

Smith and Wells Papers, 1856-1907
SCU.SCL.M.0006
Manuscripts Division, South Caroliniana Library
Finding aid prepared by Patricia Sasser

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

June 07, 2011

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Draft Edition

Manuscripts Division, South Caroliniana Library
Attn: Henry Fulmer
910 Sumter St.
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208, Midlands, 29208
(803) 777-5183
sclref@mailbox.sc.edu

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| <u>Summary Information</u> | 3 |
| <u>Administrative History</u> | 4 |
| <u>Scope and Contents of the Collection</u> | 4 |
| <u>Arrangement of the Collection</u> | 5 |
| <u>Administrative Information</u> | 6 |
| <u>Controlled Access Headings</u> | 6 |
| <u>Collection Inventory</u> | 8 |
| <u>1850s</u> | 8 |
| <u>1860s</u> | 8 |
| <u>1870s</u> | 25 |
| <u>1900s</u> | 26 |
| <u>Undated</u> | 26 |

Summary Information

| | |
|--|---|
| Repository | Manuscripts Division, South Caroliniana Library |
| Title | Smith and Wells Papers |
| Date [inclusive] | 1856-1907 |
| Extent | 5.0 Linear feet |
| General Physical Description note | 124 items and 5 volumes. |
| Location Note | Most materials are stored offsite; advanced notification is required. |
| Language | English |
| Abstract: | The Smith and Wells Papers, dated from March 1856 to October 1907. |

Administrative History

The calendar for this collection was completed in 1994 and encoded in 2010. Provenance information and other details can be found in the University South Caroliniana Program, 1985, pp.3-4.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

This collection of one hundred twenty-four letters and five volumes contains papers of the Smith family of Charleston, S.C., and the Wells family of New York and South Carolina. The collection consists primarily of Civil War correspondence of Edward Laight Wells (1839-1917), attorney and Confederate cavalryman, and of Eliza Carolina Middleton Huger Smith (1824-1919), wife of William Mason Smith.

Edward Laight Wells was the son of Thomas L. and Julia Wells of New York. The bulk of his letters are addressed to his parents at their farm in New Brunswick, N.J., and date from late 1863 to 1865. Wells was present in Charleston, S.C., during the secession crisis, by which time he already exhibited a strong and articulate advocacy of states rights. He characterized the mood in Charleston in a letter of 4 Dec. 1860 to his brother John— 'South Carolinians are returning from all parts of the Union, determined to stand or fall with their state. From what I hear secession seems inevitable, [and] a peaceful one almost impossible. The air smells strongly of gun-powder.' Late in 1863, facing conscription into the Union army, Wells abandoned his nascent New York law practice and in November ran the blockade, steaming from Nassau to Wilmington, N.C., and then traveling to Columbia, S.C. On the advice of Wade Hampton and others, Wells joined a volunteer cavalry company, ensuring that he would be among gentlemen of his own class and station in life and avoiding the tedious picket duty faced by regular cavalry during the winter. Wells joined the prestigious Charleston Light Dragoons, which would become Co. K, 4th South Carolina Cavalry, in which he served to the end of the war, participating in numerous battles and engagements and earning the praise of Wade Hampton. Later in life, Wells would write a short history of the Charleston Light Dragoons and a history of Hampton's cavalry during 1864.

The correspondence of Eliza Smith is mainly with her children: William Mason Smith (1843-1864), Robert Tilghman Smith (1845-1923), Daniel Elliott Huger Smith (1846-1923), Isabella Johannes Middleton Smith (1847-1920), and Anna Mason Smith (1849-1924). Anna would marry Edward Laight Wells in 1869. Living in Charleston, Greenville, Augusta, and Athens during the war, Mrs. Smith did her best to maintain her family during the hostilities, and the collection includes heartrending letters recounting the deaths of her sons Joseph Allen Smith (1851-1863) from illness and William Mason Smith from wounds received at Cold Harbor. The collection also includes the diary of Isabella Smith, 11 June 1865 - 7 Aug. 1866, containing irregular entries chiefly commenting on social visits paid and received while in Athens and Augusta. A number of the letters included in this gift are published in *Mason Smith Family Letters* (1950) edited by Daniel E. Huger Smith, Alice R. Huger Smith, and Arney

R. Childs. The published versions of the letters often exclude passages containing primarily personal news. Letters written shortly after the surrender of Lee and his army testify to the desolation and sense of defeat of those at home, both in the South and among supporters of the Southern cause in the North. Sabina E. Wells, writing from New York, lamented to Mrs. Thomas L. Wells, 10 Apr. 1865—'I am so completely overwhelmed that I can hardly hold myself up.... All is over and God help the poor South.... If I could only leave the Country and never see it again.... Sister and I have been weeping all day.'

Dr. Benjamin Huger, Cordesville, S.C., exclaimed to Thomas L. Wells, 17 Sept. 1865—'We hoped that when peace came, vengeance would have been satisfied [and] hatred glutted but it is not so; the licentious [and] ferocious Negro is encouraged to insult us, [and] no atrocity which he may commit meets with punishment. I am disarmed while every Negro on my plantation has a gun.... The whole labour system subverted, every relation in society violated [and] destroyed.... Yet your people do not see it....' Writing his sister on 1 May 1865 from Cheraw, S.C., Edward L. Wells noted his intention to go to Mexico with other Confederates 'If the worst comes to the worst.' And in a letter of the same date to his mother noted his presence as part of the rear guard during the evacuation of Columbia—'We were obliged, being ordered not to fight in the streets, to witness tamely the entrance of the Enemy's column.... Of the barbarity, [and] cruelty of the Yankees I presume you have heard.... Thank God, I have never surrendered [and] my arm is still free to strike against oppression [and] wrong.... God bless you all but curse New England, [and] her subjects in other states.'

Describing the immediate aftermath of hostilities, 29 July 1865, Louisa Porcher, writing from Greenville, S.C., informed Anna Mason Smith—'The Yankee garrison are here.... The General is here too, Van Wyke, but of course no one that we know, fraternizes with either him or his officers.' Two letters, written after the war, from Alfred Huger, Charleston, S.C., to Thomas L. Wells, are of interest for their comments upon the government. The earlier letter, 1 Sept. 1867, also recounts Wade Hampton's praise of Edward Lighthouse Wells' heroism at Fayetteville, N.C., where Wells, Hampton, and approximately seven other cavalymen charged and routed a Union cavalry company, killing eight and wounding sixteen, and comments upon President Andrew Johnson—'poor man, he has been a Jacobin all his Life! Honest I believe, but like the inventor of the Guillotine, likely to fall by his own weapon.' The second letter, 30 Oct. 1868, suggests the mood of despair during the period—'Tom, the Government is a failure!... You are totally incapable of conceiving our degradation or of measuring our anguish! And if Seymour [and] Blaine are by divine interposition elected, a Generation must pass away, before what has been, can be forgotten, if Gen. Grant is put over all Law, all constitutions, all Mercy [and] all Justice, then the American Nation is itself debased!' The emotions are quite different in a letter of 8 Nov. 1876, in which Lawrence Wells informs his father of the recent election of Wade Hampton as governor of South Carolina—'We have routed them.... never again will federal Bayonets [and] United States Marshalls interfere with the free expression of the People's Will at the Ballot Box....'

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged in five chronological series:

- 1 [ref12](#)

- 2 [ref15](#)
- 3 [ref126](#)
- 4 [ref131](#)
- 5 [ref137](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Manuscripts Division, South Caroliniana Library

Restrictions on Access

Library use only.

Acquisition Information

Acquired through membership dues of the South Caroliniana Society.

Processing Information

Collection processed by South Caroliniana Library staff.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Commonplace books.
- Diaries.
- Poems.
- Scrapbooks.

Geographic Name(s)

- Athens (Ga.)--Social life and Customs.
- Augusta (Ga.)--Social life and Customs.
- Charleston (S.C.)--Social life and customs.
- South Carolina--Genealogy.
- South Carolina--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Personal Name(s)

- Smith family.
- Smith, Eliza Carolina Middleton Huger, 1824-1919.
- Smith, Isabella Johannes Middleton.
- Smith, James Allen.
- Wells family.
- Wells, Edward Laight, d.1839.

Subject(s)

- Confederate States of America--Army--Hampton Legion.
- Confederate States of America--Army--South Carolina Cavalry Regiment, 4th--Company K.
- Georgia.
- Secession.
- Soldiers--Confederate States of America--Correspondence.
- Soldiers--South Carolina--Correspondence.
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives, Confederate.

1850s

Collection Inventory

1850s 1 folder.

ALS, 13 Mar. [18]56, Milwaukee, [Wis.], John Wells, Jr., to [Edward Laight Wells]

1860s 5 folders

14 letters. 1861-1862

Folder

1

ALS, 29 Apr. [1860], 'Invincible,' Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to [Mr. [and] Mrs. Thomas L. Wells] (relating events of his voyage from New York, including a collision with another vessel and their arrival at Liverpool imminent).

ALS, 20 June [18]60, Bonn, Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to [Thomas L. Wells, New Brunswick, N.J.] (re his trip from Paris, describing a review by 20,000 French troops before he left Paris, and expressing his favorable opinion of Louis Napoleon and Brussels).

ALS, 15 July [1860], Venice, Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to [Mrs. Thomas L. Wells, New Brunswick, N.J.] (re his travels, his favorable impression of Venice and its citizens— 'very unlike other German towns in many respects').

ALS, 4 Dec. [1860], Charleston, S.C., Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to Thomas L. Wells (re his arrival in Charleston after a difficult voyage and the mood in the city— 'The excitement here is intense. Whatever the other states do, there can be little doubt that South Carolina means business').

14 letters.

ALS, 4 Dec. [1860], Charleston, S.C., Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to John [Wells] (South Carolinians returning from all parts of the country 'to stand or fall with their State.... The air smells strongly of gun-powder').

AL (fragment), 6 Dec. [1860], [Edward Laight Wells], to [Thomas L. Wells, New Brunswick, N.J.] (re his social calls on family friends, the mood in Charleston— 'The enthusiasm with which people old [and] young, rich [and] poor are rallying around their gallant little state, is truly admirable,' and everyone joining military companies).

ALS, 1 Jan. [1861], Savannah, Ga., Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to [Mrs. Thomas L. Wells, New Brunswick, N.J.] (acknowledging letters of Mrs. Wells and Sabina and instructing Sabina 'to beware of punctuation, [and] remember to make a full stop at the close of every distinct sentence,' commenting re secession and his opinion 'that the Southern Confederacy will be in a fair way of becoming the greatest nation in the world,' social news, relating that the 'funniest piece of news' is Uncle John's joining a military company, and regretting that he was not home for Christmas— 'Christmas among the negroes is kept with great gaiety, but the whites here do not take much notice of it').

ALS, 23 Feb. [1861], Savannah, Ga., Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to [Mrs. Thomas L. Wells, New Brunswick, N.J.] (needing money, just returned from a three-week stay with Mr. Troup, the celebration of Washington's birthday in the city, and riding out to a cemetery with the Misses Cohen— 'Jewesses, one of them said to be the prettiest woman in Savannah').

ALS, 4 Mar. [1861], Savannah, Ga., Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to Mother (regretting to leave Savannah where 'I... have been treated with the greatest kindness [and] hospitality,' several invitations including one to a plantation where they hunt foxes 'in the English fashion,' and eating locally grown asparagus and green peas).

ALS, 26 Mar. [1861], Savannah, Ga., Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to Mother (letters received, relating his activities, a trip to the Nightingale plantation, and deer hunting with Dr. Troup).

28 letters.

ALS, 20 Apr. [1861], Evelyn, Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to Father, [New Brunswick, N.J.] (thanking him for a letter and copy of the Herald, the Herald's 'somersault' and his view of the paper's position on secession, stating— 'the Southern People are to fight for the possession [and] quiet enjoyment of their lives [and] property. The Northern People are to fight to deprive them of these. This is the sum of the thing in a nutshell,' his eagerness to take part in the struggle, advising— 'Even if war should not long continue, I would rather be identified with the South than with the North,' re his opinion of studying the law, requesting his mother's advice about what he should do, and castigating the North and its political system 'unchecked by a partial disenfranchisement, as here').

ALS, 28 [Apr.1861], Savannah, Ga., Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to Father, [New Brunswick, N.J.] (responding to his father's suggestion that the Confederates were making a mistake by forcing Maj. Robert Anderson to lower the flag— 'it is no longer a national, but a sectional flag, representing Lincoln [and] his supporters,' rejecting his father's notion 'that a possibility exists for 'reconstruction,' war inevitable— 'The unanimity of the monied men of N.Y. [and] the North generally [and] the excitement [and] fury of the ignorant populace, on the one hand, [and] the unflinching determination of the South to maintain her rights [and] liberties, on the other, point... clearly to such a result,' planning to obtain a military appointment, and advising not to believe all that he read about the South in the press).

ALS, 11 Nov. [1862], [Greenville, S.C.], Mother [Eliza Middleton Huger Smith], to [Isabella Johannes Middleton Smith] (expressing concern about son D.E. Huger Smith at the University of Virginia— 'I hope he will do well, [and] not suffer from his eyes or the climate,' always looking for the worst news from Smithfield— 'I ought to go there myself, but I don't see how to manage it,' and stating that her situation in Greenville was comfortable).

ALS, 1 Dec. 1862, Greenville, S.C., [Eliza M. Smith], to [Isabella M. Smith, Augusta, Ga.] (commenting on her daughter's fifteenth birthday— 'Just resolve to live, remembering that you are responsible to an ever present God, [and] you will never be shut up to hopeless darkness,' and news of family and friends).

28 letters. 1862-1864**Folder**

2

28 letters.

ALS, [24 Dec. 1862], Greenville, Eliza Middleton Huger Smith, to Isabella Johannes Middleton Smith, Augusta, Ga.] (suffering from severe headache, re celebration of Christmas, and reporting Beauregard's statement that 'Charleston is quite safe [and] all may stay there who can stand the expense [and] the dul[l]ness').

ALS, [ca. 1862], Eliza M. Smith, to 'Dear Daughters' (family and social news, commenting on reports of the engagement of Edward Barnwell Heyward and Tatty Clinch— 'He ought not to have been courting while his Brother was ill [and] dying').

ALS, [27 Jan. 1863, Greenville, S.C.], Eliza Middleton Huger Smith, to Bell [Isabella M. Smith] (re Stennie's [Stephen Proctor Huger] death and noting— 'I do pity parents who are called in to see their children suffer [and] die.... I am glad I believe in the proportion of strength to trial,' a letter from Marie 'by one of those flag of truce women,' news of family and friends, lamenting the death of Cheves McCord— 'He was his Mother's only son [and] idol, [and] she is in such a state,' encouraging her in her studies and listening every night to Annie in bed, and mentioning prices and scarcity of provisions).

ALS, 31 Mar. [18]63, Greenville, S.C., Annie [Anna Mason Smith] to Isabella [M. Smith, Augusta, Ga.] (family news, including Robbie's being photographed in Columbia— 'They are horrid. They made him look like an old man of fifty and as cross as possible,' re the arrival of a box from Macon, listing contents of a basket for Robbie, and other family news).

ALS, 27 and 29 Apr. [18]63, Greenville, S.C., Anna M[ason] Smith, to Isabella [M. Smith, Augusta, Ga.] (news of family and activities, Mrs. Pinckind and Mrs. Dowell to give a concert, and Mrs. Pinckind considering coming to Greenville to teach French and music).

ALS, 19 May [18]63, Greenville, S.C., Eliza M. Smith, to [Isabella M. Smith, Augusta, Ga.] (Mason home on furlough— 'He is cheerful [and] bright as usual— quite too sure that ripe Plums are to drop into his mouth sooner or later— but as he is willing to work hard indeed can't live any but an active life I hope he will succeed,' her concern for Robbie who was involved in an action and remarking— 'If only our boys only do their duty manfully [and] well we shall not be comfortless. But whatever comes— this world is but the beginning not the end,' visit by cousin Harry Middleton and his wife and their prospect

28 letters.

of a home in Asheville, N.C., division of the Middleton estate and profits from planting, her difficulties with Allen---'he is among boys too old for him, [and] of too low a standard of morals [and] manners to be quite satisfactory,' and Huger in an action with other University of Virginia students).

ALS, 30 May 1863, Charleston, S.C., E.P. Smith (Mrs. Robert), to Bell [Isabella M. Smith] (inviting her to visit in Columbia for three or four weeks and stating that she had written her mother for consent).

ALS, 31 May [18]63, Columbia, S.C., L[izzie] P. S[mith], to Bell [Isabella M. Smith] (re her pleasant visit in Charleston— 'so many people are there and the battery looks so gay and delightful,' her debut at the Hamptons' while suffering from headache and fever, [Henry] Benti[voglio] Middleton disciplined for 'coming off without furlough' and meeting him in town— 'his personal appearance was not improved by having his head shaved, I being burnt-brown as a mulatto, or rather darker and smelling strongly of turpentine').

ALS, 7 June [1863], Camp Kemper, R. Tilghman S[mith], to Donna [Isabella M. Smith, Columbia, S.C.] (re his visit to Smithfield and Oakland, the latter 'suffered very severely. They have burnt all the mills except the powder and run off all the Negro[e]s except fifty,' Mason and Uncle Lowndes staying on the plantation, noting how few troops the Confederacy stationed on the coast— 'hardly enough to keep off Negro raids,' and Col. Kemper relieved from command of artillery).

ALS, 21 June 1863, Greenville, S.C., J. Allen Smith, to Dear Aunt [Mrs. Izard] (re his plans and activities, attending a party at McBee Hall, thanking her for pantaloons, mentioning his little dog— 'jet black without a spot,' and asking to be remembered to his friends).

ALS, [June 1863], Eliza M. Smith, to 'Dear Daughter' [Isabella M. Smith] (re plans for joining her in Greenville, S.C.).

ALS, [ca. July 1863], Eliza M. Smith, to 'Dear children' (uneasy about Robbie and Mason, Mason removing Negroes from Smithfield to Sumter, S.C., advising them re coming to her, Beauregard working between three and four thousand Negroes at Charleston, wanting them to tell Mrs. Fraser that her husband's imprisonment 'seems to me fortunate for her. He is out of danger for the present— and the

28 letters.

Yankees behave better to prisoners now,' and reminding them not to forget their fans in the state— 'you will suffer if you do').

ALS, 24 Aug. 1863, Greenville, S.C., Eliza M. Smith, to Emma [Izard, Augusta, Ga.] (Allen suffering from 'Diphtheria or what is so called up here,' requesting two or three ounces of nitre— 'It is a great relief to the throat,' also paregoric and Dover's powder, and the kindnesses of many people in nursing Allen).

ALS, 27 Aug. [18]63, [Eliza M. Smith], to Emma [Izard, Augusta, Ga.] (reporting on Allen's illness and the uncertainty of his recovery).

ALS, 28 Aug. [18]63, [Eliza M. Smith], to Emma [Izard, Augusta, Ga.] (reporting on Allen's illness and the uncertainty of his recovery).

ALS, 29 Aug. [18]63, [Eliza M. Smith], to Emma [Izard, Augusta, Ga.] (reporting on Allen's illness and the uncertainty of his recovery).

ALS(T), 31 Aug. 1863, Greenville, S.C., P.C. Edwards, to Mrs. Mason Smith (contemporary copy— tribute and condolence from Joseph Allen Smith's teacher).

ALS, 1 Sept. [1863], [Greenville, S.C.], Eliza M. Smith, to Emma [Izard, Augusta, Ga.] (stating— 'God wanted Allen for service above.... Allen's papa is there to love [and] cherish him,' and giving an account of his final days).

ALS, 3 Sept. 1863, Greenville, S.C., Eliza M. Smith, to Mason and Robert Smith (a detailed account of Joseph Allen Smith's illness and death, the many kindnesses of family, friends, and physicians, and stating— 'I wish my boys that you could have been here to receive from Allen a lesson of obedience [and] to learn from God's dealing with him [and] me, to trust Him for his wisdom [and] Love, as well as to worship His Power').

28 letters.

ALS, [6 Sept. 1863, Greenville, S.C.], Eliza M. Smith, to Mr. [Allen S.] Izard, [Augusta, Ga.] (re Allen's love for Mr. [and] Mrs. Izard and discussing his death).

ALS, 14 Nov. [1863], Nassau, Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to [Mr. [and] Mrs. Thomas L. Wells] (just arrived after a pleasant voyage quartered in the captain's room, noting that they were searched for dispatches before leaving New York and one person arrested, re his meeting an English officer who was also there for his health and planning to travel with him to Jamaica, eating fruits, the majority black population— 'They are civil, [and] respectful, but fearfully lazy, [and] stupid,' and advising them not to be anxious about him).

ALS, 14 Nov. [18]63, Nassau, Bahamas, Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to Sister [Sabina H. Wells] (same as above, noting— 'The people seem kindly disposed, tho' entirely engrossed in business. They are all merchants, or shippers. Of course the great business [and] principle theme of conversation is 'blockade running'').

ALS, 18 Nov. 1863, Steamship Fannie, Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to Mother [Mrs. Thomas L. Wells] (re his successful running of the blockade, heading up the river to Wilmington, N.C., and stating— 'I hope you are all as well as I am, [and] that you do not continue to look at things in a dismal manner').

ALS, 1 Dec. [18]63, Charleston, S.C., Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to Father [Thomas L. Wells] (re his movements after leaving Wilmington, N.C., meeting Alfred and Dan Huger in Columbia, S.C., visiting Mr. Lowndes in Augusta, Ga., stating that he received letter of introduction to Davis and Hampton from Bonham, meeting with Hampton in Virginia and the latter's advice to wait until spring to join the cavalry in Virginia and to return to South Carolina and join another unit until that time, and the morale of friends in Charleston— 'my friends here... are sustaining their misfortunes with a fortitude fully equal to that of the old Romans').

ALS, 12 Jan. [18]64, In Camp near Charleston, S.C., Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to Mother [Mrs. Thomas L. Wells] (re joining the Charleston Light Dragoons, 'a cavalry company consisting entirely of gentlemen,' on picket duty at present, pleased with his horse Dixie, quartered 'in a large negro house' on a plantation, no letters received to date, stating that he was doing well and as for the Confederacy 'she has the power

25 letters.

[and] the determination to maintain her honor [and] independence,' supposing that 'my relatives of the nigger-worshipping order consider me as a dreadful devil to resist the will of the 'Descendants of the Puritans'.... I would like to see their sanctimonious, hypocritical, Yankee upturnings of the eyes,' and mentioning families and individuals who had received him).

ALS, 21 Jan. 1864, Camp of the Ch[arlestown] L[ight] Dragoons, Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to 'My Dear Little Sister' [Sabina] (details of camp life and provisions, picket duty, his health excellent, commenting on his horse, Negroes cooking, washing, and tending to horses, and remarking— 'My comrades are all very nice fellows; with very few exceptions, gentlemen of the first families in the State').

ALS, [ca. Jan. 1864, Columbia, S.C.], Eliza Middleton Huger Smith, to 'Dear Children' (family letter re activities, movements, etc.).

ALS, 2 Feb. 1864, [Augusta, Ga.], Eliza M. Smith, to Children (sympathizing with their having to remain in Greenville but explaining that 'short of illness [and] starvation, I must let you all in Greenville endure, for a little while,' Mason suffering from rheumatism, Robbie's application for a furlough, Huger's return with six bottles of brandy— 'so G___mama's mind may be at rest, [and] she can take her small doses whenever necessary,' expressing sorrow for Tom Middleton and Dr. Wragg— 'There is nothing but trouble, heavy troubles, all around,' domestic matters and prices of household articles, and Mason required to go before a board every thirty days).

ALS, 8 Feb. [1864], Augusta, Ga., Eliza Middleton Huger Smith, to 'Daughters' (Mason's condition improved, Huger enlisted in the Marions, and domestic matters).

AL, [10 Feb. 1864?, Augusta, Ga.], [Eliza Middleton Huger Smith?], to Children, [Greenville, S.C.] (Mason's condition, Uncle Allen administered morphine, domestic matters, visit to Mrs. Gould— 'She is more sentimental than is good for her. She keeps the bed on which Johnie died...[and] goes in there to say her prayers').

25 letters. 1864

Folder

3

25 letters.

ALS, 13 Feb. 1864, [Augusta, Ga.], Eliza Middleton Huger Smith, to [Children, Greenville, S.C.] (instructing them to inform Mrs. Lowndes of telegram from Robbie saying "The Marions all right,' Mason better, domestic matters, and the Silver Greys being drilled to death).

ALS, 16 Feb. [1864], [Augusta, Ga.], Eliza Middleton Huger Smith, to 'Dear children' (Robbie with them looking 'well [and] cheerful,' Mason at the hospital to get more medicine, going before the board next week, commenting on Ralph M__s letter in the Courier— 'The letter was in bad taste for he is too lately a soldier to presume to criticize matters [and] Genls,' re the woman that Mr. King planned to marry — 'old deaf [and] plain, but rich. So is he. Money loves money— it is a disgraceful affair sentimentally speaking,' having to stand in line 'with a dozen or so greasy women [and] men' to get cloth with a refugee ticket, and Mason's condition).

ALS, [23 Feb. 1864, Augusta, Ga.], Eliza Middleton Huger Smith, to 'Dear good people,' Greenville, S.C. (plans and preparations for returning, stating that Mason received another thirty days from the board, domestic matters, news of friends, family, and activities, hoping the servants were doing better — 'They will go on with their follies [and] sins till they suddenly find the balance so heavy against them that they will be ruined in character [and] position,' and prices rising 'under the currency bill').

ALS, [28 Feb. 1864, Augusta, Ga.], Eliza Middleton Huger Smith, to 'Dear children' (regretting the death of Cleland Huger, anxious to return to Greenville, and domestic matters).

ALS, [3 Mar. 1864, Augusta, Ga.], Eliza Middleton Huger Smith, to Bell and Annie (re Mason's condition and Dr. Geddings' opinion that he would recover, Mason's appearance and her initial alarm, news of Huger and Robbie, her living arrangements, Aunt Marg[aret's] husband Mr. Kerrison 'is telling everybody that he is making a small fortune for her, out of the trunk of English goods,' and commenting on her son's service— 'I doubt Robbie's getting even 48 hours— Huger shall not go as long as I can keep him(?)').

ALS, [10 Mar. 1864, Augusta, Ga.], Eliza Middleton Huger Smith, to 'Dear children' (instructing them to get time from Miss Murden and to have Balaam whitewash her old room with two coats, also clean the entry carpet from Smithfield, and put in the room which Mason was to occupy, instructing them

25 letters.

to pay with larger notes— ‘it may give trouble to dispose of larger notes after 1st of April,’ Mason's medicine changed by Dr. Geddings, domestic matters, commenting on the ‘robbery from the Cellar,’ and uncertain plans for returning to Greenville).

ALS, 21 Apr. [18]64, Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to [Mr. [and] Mrs. Thomas L. Wells] (the life of a soldier agreeing with him— ‘I am contented [and] happy [and] in better health than I have ever before been,’ pleased with his compatriots— ‘a Company composed of gentlemen almost exclusively,’ family matters, alluding to his father's reading and recalling fondly ‘the pleasant quiet hours I have spent with the books in the Library,’ acknowledging letters from his mother, stating that he had not written his brother John lest ‘I might perhaps injure him in a business point of view, or render him obnoxious in case it were known he received letters from `Rebeldom’).

ALS, 21 Apr. [18]64, Camp of Co. K, 4th S.C. Cavalry, Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to ‘My Dear Old Fellow’ [John Wells] (acknowledging his and Sallie's letters and his generous offer of money but explaining that ‘I brought with me a considerable amount of gold... so that I have sufficient funds remaining to last,’ re his military unit and his good health, and recalling happy times spent together).

ALS, [Apr. 1864, Greenville, S.C.], [Eliza Middleton Huger Smith], to ‘My dear Son’ [William Mason Smith] (agreeing that the Board was correct in not sending him back to the field but disagreeing with his notion of being ‘a free man’— ‘you are bound by the duties of your position, [and] can only be ‘free’ when you conscientiously perform them,’ and Armstrong's cavalry five thousand strong in Greenville on the way to Dalton, Ga.— ‘They are a rowdy looking crew, but their Horses look well [and] strong’).

ALS, 17 [June 1864], Hospital near Richmond, Va., Mrs. Allen Izard, to Emma [Huger Smith] (Mason's wound ‘promising’ but suffering from pneumonia as a result of exposure and cold water practice while on the stretcher, and re the kindnesses of many people at the hospital).

ALS, 1 July [1864], Stuart Hospital, E.M. Smith, to Emma [Huger Smith] (Mason's condition and stating — ‘I know that God reigns— in Him I trust and find rest for my soul’).

25 letters.

ALS, 2 July [1864], Charleston, S.C., John Harleston, to 'My Dear Cousin' [Mrs. Sabina L. Wells, New Brunswick, N.J.] (Edward Laight Wells wounded and in hospital in Virginia— 'he may be a long time getting well but from all I could hear is in no danger,' accustomed to nightly Yankee shelling, asking her to find out and to inform him of members of the Charleston Light Dragoons [Co. K, 4th S.C. Cavalry] who had been captured— 'there are many missing whose fate is uncertain,' mentioning some of the missing and noting— 'they are all of the best and wealthiest families here highly educated and of the utmost respectability,' and promising to inform her if he learned anything more of Edward Laight Wells).

MS(T), 9 July [1864], Richmond, E.M. Smith (copy of telegram re Mason's condition).

AL(T), 17 July [1864], Charleston, S.C., Mrs. Harleston with postscript from J[ohn] H[arleston], to 'Dear' (contemporary copy— Mason's wound not as severe as first feared, still in hospital, and stating— 'If he would but come here where he has many warm friends who would take every care of him, it would give us a great deal of pleasure').

ALS, 21 July [1864], Stuart Hosp[ital], [E.M. Smith], to Emma [Mrs. Allen S. Izard] (finally receiving her letters, Mason's condition 'pitiable [and] God only knows what the result is to be,' describing his appearance, and the b kindness of many people).

ALS, 25 July [18]64, Charleston, S.C., Edward Laight Wells, to 'My Dear Mother' [Mrs. T.L. Wells] (re his being wounded in Virginia and his subsequent movements, going with Ben Huger to his father's place on the seashore for recuperation, and asking her to report on Charles Prioleau who was missing after a cavalry fight near Cold Harbor).

ALS, 1 Aug. 1864, Augusta, Ga., Louis Manigault, to Lt. W[illiam] Mason Smith (sending him 'a Bottle of My Father's Old Madeira' and remarking— 'I only wish it was in my power to do more for you. My Official Labors compel me at present to be brief, but as the Doctor will endeavor to see you he will give the News from this Section').

25 letters.

ALS, 1 Aug. [18]64, Sangerties, [N.Y.], C. Cruger, to [Thomas L.] Wells, [Brunswick, N.J.] (sending extracts of a letter from Dr. Huger to Cruger's sister Mrs. Irving in which Huger told of the high opinion of Edward L. Wells, and discussing the whereabouts of Charles Prioleau and the possibility that he was imprisoned at Elmira).

ALS, 1 Aug. [1864], [Richmond, Va.], Eliza Middleton Huger Smith, to 'Dear Emma' reacting to news of the situation in Atlanta, noting— 'Success at Petersburg has cost Carolina more of her best blood,' mentioning 'pressure brought to bear on me about having Dr. Gibson an eminent Surgeon to see Mason,' and discussing Mason's situation).

ALS, 6 Aug. [18]64, Cordesville, S.C., Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to 'My Dear Mother' [Mrs. Thomas L. Wells] (giving details of the engagement in which he was wounded, re his situation at Dr. Ben Huger's, other people staying there, and Dr. Huger's 'admiration, [and] veneration for Grandfather').

AL, 6 Aug. [1864], [Richmond, Va.], [Eliza Middleton Huger Smith], to 'My Dear Sister' [Mrs. Allen S. Iazard] (staying at Mr. Miles' house, Mason's condition, the kindness of Mr. Miles, Dr. Bolton's opinion that the ball was in contact with Mason's spine and his plan for treatment).

ALS, 6 Aug. [18]64, Pineland, S.C., Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to 'My Dear Father' (staying at Dr. Ben Huger's summer place— 'The great recommendation of the pine-land is its perfect quiet [and] healthiness,' his activities and people there, news of John's marriage received, and stating 'I get letters sent from Marseilles with a good deal of regularity, [and] in about a month's time, or something less').

ALS, 6 Aug. [18]64, Cordesville, near Charleston, S.C., Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to 'My Dear Sister' [Sabina Huger Wells] (informing her of his being wounded and subsequent movements that landed him in South Carolina, and situated in 'just the place for an invalid').

ALS, 9 Aug. [18]64, Lucerne, John Wells, to 'My Dear Aunt,' and S.E. Wells, to Julia (stating that he received word of Edward's being wounded and trying to learn more particulars).

21 letters.

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| MS, 9 Aug. [1864], Ft. Delaware, G.E. Manigault, to E.L. Cottenet (re ELW's wound and assurance that 'His family need not be uneasy about him'). | |
| 21 letters. 1864-1865 | Folder 4 |
| ALS, 10 Aug. [1864], Nuits, S [abina] E[lliott] Wells, to 'Dear Julia' (relating news of Edward and what she knew of Mason Smith's condition). | |
| ALS, 12 Aug. [1864], Nuits, S.E. Wells, to Julia [Mrs. Thomas L. Wells] (re Edward's situation and news from Mrs. Mitchell that the 'Charleston Dragoons' have been so cut to pieces that the shattered remnant is to be detached,' and instructing her to 'thank Brother for his check. I shall apply it all to the poor prisoners'). | |
| ALS, 12 Aug. [1864], Eliza Middleton Huger Smith, to 'Dear Sister' [Mrs. Allen S. Izard] (Mason dying, relating his situation, wanting her to thank L. Manigault for his note and bottle of wine, and her despair). | |
| ALS, 13 Aug. [1864], Nuits, S.E. Wells, to 'Dear Brother' (news of Edward, the papers 'appear to take a peace view of things,' and fearing that 'the furor for Peace will evaporate' if the Federals took Atlanta and Mobile). | |
| ALS, 16 Aug. [1864], Richmond, Va., Eliza Middleton Smith, to 'My Dear Sister' [Mrs. Allen S. Izard] (re Mason's death). | |
| ALS, 19 Aug. [1864], Richmond, Va., Bell, to 'Dear Aunt Emma' (re Mason's death). | |
| ALS, 23 Aug. [1864], Nuits, Marie, to 'Dear Cousin Julia' [Mrs. Thomas L. Wells, New Brunswick, N.J.] (re a letter of 5 July from her father relating Edward Wells' situation and the heavy casualties suffered by the Charleston Light Dragoons). | |

21 letters.

ALS, [28 Aug.] 1864, [Greenville, S.C.], Bine [Sabina H. Lowndes], to Em [Mrs. Allen S. Izard] (with Mason's mother and her discussion of his death, stating— 'she does not mean to draw herself within herself, but that she means to live for others, [and] so pay back into God's treasury the great [and] many kindnesses she has received from high [and] low, rich [and] poor, black [and] white,' and the funeral service).

ALS, 7 Sept. [1864], Savannah, Ga., Edward Laight Wells, to 'My Dearest Little Sister' [Sabina H. Wells] (staying with Dr. Ben Huger and now Jos[eph] Huger while recovering from a wound, calling upon a 'Jewess' friend, and inquiring re his family).

AL, 12 Sept. [18]64, Greenville, S.C., [Eliza Middleton Huger Smith], to Emma [Mrs. Allen S. Izard] (re her situation and explaining— 'I am not as much cast down as you imagine for the more I think about it the more I have to realize how much I have to be thankful for,' re her last days with Mason, and recalling 'Two points of comfort').

ALS, 20 Sept. [18]64, Charleston, S.C., Edward Laight Wells, to 'My Dearest Mother' (stating that he was quite well again— 'Not murdered by the philanthropic Mr. Lincoln yet,' and awaiting the arrival 'of Mr. L's conscripts, [and] bought-men').

ALS, 9 Nov. [18]64, Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to 'My Dear Mother' [Mrs. Thomas L. Wells] (thanking Aunt Bine 'for her kindness to my captured friends of this company,' he receiving their letters but his not getting to them, he fully recovered, re a recent action in which the Yankees were defeated with heavy losses and in which he collected among the spoils a knapsack containing 'a lot of nice crackers').

ALS, 17 Nov. [18]64, Camp of Butler's Brig., A[rmy] N[orthern] V[irginia], Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to 'My Darling Little Sister' (re receipt of letters from her and mother, responding to news in her letter, re his situation— 'settling down somewhat for the Winter,' camp life and commenting— 'Our Mess has servants of course, so I am not obliged to clean up my own house, except now, [and] then,' and family news).

21 letters.

ALS, 17 Nov. [18]64, Camp of Butler's Brigade, Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to 'My Very Dear Parents' (rejoicing over receiving a letter from them, Dr. Huger engaged to Sabina Lowndes, re the certainty of Lincoln's reelection— 'We know him, [and] his party, [and] are ready, [and] willing to fight them, as long, as it may continue agreeable to them,' and family news).

AL, 28 Dec. 1864, Charleston, ? , to L.M. [Louis Manigault?] (preparations for the Yankee's occupation of Augusta, Ga.).

ALS, [1864], S.E. Wells, to Julia [Mrs. Thomas L. Wells] (re letters from Edward Laight Wells and John Wells and mentioning 'a warm letter from the poor White' to whom she had sent a bundle, and sending articles to Ft. Delaware).

AL, [1864], Columbia, S.C., [Eliza Middleton Huger Smith], to 'Dear girls' (arrival in Columbia and Mason improved).

ALS, 12 Jan. [18]65, Charleston, S.C., Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to 'My Dear Mother' (writing by flag of truce, home on furlough and expecting no more fighting before spring 'unless I try my hand at shooting Sherman's men,' and responding to Northern papers— 'We are all 'fat [and] saucy,' confident as ever').

ALS, 30 Jan. [18]65, Charleston, S.C., Edward Laight Wells, to 'My Dearest Sister' (re news of his activities— 'I am in the best of health, [and] spirits, [and] alright in every respect,' re loss of Savannah 'through stupidity on our part,' losses suffered by various friends, and inquiring re the family).

ALS, 3 Mar. [1865], New York, Sabina [E. Wells], to Julia [Mrs. Thomas L. Wells] (re the prisons and discussing 'that noble martyr Captain Beall,' and mentioning 'This disgusting celebration tomorrow!').

ALS, 20 Mar. [1865], Bentonville, N.C., Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to 'My dearest Aunt' [Sabina E. Wells] (requesting her 'to do what you can for Frank Huger' who was captured near Fayetteville, re his recent actions, two horses killed and 'the honor of charging with seven others, Gen. Hampton, [and] two of his stall among the number,' a commendation from Gen. Hampton, and despite the loss of

21 letters.

Savannah, Charleston, Columbia, and Wilmington— ‘rest assured we will redeem them in the blood of our enemies’).

5

16 letters. 1865-1869

ALS, [ca. 4 Apr. 1865], New York, Sabina E. Wells, to Julia [Mrs. Thomas L. Wells] (re the arrival of John Harleston as a prisoner of war, peace imminent— ‘God help the poor South! I am afraid the next four years will be worse than the last,’ Harleston's situation, and family news).

ALS, 10 Apr. [1865], New York, Sabina [E. Wells], to Julia [Mrs. Thomas L. Wells] (stating that ‘I am so completely overwhelmed’ with the news of Lee's surrender).

ALS, [ca. 12 Apr. 1865], New York, Sabina [E. Wells], to Julia [Mrs. Thomas L. Wells] (re her despondent state of mind in view of the South's defeat— ‘The spirits of those who have perished in this horrid war seem to be crying out ‘all in vain!???’ and has it been for naught? No never! God will bring it out all right in his own good time and still the madness of the people’).

ALS, [ca. Apr. 1865], Sabina [E. Wells], to Julia [Mrs. Thomas L. Wells] (sending extract of letter from Dr. William Huger, Cheraw, S.C., 19 Apr. [1865], relating that he saw Ned in Cheraw where a horse was shot from under him— ‘He is a fine gallant fellow, and the Confederacy does not boast of a better soldier’).

ALS, 1 May [18]65, Cheraw, S.C., Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to ‘My Darling Little Sister’ [Sabina Huger Wells] (inquiring about the family, mentioning compatriots who were imprisoned, and his own situation — ‘However the present conflict between the two countries may terminate, whether in the subversion of the liberty, [and] honor of the South [and] the destruction of her material interests, or in the triumph of right, [and] justice, I personally am not ruined. Of course I could never possibly exist under the tyranny of the detestable Yankee, but if the worst comes to the worst, I intend going to Mexico’).

ALS, 1 May [18]65, Cheraw, S.C., Edward Laight Wells, to ‘My Dearest Mother’ (giving her a detailed account of his movements and activities from the time of the burning of Columbia, S.C., stating that they

21 letters.

shadowed the enemy after Columbia— ‘The intense pleasure of chasing, [and] killing these fiends, taken often in the act of committing crimes upon women too dreadful to mention, is beyond description,’ and concluding— ‘God bless you all, but curse New England, [and] her subjects in other states’).

ALS, 16 May [18]65, Greenville, S.C., Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to ‘My Dearest Mother’ [Mrs. Thomas L. Wells] (enumerating letters that he received by flag of truce and those he had received from her and rejoicing at the birth of a new nephew).

ALS, 29 May [1865], New York, Sabina E. Wells, to Bine [Sabina Huger Wells] (re news of Edward and privations suffered in last months of the war and expecting prisoners from Ft. Delaware).

ALS, 15 July 1865, Columbia, S.C., Alfred Huger, to Thomas L. Wells, New Brunswick, N.J. (acknowledging his letter which ‘fills my aged [and] shattered Heart with Emotions, far Easier to comprehend, than to Express,’ lauding Edward L. Wells, and the kindnesses of many Northern friends).

ALS, 29 July [1865], Greenville, S.C., Louisa Porcher (Mrs. Francis J.), to Annie [Anna Mason Smith] (re the business success of Mr. Porcher who went to Charleston to buy stock which he set up in Mr. Ketchum's empty store, Charles Macbeth's plantation Negroes in their home in Charleston but the Negroes moved out by the Yankees, re family portraits recovered, and commenting on the Yankee presence in Greenville— ‘it is galling in the extreme to see them, yet they are very quiet and orderly, [and] I have heard of their putting down the complaints of the negroes in a very summary manner’).

ALS, 17 Sept. 1865, Cordesville, S.C., B[enjamin] Huger, to [Thomas L. Wells] (re his personal loss in the death of a son and his wife as well as property loss, the Negroes on his plantation armed and ‘allowed to rob [and] plunder at discretion,’ lamenting the situation of the South— ‘The whole labour system subverted, every relation in Society violated [and] destroyed, [and] all of this done by a proclamation,’ fearful ‘that if the negro troops are not removed [and] our own negroes made to submit to the civil law, massacre of white or Blacks must soon come,’ and commending Edward Laight Wells).

ALS, 16 Feb. [ca. 1866-1867], S[abina] E. Wells, to Edward [Laight Wells, Charleston, S.C.] (giving an account of a costume party, Gen. Huger ‘here looking much better but not in very good spirits,’ and

1870s

observing— ‘Bancroft has been making a fool of himself as usual. O! for wise statesmen and Christian men’).

ALS, 13 Mar. 1866, Charleston, S.C., Edw[ard] Laight Wells, to ‘My Dear Mother’ [Mrs. Thomas L. Wells] (news of friends and activities).

ALS, 1 Sept. 1867, Charleston, S.C., A[lfred] H[uger], to ‘My dear friend’ [Mr. Thomas L. Wells] (stating that he visited Edward in Columbia and that he showed him his narrative of the last campaign ‘prepared in accordance with Gen. Lee’s wishes,’ Hampton’s account of the engagement at Fayetteville in which Edward was involved, Sickles being replaced by Canby— ‘what we gain by the Exchange is yet to appear,’ noting that Grant was not suited to his new position— ‘his strength consists in fighting, with ‘four to one’ in his favour,’ and characterizing Andrew Johnson as ‘a Jacobin all his life! honest I believe— but like the ‘Inventor’ of the Guillotine, likely to fall by his own weapon’).

ALS, 3 Oct. 1868, Charleston, S.C., Alfred Huger, to [Thomas L. Wells] (lamenting the condition of South Carolina— the places of Lowndes and Calhoun ‘occupied by scoundrels, [and] their characters made the subjects of derision [and] ridicule, to please the Negroes who occupy seats in her Legislative Halls,’ not expecting any relief from Grant, regretting that he did not see Hampton— ‘he has certainly made a mistake in politics, but he would have spoken to you of Edward,’ and concluding— ‘has the North, the powerful North, no Heart? has the South so Hope?’).

ALS, 9 Mar. 1869, New Orleans, [La.], John [H. Huger], to Annie [Mason Smith, Charleston, S.C.] (expressing delight at the news of her engagement to Edward Laight Wells and paying tribute to Wells’ family— ‘He comes of those I have loved for two generations’).

1870s 1 folder

Scope and Contents note

1 letter.

1900s

ALS, 8 Nov. 1876, New York, L[awrence] W[ells], to 'My dear father' [Thomas L. Wells, New Brunswick, N.J.] sending him 'my earnest and heartfelt congratulations' on the end of radical rule in South Carolina).

1900s 1 folder**Scope and Contents note**

2 letters.

ALS, 12 Oct. [1907] and [ca. Oct. 1907], [Charleston, S.C.], Lilli, to Bine [Sabina Wells] (criticizing her poetry and news of activities).

MS, [ca. Oct. 1907] (poetry of Sabina Wells with notations by Lilli).

Undated 1 folder**Scope and Contents note**

7 letters.

ALS, 2 July n.y., Augusta, Ga., Eliza M. Smith, to 'D[ea]r Daughter' (news of family and friends). IS, n.d. (South Carolinians imprisoned at Point Lookout, Elmira, and Ft. Delaware).

ALS, n.d., [Greenville, S.C.], Mother [Eliza Middleton Huger Smith], to 'Dear girls' (family letter).

MS, n.d., [Eliza Middleton Huger Smith], to Annie [Mason Smith] (family news and discussing religion — 'Trust God [and] Serve Him').

Undated

ALS, n.d., [Eliza Middleton Huger Smith], to 'Dear children' (family news).

ALS, n.d., [Eliza Middleton Huger Smith], to 'Dear children' (sending certain articles and family news).

ALS, n.d., Eliza M. Smith, to 'Dear Girls' (family news and complaining of 'Jessy's mismanagement [and] my ignorance about the garden [and] stable').

MSS, n.d. (poems by [Sabina Wells]).