Shortelle Family Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2018

Contact information:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Additional search options available at:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms018016

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm79005556

Prepared by Colleen Benoit Kim
Collection Summary
Title: Shortelle Family Papers
Span Dates: 1851-1866
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1861-1863)
ID No.: MSS5556
Creator: Shortelle Family
Extent: 50 items; 1 container; .2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Union army soldier and family members. Primarily correspondence concerning Robert E. Shortelle's service in 6th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment in Maryland and Virginia during the Civil War between 1861 and 1863.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Coburn, Margaret Rebecca, 1837-1923--Correspondence.
Coburn, Parly, 1835-1898--Correspondence.
Shortelle family.
Shortelle, Mary A., approximately 1816- --Correspondence.
Shortelle, Robert P., 1815-1859.

Organizations
United States Military Academy--Students.
United States. Army of the Potomac--Officers.
United States. Army--Military life.
United States. Army. Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, 35th (1861-1864)

Subjects
Gettysburg, Battle of, Gettysburg, Pa., 1863.

Places
Maryland--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Pennsylvania--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Washington (D.C.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Occupations
Soldiers.

Administrative Information
Provenance
The Shortelle Family Papers were given to the Library of Congress by Ray and Madeline Vail in 1969, with an addition given by James Shortelle Maas and Elma Maas in 2018.
Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Shortelle family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Shortelle family are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Shortelle Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Notes

Robert P. Shortelle

Date       Event
1815 Mar. 5  Born, County Tipperary, Ireland
1833        Married Mary Finn
1836        Immigrated to the United States
1836-1859   Employed as shoemaker
1859 Nov. 8  Died, Le Raysville, Pa.

Mary A. Shortelle

Date       Event
circa 1816  Born, Carrick-on-Suir, Ireland
1833        Married Robert P. Shortelle (died 1859)
1836        Immigrated to the United States
1868        Married Azariah Champion (died 1884)

Margaret Rebecca Coburn

Date       Event
1837 Aug.   Born, New York, N.Y.
1860        Married Parly Coburn
1923        Died, Landsdowne, Pa.

Robert E. Shortelle

Date       Event
1843        Born
1861-1863  Private, 35th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, United States Army

1863 July 3  Died in battle, Gettysburg, Pa.

**James E. Shortelle**  
*Date*  
1849  Born

1871  Graduated, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.

1871 Aug. 5  Died, Elmira, N.Y.

**Parly Coburn**  
*Date*  
1835 Nov. 3  Born, Standing Stone, Pa.

1860  Married Margaret Rebecca Shortelle

1861-1864  First Lieutenant and Commissary, 12th Pennsylvania Cavalry, 113th Regiment, United States Army

1865-1898  Principal, School No. 3, Elmira, N.Y.

1898 Mar. 14  Died, Elmira, N.Y.

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of the Shortelle family span the years 1851 to 1866, with the bulk of the material dating between 1861 and 1863, during which time Robert E. Shortelle served as a private in the 35th Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteer Corps (35th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment) in the Civil War. The collection is organized alphabetically by correspondent.

The collection is comprised primarily of correspondence from Robert E. Shortelle to his mother, brother, sister, and brother-in-law while staying in various army encampments around the Washington D.C. area and in Maryland and Virginia between 1861 and 1863. Topics include camp life, regimental activities, generals who led the Army of the Potomac, expected military activity, family news, and later, reactions to Robert E. Shortelle's death after he was killed on the last day of the Battle of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863.

Letters from James Edward Shortelle, Margaret Rebecca Coburn, Mary A. Shortelle, and Parly Coburn are also included in this collection and primarily discuss family news. This collection also contains a photograph of James Edward Shortelle in his United States Military Academy cadet uniform and a certificate of citizenship for Robert P. Shortelle dated from 1851.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Coburn, Margaret Rebecca, 1863 Mar.-Aug.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Coburn, Parly, 1863-1864</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Shortelle, James Edward, 1863, 1866</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Shortelle, Mary A., 1863 May 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Shortelle, Robert E., 1861-1863</td>
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<td>(4 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Shortelle, Robert P., 1851</td>
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