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A&R# 2691

Clark-Buchanan family. Letters, 1862-1864 and undated.

Accession 42855, Miscellaneous reel 5229. 1 reel. Microfilm.

Letters, 1862-1864 and undated, of the Clark and Buchanan families of Washington and Smyth Counties, Virginia, consisting of letters from James Clark (1830-1911), of Company F, 63rd Virginia Infantry, to his wife Martha Buchanan Clark (b. ca. 1835), discussing his disdain for one's lack of freedom while in the army; camp life, including meals, sleeping accommodations, and religious observances; witnessing the severe punishment of deserters; rumors of upcoming battles and nearby Union troop movements; problems with ragged clothing and lice; his impressions of Confederate Generals Joseph Johnston (1807-1891) and William Wing Loring (1818-1886); a 20 January 1863 engagement at Kelly's Store near Suffolk, Virginia; and the Battle of Kolb's Farm near Marietta, Georgia, 22 June 1864. Also includes letters from Samuel T. Buchanan (ca. 1836-1864), Company D, 48th Virginia Infantry, to family members describing camp life and living conditions; his participation in the Battle of Gettysburg; grueling marches; a revival meeting in camp; witnessing the execution of ten deserters from a North Carolina regiment in September 1863; and April 1864 rumors of Union General Ulysses S. Grant's approach and his intention to take Richmond that spring. Letter to Martha Buchanan Clark from brother Jim Buchanan (b. ca. 1842) tells of Samuel's 12 May 1864 capture at Spotsylvania Court House; letter, 29 August 1864, from family friend and 50th Virginia Infantry Regiment officer Clayton Hubble (d. 1864) informs father Wilson Buchanan of Samuel's death. Another letter, from Colonel Robert H. Dungan (1834-1903), also of the 48th Virginia, Company D, describes Samuel as a man of good nature and strong character.