

Joseph S. Lipe Family Letters Collection

Collection Overview

The Joseph S. Lipe Family Letters Collection consists of letters written primarily between Joseph S. Lipe and his wife Margaret from the period of 1861-1862. The letters contain information on the war, family, life at home, and information about Joseph's brothers (George, James, Abraham, and William) serving in the war. The letters are written on various types of paper with little punctuation, capitalization, or proper spelling. The family is from the Linwood Road area of Mooresville where they were farmers. Joseph, George, and James enlisted in 1861 in Company I, 7th Regiment N.C. Troops at Creswell Springs. Abraham and William enlisted in Company G, 5th Regiment N.C. Troops. All but William died in the war. The story of the Lipe family was written by Marvin (Ken) Brotherton in 1993 in his book *Civil War Tragedy: The Lipe Family Mooresville (Deep Well) North Carolina*. He did not publish all the letters but did publish some genealogy and family history of the Lipes.

Collection Summary

Creator:	Lipe, Joseph S.
Title:	Joseph S. Lipe Family Letters Collection
Dates:	1861-1892; bulk 1861-1862
Accession Number:	2024.006
Catalog Number:	090.091.05
Extent:	51 letters, 3 documents, 19 Confederate dollars
Language:	Eng
Access:	Open to research
Location:	Storage
Repository:	Local History and Archives, Mooresville Public Library 304 S. Main Street, Mooresville, NC 28115
Source of Acquisition:	Madeleine McArn
Compiled by:	Andy Poore

Scope and Content

51 letters written between 1861 to 1862 from various members of the Lipe family dealing with family life, events of the war, and life within the community. The letters are primarily between Joseph S. and his wife Margaret. There is also one agreement between Joseph and his neighbors agreeing for them to watch after his wife and family while is away at war. Some letters are double letters on the same sheet. The letters have been removed from their envelopes with the envelopes filed separately by the donor. Some of the envelopes have stamps and have been canceled with a post mark. One letter is dated 1887, and one is dated 1892. There are 51 letters, 19 Confederate dollar bills, and 3 documents.

The 19 Confederate dollars from various states and for various amounts that were saved by the family. The dollars are printed on different types of paper in various inks and colors. There are photocopies of the dollars as well that were made by the donor's family.

Extent

One box, 80 folders: 51 letters, handwritten; 20 envelopes some stamped and canceled; 3 documents of various subjects; 19 Confederate dollars, primarily North Carolina and of various amounts. Letters and documents have not been transcribed at this time.

Biographical Sketch

The Elias Lipe family were farmers in the Mooresville area along what is now Linwood Road. Elias Lipe had 5 sons who served in the Civil War. His sons were James, Joseph, George, Abraham, and William. James, Joseph, and George enlisted in 1861 in Company I, 7th Regiment N.C. Troops at Creswell Springs, and Abraham and William enlisted in Company G, 5th Regiment N.C. Troops. While a few of the letters in the collection were written by Elias Lipe, the bulk of the letters were primarily written between Joseph Lipe and his wife Margaret Brawley Lipe. The letters typically contain information about life at home and the experiences of Joseph and his brothers in the war. Also included are letters sent to Margaret regarding Joseph's death. Some of the letters were used by Marvin (Ken) Brotherton in his book *Civil War Tragedy* about the Lipe family. The book includes stories about Lipe family history and genealogy that were told to the author by the family. The family held onto the letters and passed them down through the generations until they were donated to the Archives. In addition, LHA staff pulled copies of the muster rolls of the brothers that served in the war to supplement the letters.

Series in Collection

None.

Arrangement

The documents are in the order in which the donor brought them. The letters were originally in an archival box and display folders as placed by a member of the donor's family. The letters have been placed in a new archival box and folders arranged based on the date of each letter.

Separated Material

None.

Preferred Citation

The Joseph S. Lipe Family Letters Collection (SpC 090.091.05). Local History and Archives, Mooresville Public Library, Mooresville, North Carolina.

Collection Rights Statement

LHA provides access to these materials for educational and research purposes only.

Index Terms

Material Types:

Documents
Printed materials
Currency

Places:

Mooreville, North Carolina
Iredell County, North Carolina
North Carolina

Subjects

Mooreville (N.C.)
Families
Letters
Life
Lipe family

People
Mooreville (N.C.) families
Correspondences
Battles
Civil War

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access:

- Open to all users.
- Use is only in Local History and Archives room.
- A minimum of three business days advance notice is required.
- Only access to one box at a time is permitted.
- Copies must be made by the Local History & Archives staff.
- Rare and fragile items are restricted for preservation.
- Longer advance notice may be required for any audiovisual materials, such as films, oral histories, etc. that do not have an access copy already created.

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- Materials that are restricted by donor, law, or policies will not be made accessible until such time as the restriction or law has expired. Consult LHA staff for details.

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