

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Callahan-Buttomer Family, Correspondence, 1861-1881

LOCATION(S):

Mss. boxes "C"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

one manuscript box

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Gift of Edward F. Callahan, in honor of his father, Edward F. Callahan, Sr., 1992

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Dennis Callahan (1840-1911) and Timothy Callahan (1842-1862) were the sons of Jeremiah (-1845?) and Katherine Buckley Callahan (1810-1881). They emigrated, along with their mother and sister, Johanna, from Macroom, County Cork, Ireland, following the death of their father. At the time of the Civil War, both men enlisted in Company E, 19th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. During the Battle of White Oaks Swamp, Timothy was killed and Dennis injured and captured. Dennis returned home and married, on 1 October 1865, at Nashua, N.H., Elizabeth Dunning Stackpole (1842-1873). They had two children: Corydon Howard Callahan (1866-); and Lizzie Mildred Callahan (1868-), who eventually went by the name Stackpole.

Katherine Buckley Callahan married (second), in August 1847, Andrew Buttomer (1810-1881). They resided in West Bridgewater, Mass. and had four children: Ellen (1850?-1935?), a schoolteacher who married James Murphy (-), of Holbrook, Mass.; Mary (1852-1935), who never married and worked in domestic service; John (1854-); and Andrew (-).

This collection contains forty-six letters written during the period 1861 to 1881. The bulk of the collection consists of letters from Dennis and Timothy written during the Civil War and includes reports of health, weather, camp life, military duties, enemy encounters, and news of their regiment.

There are three Civil War letters regarding the death of Timothy and the wounding of Dennis. The first, dated 7 July 1862, from Lt. McNamara, was addressed to Mrs. Callahan (an obvious mistake); the second, dated 9 July 1862, from Peter C. Rourke, was addressed to Mrs. Buttomer; and the third, dated 18 July

1862, from Capt. A. Mahoney, was a reply to a letter from Mrs. Buttomer requesting that Dennis be sent home.

The collection also contains eight letters of a familial nature. There are three letters of family and general news to Dennis, one from his brother Timothy, dated 10 January 1861?, and two from his half-sister Ellen Buttomer, dated 25 April 1861 and 25 June 1861. There is also a letter from Mary Buttomer to her mother, undated, while she was working at Marion House in Marion, Mass., as a servant. The remaining four letters were written around the time of Katherine's death in 1881. There is a letter from Ellie M. O'Shea, of Macroom, Ireland, to her Cousin Ellie [Ellen Buttomer], dated 1 August 1881; a letter from Ellen to her mother, dated 10 September 1881; a letter from Katherine's sister, Nellie (Buckley) O'Shea, of Carrigapooka, Ireland, to her niece, Ellen, dated 21 November 1881, regarding Katherine's death; and a letter from Dan O'Shea, of Gurrane, to Ellen, also dated 21 November 1881.

See Contents List.

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CALLAHAN-BUTTOMER FAMILY, CORRESPONDENCE, 1861-1881
CONTENTS LIST

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Family letters, 1861-1881
2	Civil War letter, 1861
3	Civil War letters, 1862 January - May
4	Civil War letters, 1862 June - September
5	Envelopes [addressed to Mrs. Andrew Buttomer]
6	Envelopes [addressed to Mr. Dennis Callahan]
7	Envelopes [addressed to Miss Ellen Buttomer]