doing well, and lists the items that he needs; (4) 9-18-1862, describes the conditions on the march, and the shortages of food; (5) 9-19-1862, Mason describes the conditions of the camp and march, mentions that he has hurt his leg (on reverse of September 18th letter); (6) 9-29-1862, his leg is better, but the camps in the region are very bad (near Ozark).
Box 1	FF 3	Contains three letters from Mason to his wife, October 6-November 13, 1862: (1) 10-6-1862, Mason describes their (the Confederate) fighting force as compared to the North's forces, he writes that the battle will begin soon; (2) 11-3-1862, Mason describes the condition of the surrounding countryside, and mentions that he has been in several small fights; (3) 11-13-1862, Mason writes that although the fight "has not come off yet," they are expecting it at anytime.
Box 1	FF 4	Contains two letters from Thomas Hardin, Lt. Camp E. Bass Regiment, Texas Volunteers, Fort Smith, Arkansas, 12- 21-1862 to Mr. R. W. Wilson, Kaufman, Texas and 4-24-1863 to Mrs. Mary Mason. Both letters are regarding Joseph Mason's death, 12-13-1862, from pneumonia, and what to do with his personal effects.
Box 1	FF 5	Contains two letters to Joseph Mason from members of his family, no dates: (1) Henry H. Mason to Uncle (Joseph Mason), urging him to come teach and not go to Texas; (2) Sarah A. E. Roberts, (sister) to Brother, informing him of the activities and health of various members of the family.
Box 1	FF 6	Contains three letters to Mary F. (Mason) Harris from various members of the family: (1) Annie Mason, Terrell Kaufman County, Texas to Mrs. Mary F. Harris (sister), 5-2-1878, mentions the treatment of "some negroes"; (2) J. M. Ballow, Terrell, Texas to Mrs. Mary F. Harris and Family, 3-10-1879, describes picking cotton and the price of various crops; (3) Lilly J. Harris, Rensselaer, Indiana to Reason and Mary F. (Mason) Harris, Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas, 11-27-1892.
Box 1	FF 7	Contains three manuscripts (not transcribed), no date: (1) A poem entitled "Good Bye" signed by Mary G. Mason, at home; (2) A poem entitled "The Blue Birds Temperance Song," unsigned, and the writing is very faint; (3) A poem entitled "On Being Asked for A Lock of My Hair," unsigned.

Box 1	FF 8	Contains a letter from G. H. Wilson, Monroe, Louisiana, to Friends, October 25, 1861, describing the conditions in camp.
Box 1	FF 9	Contains the transcription for letter #7 which is on the reverse of letter #6 in FF 1. J. W. Wilson to Mr. E. D. Fleetwood and Mrs. E. T. Gardner, 10-19-1862, describes conditions in the camp.
Box 1	FF 10	Contains envelopes.

Series 2 – Book

Box 1	FF 11	Contains a book, <i>Our Ancestral Letters: A Family's Correspondence 1840-1892</i> , compiled by Kristine R. and Janias A. Ash.
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For information, please contact us at:

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