

Inventory of the

**F. E. Griffith Family**  
Sandwich, Illinois

Correspondence

In the

Regional History Center

**RC 89**

## INTRODUCTION

Mr. William C. Burrows donated the Griffith Family Papers to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on March 14, 1980.

Property rights in the collection are held by the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: .75  
Number of containers: 2  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 89

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Griffith Family Papers collection is a three generation chronicle of the Frank E. Griffith family containing letters, photographs, and legal documents dating from the late 1700's to 1938. The major series of this collection consists of letters Frank Griffith sent home during his military service in the Civil War (1862-1865), and several letters from other family members. These letters are a unique primary source providing insights on the Union Army attitudes and revealing the struggles between family members during war-time separation. A songbook, poetry, and recipes complete the collection.

The original Griffith Family correspondence located in Box 2 is not open to the public. Researchers will use photocopies and typed transcripts of the original letters.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Frank Elnathan Griffith and his wife, Thankful Myers, lived in East Concord and later Evans, Erie County, New York. During the Civil War Frank Griffith served with Company K. of the 116th Regiment of the New York State Volunteer Infantry, primarily in the vicinity of New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. After being wounded in April 1864, Griffith was transferred to the Invalid Corps and finished his tour of duty in Washington, D.C. The family moved to Sandwich, DeKalb County, Illinois in 1876. Frank and Thankful had one son, Edwin Clare, and four daughters Carrie Annette, Gertrude Mary, Cora Elsie, and Harriet, the eldest two "Nettie" and "Gertie" are mentioned in the letters. Mr. Griffith was employed as a carpenter and contractor. On March 23, 1877 Griffith helped found the Excelsior Lodge No. 67 of the Ancient Order of United Workmen (A.O.U.W.) in Sandwich, Illinois. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Sandwich Post, No. 510. Frank E. Griffith died November 17, 1921 at the age of 86.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Civil War Correspondence  
 Griffith Family  
 Poetry  
 Recipes  
 Sandwich, Illinois  
 Songbooks

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Excerpts from Correspondence
	2-6	Correspondence Transcribed, 1862-1866
	7-11	Photocopies of Correspondence, 1862-1866
	12	Legal Documents, (1794-1926)
	13	Poetry, (1837, 1847, n.d.)
	14	Recipes, n.d.
	15	Academic Papers, Carrie A. Griffith, 1876
	16	Sandwich High School Yearbook, 1915
	17	Songbook, n.d.
	18	Methodist Church, Centennial Publication, 1838-1938
	19	Memorabilia, n.d.
	1 Env.	Photographs Identified (2) Edna Minard, DeKalb, IL, 1914, David Griffith Bernard, Sandwich, IL, ca. 1918
	1 Env.	Unidentified Ferrotypes (2), n.d.
	1 Env.	Unidentified Photographs (2), n.d.

Oversize

Drawer 17, Folder 6

Plano News, Ladies Souvenir Edition, Jan. 1, 1898  
 Legal Documents and Correspondence, (1797-1863), (5)

**Not Open to the Public**

2

1-5

Correspondence, 1862-1866