

McLean County Museum of History

Almon Morrow Collection

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1852-1901
RESTRICTIONS:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	Gift of Vernon Thomas, 1986 Past Perfect # 2020.0003

Brief History and Scope

The collection consists mainly of correspondence from Almon Morrow, a private in the Union Army, to his wife, Ruth. Almon began his three year obligation to the army in August, 1862 and was a corporal in Company 'B' of the 94th Regiment of the Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Envelopes with legible postmarks indicate Ruth lived in Heyworth, McLean County, Illinois, until at least January, 1864. Legible postmarks dated from October, 1864 on, indicate Ruth was living in Clarksville, Clinton County, Ohio. The collection also includes certificates related to his military service, miscellaneous correspondence dated as early as 1852, genealogies, and a township tax receipt.

In general, Almon discusses the following: his physical and psychological condition; his "wardrobe"; his model behavior in camp; the quantity and quality of food available to the men; his advice to Ruth on domestic affairs; their daughter Mattie and acquaintances such as Thompson and Clark; money; the fact that the men get little news; mail service; the soldiers' everyday activities; their hardships and travels; speculation on the end of the war; the presidential election; rebel soldiers; and various battles and Confederate surrenders he is involved in.

Places described by Almon include various parts of Missouri; Van Buren, Arkansas:

Vicksburg, Mississippi; New Orleans; Brownsville, Texas; the Gulf of Mexico; Mexico; Fort Morgan, Spanish Fort and Mobile, Alabama; and Tuscaloosa, Mississippi.

Folder List

Folder 1: Correspondence: 1862

- 9-5-62 Letter to Ruth stating that he visited St. Louis, and explaining the men have plenty to eat.
- 9-8-62 Letter to Ruth stating he expects to remain true to her “instead of giving way to the many vies in camp”.
- 9-11-62 Letter to Ruth describing the “hard country” they’ve been through on their way to Southwestern Missouri.
- 9-16-62 Letter to Ruth discussing his company’s travels.
- 9-22-62 Letter to Ruth stating that some boys are having trouble “standing up to” their week-long march.
- 9-30-62 Letter to Ruth explaining he had had the “ague” every other day of late.
- 11-4-62 Letter to Ruth describing regulations and news in Springfield.
- 11-10-62 Letter to Ruth stating the men will march out of Springfield the next day.
- 11-11-62 Letter to Ruth stating they will be marching to Arkansas.
- 11-20-62 Letter to Ruth describing the marches they’ve been on recently and asking her why she has been worried that he will become a “reprobate” in the army.
- 12-24-62 Letter to Ruth stating that none of the traveling, fighting, rain, or sickness bother ham as much as being away from home. He thinks the length of the war hinges on the results of the battle at Richmond.
- 12-26-62 Letter to Ruth requesting her to send he own and Mattie’s “likenesses” which were taken in Bloomington.

Folder 2: Correspondence: 1863

- 1-4-63 Letter to Ruth describing their capture (without a fight) of Van Buren, Arkansas, in which they took 400-500 rebel prisoners.

- 2-24-63 Letter to Ruth suggesting who she might hire to work the farm and so forth.
- 3-5-63 Letter to Ruth giving her advice on hiring a worker (Thompson) and on planting.
- 3-29-63 Letter to Ruth in which he informs her they have marched a total of 600 miles
- 4-11-63 Letter to Ruth noting the possibility of coming home on furlow in four or five weeks, for 15 days.
- 4-19-63 Letter to Ruth discussing monetary matters.
- 6-29-63 Letter to Ruth explaining the men have to lay down in the dirt, “wallow around” in the rifle pits, and dig ditches as they are now near Vicksburg.
- 7-6-63 Letter to Ruth discussing the capture of Vicksburg and the conditions of the rebels
- 7-22-63 Letter to Ruth stating they’ve captured many rebels.
- 8-10-63 Letter to Ruth speculating on the end of the rebellion.
- 8-15-63 Letter to Ruth describing New Orleans and vicinity.
- 8-23-63 Letter to Ruth regarding a “grand review” and the possibility of going to Charleston or Mobile.
- 9-3-63 Letter to Ruth noting the possibility of going to Charleston or Mobile soon
- 10-8-63 Letter to Ruth informing her they may go back to Carlton, near New Orleans.
- 11-13-63 Letter to Ruth describing their trip over the Gulf and conditions in Brownsville, Texas and discussing domestic affairs.
- 12-5-63 Letter to Ruth describing life in Brownsville, Texas
- 12-13-63 Letter to Ruth discussing Texas, living a virtuous life and advising her on domestic matters.
- 12-21-63 Letter to Ruth thanking her for advice and assuring her he takes no part in the many vices around camp.

Folder 3: Correspondence: 1864

- 1-1-64 Letter to Ruth in which he notes the cold weather in Brownsville and his "trip" to Mexico one day.
- 2-2-64 Letter to Ruth noting 60 of their company captured 300 rebels in Texas are deserting.
- 2-12-64 Letter to Ruth discussing both the car, and friends at home.
- 2-19-64 Letter to Ruth giving her permission to sell Mike (horse) if need be.
- 3-31-64 Letter to Ruth discussing where she should live and contemplating the end of the war.
- 4-14-64 Letter to Ruth noting a trip he made across the Gulf with some rebel prisoners.
- 4-19-64 Letter to Ruth expressing the fact that he misses her a great deal.
- 5-21-64 Letter to Ruth praising her for the job she's done with their business since he left.
- 5-30-64 Letter to Ruth discussing the high price of vegetables in Texas.
- 6-5-64 Letter to Ruth discussing conditions in Brownsville.
- 6-17-64 Letter to Ruth discussing the soldiers' hardships and explaining his new skill as a silversmith.
- 7-11-64 Letter to Ruth complaining about mail service and expressing hope the war will end soon.
- 8-14-64 Letter to Ruth explaining that if they take the surrounded Fort Morgan, Mobile will probably be taken early.
- 8-18-64 Letter to Ruth stating they have Fort Morgan in Alabama surrounded and expect to take the fort.
- 9-2-64 Letter to Ruth discussing the company's movements and where he'll live upon returning home.
- 9-9-64 Letter to Ruth describing the lack of foods such as vegetables in the soldiers' diets.
- 10-11-64 Letter to Ruth discussing the amount of money he sends home to her.

- 10-25-64 Letter to Ruth explaining his depression when he gets no letters from her in the mail.
- 11-3-64 Letter to Ruth discussing present conditions at Fort Morgan, Alabama and the coming winter.
- 11-21-64 Letter to Ruth describing the extent of his wardrobe and discussing “copperhead soldiers” in Bloomington.
- 12-4-64 Letter to Ruth saying he now enjoys southern geography and climate but that the rebels themselves make him more patriotic all the time.
- 12-14-64 Letter to Ruth stating the men are under marching orders and may be going for an attack on Mobile.

Folder 4: Correspondence: 1865

- 1-1-65 Letter to Ruth describing conditions in southeast Mississippi, near the Gulf.
- 1-8-65 Letter to Ruth stating he’s in the best of health although provisions are low and his clothing is in bad shape.
- 1-17-65 Letter to Ruth describing the hardships of the previous four weeks and the fact that they may be left to hold the military post at Tuscaloosa, Mississippi.
- 1-22-65 Letter to Ruth discussing the climate in Tuscaloosa and the draft back home.
- 1-29-65 Letter to Ruth speaking about buying a farm when he returns.
- 3-7-65 Letter to Ruth mentioning Molly, Clark, James, Martin and Mattie.
- 3-10-65 Letter to Ruth describing the fighting at Spanish Fort, Alabama.
- 3-15-65 Letter to Ruth describing the difficult march to Mobile.
- 3-31-65 Letter to Ruth describing the heavy fighting at Mobile.
- 4-13-65 Letter to Ruth stating he is in the best of spirits due to the surrender of General Lee and the capture of Mobile. Also, of interest is the note that many Negro soldiers are now guarding their former masters who are prisoners.

- 4-29-65 Letter to Ruth discussing conditions at Spanish Fort, Alabama.
- 5-6-65 Letter to Ruth discussing the possibility of the war's end and the terrible conditions in the south (hunger, etc.)
- 5-13-65 Letter to Ruth describing Mobile and the various surrenderings of the rebels.
- 5-20-65 Letter to Ruth describing his feelings about and plans for returning home.
- 6-4-65 Letter to Ruth discussing when he would be "mustered out" of the Army.
- 6-10-65 Letter to Ruth stating he'd be "mustered out" soon and returning home.
- 6-19-65 Letter to Ruth stating they went to Galveston by boat, and he was extremely seasick.
- 6-23-65 Letter to Ruth informing her he wouldn't be home "this month" as she had hoped.
- No date Letter to Ruth noting he was in battles at Wilson's Creek and Pea ridge.

Folder 5: Military-Related Certificates

- 5-23-64 Certificate appointing Almon a corporal.
- 7-17-65 Certificate of discharge from service of the United States.
- 8-6-1901 Certificate from the Bureau of Pensions.

Folder 6: Correspondence – Miscellaneous

- 1-15-52 Letter from Almon to a neighbor offering to sell his 60 acres in Blackfoot County, Indiana, for \$400.
- 12-7-61 Letter to Almon from cousin J. B. Nickeylong (?) describing his condition in the army.
- 4-2-64 Letter from Aunt Mollie to Ruth discussing mutual acquaintances.
- 4-14-77 Letter to Mattie from her friend, Arma P. Knight, describing teaching at a new school.
- 6-19-80 Letter to Mattie Morrow from a former classmate informing her what she has been doing recently.

Folder 7: Genealogies

No date Genealogy of the Elijah Williams family, compiled by Mrs. Ira Tuggle.

No date Genealogy of Dr. Philetus Wakefield family by Mrs. Ira Tuggle.

No date List of birthdates, a marriage, and a death in the Jonathon Templin family.

Folder 8: Tax Receipt

1-11-68 Tax receipt for Almon from the Town of Randolph.

Folder 9: Postal Covers

Contains five postal covers that have illegible dates or that lack dates.