

1861-1863, 1865

Physical Description: 30 letters.

Acquisition: Loaned by Mrs. Dan O. Patton, [REDACTED]  
Miami, Florida. Received October 23, 1970; accessioned, November 30, 1970.

Division of Archives and Manuscripts  
State Department of Archives and History  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Description: The Conrad letters were written by Lt. John Thomas Conrad to his wife Sallie at Panther Creek, Yadkin County, while he served with Company F, 28th Regiment, North Carolina Infantry (S.T.), from August 10, 1861, until April 27, 1863. He enlisted as a private at Camp Enon on August 10, 1861, and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant on September 5, 1861. He was elected 1st Lieutenant on April 12, 1862, and was dropped from the Muster Rolls on April 25, 1863, for remaining overtime on a furlough.

On October 26, 1864, at Camp Stokes in Mecklenburg County, J. T. Conrad reenlisted as a private. He was appointed 1st Sergeant on December 26, 1864, and was present when Lee surrendered in April, 1865. Eventually, Conrad was paroled at Salisbury.

There are 29 letters from the first enlistment dated from October 13, 1861, to January 1, 1863. Lt. Conrad wrote first from a camp in Wilmington (a "nasty place"), describing some aspects of the life there including costs of various items of food such as pork and sausage (15¢/lb. and 20¢/lb. respectively). By April, 1862, he was stationed in Kinston, and letters from this location include references to the Battle of Yorktown, a new draft law proposed by the Confederate Congress and his reaction to the law, and the bombardment of New Orleans.

On May 4, 1862, Conrad had reached Gordonsville, Virginia, and from then until August 13, 1862, he wrote about battles around Richmond, at Hanover Court House, on the Chickahominy River (at which Generals Jackson and Beauregard were both present), and at Culpeper. In addition, he mentioned rumors of possible foreign intervention into the war.

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On August 30, 1862, Conrad reported to his wife that he was in a private home in Lynchburg, Virginia, recuperating from intermittent fever. He gave news of a battle near Washington fought by General A. P. Hill's Division, of which he had been a member since July 11, 1862; and he also stated that Generals Jackson and Longstreet had moved into Maryland.

By November 2, 1862, Conrad had rejoined his regiment and was located near Berryville, Virginia. By December 4, 1862, he had marched with his regiment to a site near Fredericksburg, Virginia; and the last letter in this group (of a personal nature) was written January 1, 1863.

The last letter in the collection, dated January 20, 1865, was written near Belfield, Virginia, where the 1st Regiment, North Carolina Cavalry (9th Regiment N.C.S.T.) had established winter quarters. Conrad mentioned Sherman's march through Georgia and a rumor that Wilmington, North Carolina, had fallen.

**Finding Aids**

Main Entry Card

Subject Card

WAR--CIVIL--General, 1861-1863, 1865

Finding Aid prepared by Emily S. Jones, February 1, 1971.