

**Albert N. Ames, 1838-1864  
Papers, 1857-1890; bulk, 1861-1864**

**SC12224**

**QUANTITY:** 1 box (0.25 cubic ft.)  
**ACCESS:** Open to research  
**ALTERNATIVE  
FORMAT:** Available on microfilm: MB/FM,973.7447,A44 99-18488  
**ACQUISITION:** Gift; Clare Ames Hale, December 1950  
**PROCESSED BY:** David S. Moore, Manuscripts & Special Collections, May 1984; revised  
November 2010

**Biographical Note:**

Albert N. Ames was born October 15, 1838, in Oswego, New York. His mother died when he was eleven, whereupon an older sister took custody of him for the next eight years. Albert's father, Cheney Ames, a state legislator, subsequently remarried and reassembled the family in Oswego. Albert worked at a local factory and trained in a militia group in late 1860 through the summer of 1861, when he enlisted in the First New York Light Artillery being organized in part by his cousin Nelson Ames.

The regiment was trained at the Elmira barracks in the fall of 1861 and Albert was elected sergeant major of Battery D. Nelson was elected first lieutenant before the unit shipped out to Camp Barry, near Washington, D.C. for the winter. The battery came under fire for the first time in early March 1862, at the same time Albert was promoted to second lieutenant. Later that month the battery was transferred to Hooker's Division of the Third Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, and accompanied that unit to the Virginia Peninsula the following month. Battery D saw plenty of action in the Peninsula campaign but when the Army moved north for the Maryland campaign in late summer of 1862, it was detached and left near Washington on guard duty. During the Fredericksburg campaign Ames and his mates temporarily were attached to the Ninth Corps, where it saw action.

In the spring of 1863, Battery D found itself back in the Third Corps, where they performed "heavy service" in the bloody Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and Mine Run campaigns. In December 1863, Albert was promoted to first lieutenant of Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> New York Artillery, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps of the Army of the Potomac. He remained in this outfit for the duration of his service. He was present for all the trials of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps throughout the Wilderness (where his battery participated in Upton's famous assault and captured nine Rebel guns), Spotsylvania, and Petersburg campaigns. It was at the latter place while inspecting the lines with Captain Nelson Ames, that Albert was fatally wounded by a Rebel sharpshooter. This was only one week after Albert's original enlistment had expired, but due to a law passed forcing officers to remain for the duration of the war, he had not gone home with many of his enlisted friends.

**Scope and Content Note:**

These papers consist chiefly of letters related to the military service of Albert Ames during the Civil War. The letters were sent mostly to his family in Oswego, New York, or to his father in Albany, New York. In addition to descriptions of battles and campaigns, the letters contain much information about camp life, army gossip, comments on patriotism. Albert was a conscientious young man who fought solely for the reunion of his country and he never mentions slavery as an issue worth fighting about. The collection includes a small pocket diary kept by Albert from May 3 to September 16, 1864, which details daily activities and accounts of mess (food) supplied to officers in Battery G for September 1864; obituaries, letters of condolence, and other papers concerning his death; and a historical and biographical sketch about Albert that was written in 1890 by Nelson Ames, who later wrote a book about the 1st N.Y. Light Artillery in the war.

### Inventory of Documents

Box	Folder	Description
1	0	Family history and genealogy
		<b>Correspondence, 1861-1864</b>
1	1	Letters to Albert N. Ames, ca. 1864 (2 items) a. From mother [Katie Brown Ames], n.d. b. From G.F. McKnight, Buffalo, [N.Y.], September 12, 1864
1	2	Letters from Albert N. Ames to family, September 29, 1861-January 26, 1862 (8 items) a. Barracks no. 3, Elmira, [N.Y.], September 29, 1861 b. Barracks no. 3, Elmira, [N.Y.], October 3, 1861 c. Camp Barry, Washington, D.C., November 22, 1861 d. Camp Barry, [Washington, D.C.], January 6, 186[2] e. Camp Barry, [Washington, D.C.], January 15, 1862 f. Camp Barry, [Washington, D.C.], January 16, 1862 g. Camp Barry, [Washington, D.C.], January 23, 1862 h. Camp Barry, [Washington, D.C.], January 26, 1862
1	3	Letters from Albert N. Ames to family, February 11, 1862-April 3, 1862 (8 items) a. Camp Barry, [Washington, D.C.], February 11, 1862 b. H.Q. Division Artillery, Hooker's Div., March 7, 1862 c. H.Q. Division Artillery, Hooker's Div., March 15, 1862 d. H.Q. Division Artillery, Hooker's Div., March 21, 1862 (to father) e. H.Q. Division Artillery, Hooker's Div., March 21, 1862 f. Camp Hooker, March 24, 1862 g. Camp Hooker, Lower Potomac, Md., March 30, 1862 h. Camp Hooker, Lower Potomac, Md., April 3, 1862
1	4	Letters from Albert N. Ames to family, April 14, 1862-May 27, 1862 (7 items) a. [Camp] 5 miles from Yorktown, Va., April 14, 1862 b. Camp on Cheeseman's Creek, Va., April 18, 1862 c. Camp Winfield Scott before Yorktown, [Va.], April 27, 1862 d. Camp near Williamsburg, [Va.], May 8, 1862 e. Camp in Kent Co., Va., about a mile from the forks of roads to West Point..., May 14, 1862

Box	Folder	Description
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. Camp at Baltimore Crossroads, Va., May 20, 1862</li> <li>g. Camp near White Oak Swamp about two miles from Bottom's Bridge, Va., May 27, 1862</li> </ul>
1	5	<p>Letters from Albert N. Ames to family, June 8, 1862-August 21, 1862 (12 items)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Camp near Seven Pines, Va., June 8, 1862</li> <li>b. Camp near Seven Pines, Va., June 11, 1862</li> <li>c. Camp near Seven Pines, Va., June 17, 1862</li> <li>d. Camp near Seven Pines, Va., June 22, 1862</li> <li>e. Camp on the James River, July 4, 1862</li> <li>f. Camp near City Point, Va., July 7, 1862</li> <li>g. Camp near City Point, Va., July 11, 1862</li> <li>h. Camp near Harrison's Landing, Va., July 15, 1862</li> <li>i. Harrison's Landing, Va., July 26, 1862</li> <li>j. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, July 31, 1862</li> <li>k. Harrison's Landing, Va., August 14, 1862</li> <li>l. Camp near Yorktown, Va., August 21, 1862</li> </ul>
1	6	<p>Letters from Albert N. Ames to family, September 8, 1862-October 29, 1862 (9 items)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Camp near Fort Lyon, Va., September 8, 1862</li> <li>b. Washington, September 13, 1862</li> <li>c. Camp near Fairfax Seminary, Va., September 17, 1862</li> <li>d. Grover's Division, Fairfax Seminary, Va., September 20, 1862</li> <li>e. Near Fairfax Seminary, Va., October 2, 1862</li> <li>f. Near Fairfax Seminary, Va., October 8, 1862</li> <li>g. Camp near Fort Lyon, October 8, 1862</li> <li>h. Camp near Fort Lyon, October 26, 1862</li> <li>i. Near Fairfax Seminary, [Va.], October 29, 1862</li> </ul>
1	7	<p>Letters from Albert N. Ames to family, November 5, 1862-December 22, 1862 (9 items)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Camp at Bristow Station, November 5, 1862</li> <li>b. Camp near Manassas Junction, [Va.], November 10, 1862</li> <li>c. In a rebel fort at Centerville, Va., November 16, 1862</li> <li>d. Camp near Falmouth, Va., November 28, 1862</li> <li>e. Camp near Falmouth, Va., December 2, 1862 (to father)</li> <li>f. Camp near Falmouth, Va., December 2, 1862 (to brother)</li> <li>g. Camp opposite Fredericksburg, Va., December 7, 1862</li> <li>h. [Camp] opposite Fredericksburg, [Va.], December 18, 1862</li> <li>i. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Burns Div., 9<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, December 22, 1862</li> </ul>
1	8	<p>Letters from Albert N. Ames to family, January 1, 1863-February 24, 1863 (13 items)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. [Camp] opposite Fredericksburg, [Va.], January 1, 1863</li> <li>b. [Camp] opposite Fredericksburg, [Va.], January 11, 1863</li> <li>c. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Burns Div., January 14, 1863</li> <li>d. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Burns Div., January 16, 1863</li> </ul>

Box	Folder	Description
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Burns Div., January 16, 1863 (to brother)</li> <li>f. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Burns Div., January 18, 1863</li> <li>g. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Burns Div., January 24, 1863</li> <li>h. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Burns Div., January 25, 1863</li> <li>i. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Burns Div., February 1, 1863 (to father)</li> <li>j. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Burns Div., February 1, 1863 (to sister)</li> <li>k. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Burns Div., February 6, 1863</li> <li>l. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Burns Div., February 9, 1863</li> <li>m. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Sickles Div., February 24, 1863</li> </ul>
1	9	<p>Letters from Albert N. Ames to family, March 8, 1863-April 19, 1863 (9 items)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Camp near Falmouth, Va., March 8, 1863</li> <li>b. Camp near Falmouth, Va., March 10, 1863</li> <li>c. Camp near Falmouth, Va., March 10, 1863 (to mother)</li> <li>d. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Berrey's Div., 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, March 22, 1863</li> <li>e. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Berrey's Div., Sickles Corps, March 29, 1863</li> <li>f. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Berrey's Div., April 5, 1863</li> <li>g. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Berrey's Div., April 9, 1863</li> <li>h. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Berrey's Div., April 12, 1863</li> <li>i. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Berrey's Div., April 19, 1863</li> </ul>
1	10	<p>Letters from Albert N. Ames to family, May 4, 1863-May 31, 1863 (9 items)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Camp near Chancellorsville, Va., May 4, 1863</li> <li>b. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Carr's Div., May 7, 1863</li> <li>c. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, Carr's Div., May 10, 1863</li> <li>d. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, May 15, 1863</li> <li>e. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, May 17, 1863</li> <li>f. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, May 26, 1863</li> <li>g. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, May 27, 1863</li> <li>h. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, May 31, 1863</li> <li>i. Fragment of an undated letter, possibly May 1863</li> </ul>
1	11	<p>Letters from Albert N. Ames to family, June 19, 1863-August 30, 1863 (9 items)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Centerville, Va., June 19, 1863</li> <li>b. Gum Springs, June 22, 1863</li> <li>c. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, June 30, 1863</li> <li>d. Camp near Middletown, Md., July 9, 1863</li> <li>e. Near Hillsborough, Va., July 17, 1863</li> <li>f. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, August 9, 1863</li> <li>g. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, August 16, 1863</li> <li>h. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, August 18, 1863</li> <li>i. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, August 30, 1863</li> </ul>
1	12	<p>Letters from Albert N. Ames to family, September 15, 1863-December 25, 1863 (15 items)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, [early September 1863] (fragment)</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, September 15, 1863</li> <li>c. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, September 18, 1863</li> <li>d. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, September 23, 1863</li> <li>e. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, September 28, 1863</li> <li>f. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, October 18, 1863</li> <li>g. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, October 23, 1863</li> <li>h. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, October 28, 1863</li> <li>i. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, November 11, 1863 (father)</li> <li>j. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, November 11, 1863 (brother)</li> <li>k. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, November 13, 1863</li> <li>l. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, November 14, 1863</li> <li>m. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, December 4, 1863</li> <li>n. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, December 12, 1863</li> <li>o. H.Q. Battery D, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, December 25, 1863</li> </ul>
1	13	<p>Letters from Albert N. Ames to family, January 14, 1864-May 29, 1864 (10 items) – written at winter quarters near Warrenton Junction, the Wilderness, and Petersburg, Virginia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, January 14, 1864</li> <li>b. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, January 17, 1864</li> <li>c. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, February 21, 1864 (father)</li> <li>d. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, February 21, 1864 (mother)</li> <li>e. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, March 13, 1864</li> <li>f. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, April 4, 1864</li> <li>g. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, April 13, 1864</li> <li>h. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, May 16, 1864</li> <li>i. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, May 20, 1864</li> <li>j. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, May 29, 1864</li> </ul>
1	14	<p>Letters from Albert N. Ames to family, June 22, 1864-September 21, 1864 (12 items)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, June 22, 1864</li> <li>b. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, June 30, 1864</li> <li>c. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, July 12, 1864</li> <li>d. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, July 19, 1864</li> <li>e. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, July 22, 1864</li> <li>f. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, July 23, 1864</li> <li>g. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, August 1, 1864</li> <li>h. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, August 5, 1864</li> <li>i. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, August 12, 1864</li> <li>j. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, September 3, 1864</li> <li>k. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, September 12, 1864</li> <li>l. H.Q. Battery G, 1<sup>st</sup> N.Y. Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, September 21, 1864</li> </ul>
		<b>Ancillary Papers, 1857-1890</b>
1	15	<p>School Compositions of Albert N. Ames - ca. 1857 (4 items)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. "Railroads"</li> <li>b. "Railroads"</li> </ul>

Box	Folder	Description
		c. "Schools" d. "Gases"
1	16	Diary of Albert N. Ames - May 3, 1864-September 25, 1864 (1 item)
1	17	Letters of condolence, etc., concerning death of Albert Ames, September 27, 1864-June 30, 1890 (10 items) a) Charles S. Wainwright, September 27, 1864 b) Orrin North, October 1, 1864 c) E.A. Nelson, October 2, 1864 d) C. Treadway, October 2, 1864 e) S.N. and W.C. Harp, October 2, 1864 f) Andrew D. White, October 5, 1864 g) Cornelia Grant, October 6, 1864 h) George Cook, October 14, 1864 i) Charles S. Wainwright, February 12, 1865 j) Nelson Ames, June 3, 1890
1	18	Miscellaneous a) Letter: J.W. Osborn to Cheney Ames, September 9, 1863 b) Military pass and other items relating to Albert's service. December 18, 1861-late 1863 (4 items) c) Obituaries of Albert N. Ames (2 items)

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