

GUIDE TO THE STOWELL FAMILY PAPERS

Scope and Content Note:

The majority of the Stowell family papers consist of 61 letters sent by Myron Eaton Stowell (1839-1864) to family members in South Deerfield, Mass., between Jan. 1862 and Nov. 1863 while in the Union Army. Myron was a faithful correspondent and wrote to his parents and sister, Jennie, with some frequency. Much of his correspondence concerns his health, religious matters, and his military duties. Of particular interest is his description of a hospital attendant's duties. In addition to his letters, two war-time diaries kept by Stowell, a few letters from his brothers, Charles and Cyrus, a brief diary kept by his sister, Jane Fidelia, while in Georgia, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous items are included. The Grand Army of the Republic Post in South Deerfield was named for Myron E. Stowell when it formed in 1872. Most of the collection was donated to the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association Library in 2004 by Lucille Temple; other items were purchased in 2004 at auction in Northfield, Mass.

Biographical Note:

Myron Eaton Stowell was born July 6, 1839, in Streetsboro, Ohio, the son of Cyrus A. and Julieatte Stowell. His parents had moved west from Peru, Mass., due to his father's poor health. Myron was the second of three brothers (Charles, Myron, and Cyrus Othneil); he also had two sisters (Julieatte and Jane Fidelia – called Jennie by her family). All three brothers enlisted in the army; Myron served in Company C, 21st Regiment, Mass. Volunteer Infantry. For at least part of his service, Stowell served as a hospital attendant. He was killed at the battle of Spottsylvania Court House, Virginia, on May 18, 1864 where he was a stretcher bearer. Cyrus O., who served in Company D, 52nd Regiment, Regiment Mass. Volunteer Infantry, was killed in action at Port Hudson, Louisiana, July 6, 1863.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box 1

Folder 1

Letters from Myron Stowell to family members in South Deerfield, Jan.-Dec., 1862
(16 items)

Jan. 21, Feb. 8, 1862 – aboard steamer *Northerner* off Roanoke, Island, N.C.
April 27, 30; June 3, 8, 1862 – Camp Andrew, Newbern, NC
July 3, 1862 – aboard the sloop *Restless*, Neuse River, NC
Aug. 4, 1862- aboard the steamer *Nantasket*, Potomac River
Aug. 6, 1862 – Camp Fredericksburg, Virginia
Dec. [1862] – near Falmouth, Virginia

Folder 2

Letters from Myron Stowell to family members in South Deerfield, Jan.-March, 1863
(17 items)

Jan. 21, 1863- near Falmouth, Virginia
Jan. 22, 25, 26, 27; Feb., 3, 6, 7, 1863 – opposite Fredericksburg, Virginia
Feb, 11, 13, 24, 25, 28; March 2, 3, 8, 9 – Newport News, Virginia

Folder 3

Letters from Myron Stowell to family members in South Deerfield, April 30-July 27, 1863
(18 items)
April 30; May 3, 4, 8, 13, 18, 29; June 1, 8, 15, 20, 21, 26; July 2 – Mount Sterling, Kentucky
July 9, 14, 27 – Camp Lexington, Kentucky

Folder 4

Letters from Myron Stowell to family members in South Deerfield, Aug. 21-Nov. 3, 1863
(12 items)
Aug. 21, 23, 28 – Camp Nelson, Kentucky
Sept. 5 – Lexington, Kentucky
Sept. 9 – Camp Nelson, Kentucky
Sept. 14 – near Crab Orchard, Kentucky
Sept. 18 – near London, Kentucky
Sept. 24 – on the banks of the Clinch River, Tennessee
Sept. 29 – Knoxville, Tennessee
Oct. 9 – Gustavus, Tennessee
Oct. 16 – Knoxville, Tennessee
Nov. 3 – Lenoir, Tennessee

Folder 5

Diary of Myron Stowel, March 26– April 1, 1863
Locations: Newport News, Virginia; Baltimore, Maryland; Columbus, Covington,
and Mount Sterling, Kentucky.

Diary of Myron Stowell, Jan. 1– May 17, 1864
Locations: Annapolis, Maryland; Albany, New York; Worcester, Mass.; South Deerfield;
Virginia

Folder 6

Letters from Charles Stowell to his family in South Deerfield, Aug. 23, 1862 – Jan. 27, 1863,
with photocopies (3 items)

August 23, 1862, Alexandria, Virginia; Nov. 2, 22, 1862; Jan. 27, 1863- Camp Lyon,
District of Columbia.

Letter from Conant Lyman to Cyrus A. Stowell in South Deerfield, Sept. 27, 1865 (1 item)

Handbill: *Student Song. Respectfully Dedicated to H. G. Eastman by his Students*, no date

Package notice for Deacon Stowell from Myron Stowell. Adams Express Co.

photocopy of *Map of the Seat of War in Virginia*, owned by Myron Stowell

Newspaper article from the *Cincinnati Commercial*

Letter from Samuel Lee to Cyrus A. Stowell, Jan. 7, 185

Newspaper clipping – December 2, 1867, [Greenfield] *Gazette & Courier*

photocopies of newspaper articles about various Stowell family members

copy print of a photograph of Myron E. Stowell as a young man

Rewards of Merit – Julieatte Stowell, no date (6 items)

Folder 7

Diary of Jane Fidelia Stowell, Oct.- Dec., 1868, Macon, Georgia (1 item)