Overview of the Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creator</th>
<th>Evans, Thomas L., -- Lt.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Thomas Evans Letters and Diary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>1862-1865 (inclusive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1862 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>.45 linear ft. (314 items)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collection Number</td>
<td>SPC 972-0007 (collection)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>Letters and diaries of Union soldier Thomas L. Evans from 1862 to 1865, covering the siege of Vicksburg, POW Camp Ford (Texas), and the final surrender of Mobile, Alabama.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repository</td>
<td>Eastern Washington University</td>
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<td>Archives and Special Collections</td>
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<td>320 Media Lane - 100 LIB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>99004</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>509-359-2475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:archives@ewu.edu">archives@ewu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access Restrictions</td>
<td>Collection is open to the public.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Languages</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided by the Pi Kappa Alpha Fund, in support of the Hidden Collections Digitization Project.</td>
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</table>

Biographical Note

These letters and diary were written during the Civil War by Thomas L. Evans to his family in Ohio. He joined the 96th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Co. K, in August 1862, and was elected 2nd Lt. A member of the Western Army, Evans participated in the siege of Vicksburg during the summer of 1863. The following April, 1864, Evans was captured by Confederate troops during a battle near Mansfield, La. and taken to a prisoner of war camp at Camp Ford near Tyler, Texas. He remained there until he was exchanged in October, 1864. After his release, Evans returned to military action and was eventually sent to Alabama where he participated in the siege of Mobile in April, 1865. The fall of Mobile brought an end to the fighting and Evans anticipated being sent to Texas until his enlistment ended in the summer of 1868.

Content Description

The collection includes Evan's letters to his parents, brother, and sisters between August, 1862, and June 17, 1865. Included in these are his descriptions of daily life in the Union Army, comments on the conditions in the South during the war, first hand accounts of major battles and descriptions of life as a prisoner of war. The diary contains most of the information about the POW camp since Evans
wrote few letters during this period. It also contains a list of supplies, etc., issued to his company. This personal narrative sheds light on the attitudes and conditions in the Union Army in addition to giving a first hand account of major battles.

Use of the Collection

Alternative Forms Available

The letters have been digitized and are available as part of the Thomas L. Evans Civil War Correspondence digital collection.

Also available on microfilm.

Restrictions on Use

Use of this collection is subject to the rules concerning access to archival and manuscript collections at Eastern Washington University. For more information, see: http://www.ewu.edu/Library/Services/Archives.xml

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Preferred Citation

Thomas Evans Letters and Diary; SPC 972-0007; box number; folder number; Archives & Special Collections, Eastern Washington University.

Administrative Information

Arrangement


The original letters are arranged chronologically. A xeroxed copy of the diary and the letters which had been compiled as a book are also arranged by date.

Note that there are parts of letters, without dates, which appear in the original but not in the copied form. These are arranged in a separate folder.

Acquisition Information

Mrs. F.M. Dickie; 1972.

Processing Note

Previous accession number: 72-6.
## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Original Letters

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<td>10-20-1862 to 12-7-1862</td>
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<td>12-9-1862 to 2-21-1863</td>
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<td>18 items</td>
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### Diary

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**Thomas Evans Letters and Diary, 1862-1865**

http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv23037

3
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**Book: Typed Copies of Letters**

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Names and Subjects

**Personal Names:**
Evans, Thomas L., -- Lt. -- Correspondence

**Geographical Names:**
Mobile (Ala.) -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Prisoners and prisons
Vicksburg (Miss.) -- History -- Siege, 1863

**Form or Genre Terms:**
Correspondence
Diaries
Letters (correspondence)

Finding aid prepared by Jay W. Rea
1972

Thomas Evans Letters and Diary, 1862-1865
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv23037