

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

**COLLECTION REGISTER**

Name: **Streams, James Alexander (c.1838/39-1920)** **MC 2004.3**

Material: Papers (1862-1908)

Volume: 0.1 linear feet (1 Document Box)

Donation: Gift of Mrs. J. Blair Streams, 1973

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

According to the Pennsylvania Civil War muster rolls, James Alexander Streams was born in 1838 or 1839. His father's name was Samuel Streams, and his mother's name is unknown. Streams also had several siblings, which, according to his correspondence, included Hannah Streams, Mary Adaline Streams, Sarah Streams, and Ellen Wynkoop.

Streams enrolled in the Sixty-First Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteers on August 21, 1861. He belonged to Company A, which recruited in Indiana County, Pennsylvania. Streams was then mustered in at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on August 22, 1861. When he joined the Union Army, Streams listed his occupation as "farmer." He was either mustered in as or later promoted to the rank of corporal. During his three-year military career, Streams was wounded at Spotsylvania and served as volunteer color guard.

Streams was discharged at the end of his term of service on September 7, 1864. He died in 1920 and is buried in the Washington Cemetery in Rayne Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION**

The James Alexander Streams collection is comprised mostly of letters received by Streams from family members, friends, and fellow Union soldiers. These materials are organized into two series: Correspondence and Miscellaneous. The collection was donated in 1973 by the daughter-in-law of Streams, Mrs. J. Blair Streams.

The Correspondence series includes 41 letters. The bulk of these letters were received by Streams between 1862 and 1864. Letters from family and friends in Indiana County, Pennsylvania contain details about life on the home front during the Civil War. They also

provide information about the marriages and deaths of relatives and neighbors. The letters from fellow soldiers include accounts of their battle experiences, as well as personal reflections and tales of the men's attempts to maintain social lives while at war. One correspondent, Watson Dilts, was captured during the Battle of Gettysburg and wrote a letter to Streams from Camp Parole in Annapolis, Maryland. Another letter, written in 1908, contains Robert A. Sayers's memories of the war almost half a century later. The Correspondence Series also contains four letters that are not addressed to Streams. Three of these letters were sent to Mrs. M. J. Streams and W. M. Streams, whose relationships to Streams are unknown. A fourth letter has no salutation. These letters contain information about the daily lives of the authors, including accounts of life in Kansas, the location from which correspondents M. J. Shields, Isabell Stewart, and J. M. Shields wrote. All of the letters are arranged alphabetically by recipient and then chronologically.

The Miscellaneous Series contains one drawing of a farm. The back of the drawing contains the signature of W. M. Streams, Georgeville, PA. The name Mildred is also written on the back along the margin. This document is undated.

## COLLECTION INVENTORY

### BOX 1 - MC 2004.3

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Streams, James Alexander

- Folder 01) Letter received from Mary A. Fleming – Feb. 6, 1862
- Folder 02) Letter received from Sarah Streams – Jan. 18, 1863
- Folder 03) Letter received from Thomas A. Lemmon – Aug. ?, 1863  
Letter received from Lemuel Brady – Aug. 2, 1863
- Folder 04) Letter received from Lemuel Brady – Sep. 28, 1863
- Folder 05) Letter received from Lemuel [Brady?] – Oct. 23, 1863  
Letter received from L. Brady – Oct. 24, 1863
- Folder 06) Letter received from Thomas A. Lemmon – Nov. 18, 1863  
Letter received from Jennie McElhoes – Nov. 29, 1863
- Folder 07) Letter received from Thomas A. Lemmon – Dec. 7, 1863  
Letter received from Lemuel Brady – Dec. 8, 1863  
Letter received from [Peter?] Watson Dilts – Dec. 15, 1863  
Letter received from Isaac V. Brady – Dec. 22, 1863
- Folder 08) Letter received from John R. Stump – Jan. 6, 1864  
Letter received from Samuel Streams & Mary Adaline Streams –  
Jan. 11, 1864  
Letter received from Isaac V. Brady – Jan. 12, 1864  
Letter received from J. T. Warden – Jan. 14, 1864  
Letter received from J. R. Stump – Jan. 18, 1864  
Letter received from Milton Streams – Jan. 31, 1864

**BOX 1 - MC 2004.3 (cont.)**

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Streams, James Alexander (cont.)

- Folder 09) Letter received from Lemuel Brady – Feb. 1, 1864  
Letter received from Watson Dilts – Feb. 7, 1864  
Letter received from Jane – Feb. 21, 1864  
Letter received from John R. Stump – Feb. 25, 1864
- Folder 10) Letter received from Jennie McElhoes – Mar. 20, 1864  
Letter received from Samuel Streams – Mar. 20, 1864  
Letter received from M. S. – Mar. 22, 1864
- Folder 11) Letter received from Lucy [illegible] & Mary Altman –  
Apr. 1, 1864
- Folder 12) Letter received from Samuel Streams – May 3, 1864  
Letter received from P. W. Dilts – May 4, 1864
- Folder 13) Letter received from Jennie McElhoes – July 3, 1864  
Letter received from Ellen Wynkoop – July 8, 1864
- Folder 14) Letter received from Samuel Streams & Mary A. Streams –  
Aug. 9[?], 1864  
Letter received from J. Milten [Milton?] Shields –  
Aug. 19, 1864[?]
- Folder 15) Letter received from Beckie Fulmer – Sep. 8, 1864
- Folder 16) Letter received from Sarah [Streams?] & Hannah Streams –  
Sep. 4, 1865
- Folder 17) Letter received from M. Shields – Jun. 11, 1871  
[Also includes note addressed to Mrs. M. J. Streams –  
[Shields?] from Milt]
- Folder 18) Letter received from Robert A. Sayers – Jan. 2, 1908

Streams, Mrs. M. J.

- Folder 19) Letter received from M. J. Shields – Nov. 22, 1871
- Folder 20) Letter received from J. M. Shields – Jun. 2, 1875[?]

Streams, W. M.

- Folder 21) Letter received from Millie Streams – Sep. 5, 1890

Unknown

- Folder 22) Letter received from Isabell Stewart – Jun. 6, 1872

MISCELLANEOUS

Streams, W. M.

- Folder 23) Drawing of a farm – undated