

**Guide to
Alexander C. Barr, Battery F,
3rd Independent PA Light Artillery**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Processed by Christopher Gwinn
June 2006**

MS - 073: Alexander C. Barr, Battery F, 3rd Independent PA Light Artillery

(1 box, .27 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: 1864-1865

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Provenance Purchased from Charles Apfelbaum, 2005

Biography

Alexander C. Barr of Taylorstown, PA mustered into service as a private on February 25th, 1864 in Battery F, 3rd Independent Pennsylvania Light Artillery. Battery F was a veteran unit having been organized in October of 1861 and having participated in many of the campaigns of the Army of Virginia and the Army of the Potomac, including the battles of Cross Keys, 2nd Bull Run, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. The unit was consolidated with Battery C in June of 1863 and remained with that organization until the close of the war.

Alexander Barr joined the battery previous to their stationing on Maryland Heights overlooking Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. The journey from Washington to Maryland Heights was an arduous one for Barr, who wrote, "When we were on the march we did not draw any rations but had to beg our way through. The Old soldiers in the Bat. say they never saw harder marching done..." He will remain there till the spring participating in the defense of Harper's Ferry and the Shenandoah Valley. In April of 1865 Barr will accompany the battery to the defenses of Washington where he will muster out with the rest of the remaining members on June 26, 1865.

Scope and Content Notes

The Alexander Barr collection consists of 17 letters written in between March 14, 1864 and June 3, 1865. The majority of the letters are addressed to his brother Charles in Taylorstown, PA, with the exception of at least one letter composed for his brother Jeff in April, 1864. Most of the letters in the collection date from the time Barr served on Maryland Heights and Harper's Ferry. Included in the letters are Barr's experiences as a new recruit in the artillery with topics ranging from the "very poor grub" at the artillery cookhouse, the oppressiveness of the summer weather and the surrender of Robert E. Lee and the evacuation of Richmond. Also contained in the collection are 10 envelopes as well as a small photograph of Barr. Letters are arranged chronologically.

Box 1

1-1 Correspondence: March 14, 1864 – April 9, 1864

March 14, 1864? Camp Copeland, Allegheny County, PA: Dear Brother
March 24, 1864 Camp Reynolds: Brother
March 29, 1864 Camp Copeland, Allegheny County, PA: Dear Brother
April 9, 1864 Camp Copeland, Allegheny County, PA: Brother Jeff

1 – 2 Correspondence: June 26, 1864 – December 23, 1864

June 26, 1864 Fort Ward, VA: Brother Charles
July 10, 1864 Maryland Heights, MD: Brother Charles
July 30, 1864 Harpers Ferry, VA: Brother Charles
August 4, 1864 Harpers Ferry, WV: Brother Charles
No Date (Fragment) Harpers Ferry, WV
December 23, 1864 Camp of Distribution, Alexandria, VA: Dear Brother

1 – 3 Correspondence: January 27, 1865 – April 11, 1865

January 27, 1865 Maryland Heights, MD: Brother Charles
February 9, 1865 Maryland Heights, MD: Brother Charles
March 3, 1865 Maryland Heights, MD: Brother Charles
April 11, 1865 Maryland Heights, MD: Brother Charles

1 – 4 Correspondence: May 14, 1865 – June 3, 1865

May 14, 1865 Fort Snyder, Washington DC: Charles
May 26, 1865 Fort Snyder, Washington DC: Charles
June 3, 1865 Fort Snyder, Washington DC: Charles

1 – 5 Envelopes (10)

1 – 6 Photograph of Barr

1 – 7 Photocopies of bibliographic and unit information