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COLLECTION GUIDE
MISCELLANEOUS MANUSCRIPT FILE

Mariah E. Ridings Papers
Collection Number: 137 THL MMF

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS: Collection is open to all researchers.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE: Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Processed by Buffy Knappenberger. Last updated September 2023.

EXTENT: 1 folder

DATE: 1865-1915

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Miscellaneous Manuscript Files (MMF) are small collections typically containing only a folder or two of materials. This folder contains the letters from Brevet Captain Eri Davidson Woodbury, Company B, 1st Vermont Cavalry to Mariah E. Ridings and two of her daughters from 1887 to 1916. Also included in the collection are two news articles concerning the accidental wounding of Mariah E. Ridings by a sergeant in Captain Woodbury's company on January 11, 1865.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL: Brevet Captain Eri Davidson Woodbury was serving as commander of Company B, 1st Vermont Cavalry on January 11, 1865 when a sergeant in his company accidentally discharged his carbine, wounding Mariah Ridings who was in a nearby house. Immediately after the shooting, Woodbury entered the house and gave aid to Mrs. Ridings as well as summoning a surgeon from his regiment. After the war, Woodbury, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery at the Battle of Cedar Creek, became superintendent of a military academy in Cheshire, Connecticut. He was married to Emma M. McChesney. Woodbury died on April 14, 1928 and is buried in Saint Peters Church Cemetery in Cheshire, Connecticut.

Mariah E. Funkhouser, who was born on October 14, 1829, married John W. Ridings on January 10, 1850. In 1852 the couple bought a home along Middle Road near Stephens City, VA. It was at this home, while standing behind her kitchen door, that Mrs. Ridings was accidentally shot by a sergeant from Woodbury's company. Ridings died on May 4, 1891 and is buried in Greenhill Cemetery in Stephens City, VA.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Varrial, Carla Franceschi, *The Ridings Family of Virginia*, self-published, 1985; Woodbury, Eri Davidson (1837-1928)

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Gift of Mrs. Benjamin L. Krouse

CONTAINER LIST:

Folder 1

Notes - Krouse, Mrs. Bertie (daughter of Mariah Ridings) no date, 4 leaves, manuscript

New clippings – two articles from *The Evening Star* by Kate McVicar (“Nemo”), no date, 3 leaves, printed

Correspondence

To	From	Location	Date	Type
Mrs. (Mariah) Ridings	Capt. E. D. Woodbury	Cheshire, CN	September 7, 1887	Typescript
Dear (Mariah) Mrs. Ridings	E. D. Woodbury	Cheshire, CN	December 16, 1889	Manuscript
Dear Mrs. (Mariah) Ridings	E. D. Woodbury	Cheshire, CN	April 2, 1890	Manuscript with envelope
Dear Miss (Bertie) Ridings	E. D. Woodbury	Cheshire, New Haven County, CN	January 16, 1896	Manuscript
Dear Miss (Bertie) Ridings	E. D. Woodbury	Cheshire, New Haven County, CN	July 9, 1896	Manuscript
Mrs. Hattie Ridings Sewell	E. D. Woodbury	Cheshire, CN	January 11, 1916	Typescript