

The David J. Jones papers (MSS 1063) are now available to researchers in the Cincinnati History Library and Archives.

David Jones (1831-1924) was an officer in the 1st Kentucky Volunteers, eventually earning the rank of Captain during his four years of service to the Union. Letters to his mother, sister and sweetheart (and future wife) trace his path from Camp Dennison to the Kanawha Valley in Virginia, and throughout Tennessee including battles in Murfreesboro and Shiloh as well as time spent at Camp Lytle near Bardstown, Kentucky and other places in between. In September of 1863 Jones was captured at Pea Vine Creek, Georgia and sent to a prison in Atlanta for a time before being transferred to Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. He was confined to Libby Prison until the night of February 9, 1864 when more than one-hundred men escaped through a tunnel they had surreptitiously dug in their prison floor. Jones and others broke out and continued running for several days, often being given food and shelter from slaves that they met along the way. After time to recuperate, Jones rejoined his regiment at Ooltewah, Tennessee in April 1864 and then in Resaca until June 18 where he mustered out.

Jones' letters discuss both the exciting and mundane aspects of war. He describes the scenery, his comrades and the people he encounters in the south. He also writes about his neighborhood in Cincinnati on High Street, now near Columbia Parkway, east of Martin Drive. Included in the collection are muster rolls that provide a nearly complete record of Company D of the 1st Kentucky Volunteers including members, ranks, arms and where they marched and camped from 1861-1863.

The inventory is available on the library's website <http://library.cincymuseum.org/> under "Archives and Manuscripts – New Interface." Some letters have been scanned and are available for viewing on the inventory.

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<http://library.cincymuseum.org/>
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Direct link to web version of the collection's finding aid:
<http://library.cincymuseum.org/starweb/archives/servlet.starweb>

Direct link to the pdf version of the collection's finding aid: <http://library.cincymuseum.org/archives/mss1000-1099/Mss1063-register.pdf>