John R. Siperly papers

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John R. Siperly papers

Descriptive Summary

Title: John R. Siperly papers
Inclusive Dates: 1845-1958
Collection Number: mssSiperly
Collector: Siperly, John R.
Extent: 3 boxes
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens

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Abstract: The John R. Siperly papers primarily consist of correspondence to and from John R. Siperly, 22nd Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, before and during the Civil War.

Language of Material: The records are in English.

Access
Collection is open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, please go to following web site.

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Preferred Citation

Acquisition Information

Biography
John R. Siperly was born in 1837. He was the son of Peter and Elizabeth Siperly.

Prior to the war, his family and he eked out a living off the land, in Walworth County, Wisconsin. The family was engaged in farming and hauling. Short of his 25th birthday, John R. Siperly joined the 22nd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, which was formed in September 1862, at Racine, Wisconsin. - Goldsmid & Allen Appraisals, 2017

Scope and Content
This collection covers a broad range of subjects in the antebellum, Civil War, and World War I periods of American history.

The correspondence of John R. Siperly, a Wisconsin carpenter turned Civil War soldier, includes his letters and letters he received from friends and family in Walworth County, Wisconsin. Siperly's letters discuss military service, including the Atlanta campaign and March to the Sea; assisting fugitive slaves; work at the field hospital, (including a detailed description of treating Andersonville survivors); his take on the war; and political news. Letters from home include correspondence from his young nieces (including Harriet F. Bailey (1833-1921), later a California artist specializing in industrial design) and other young women who had organized a campaign of writing to soldiers. The topics discussed in these letters include local, state, and national news; schools and teachers; and Copperheads. Also present are letters of Arnold J. Miracle, private of the 13th Regiment of U.S. Engineers stationed in Belgium and France during World War I.

Arrangement
Box 1: Correspondence; Box 2: Correspondence; and Box 3: Documents, manuscripts, and ephemera.

Personal Names
Bailey, Harriet F.
Bailey, Philene Tuttle, 1842-1919
Bell, Lucilia C. Bailey
Miracle, Arnold J.
Siperly, John R.
Siperly, Fred W.

Corporate Names
United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces
United States. Army -- Military life
United States. Army. Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, 22nd (1862-1865)

Subjects
Atlanta Campaign, 1864
Families -- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
Farmers -- Wisconsin
Soldiers -- Wisconsin
Teachers -- Wisconsin
Women -- Wisconsin
World War, 1914-1918 -- United States
Young women -- Wisconsin

Geographic Areas
Walworth County (Wis.)
United States -- Armed Forces -- History -- World War, 1914-1918
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Genre
Letters (correspondence)

Box 1
Folder 1 Correspondence: Armstrong - Siperly
Armstrong, Henry letters to John R. Siperly, (1862-1863)
Benton Barracks, Saint Louis (Mo.)
2 items

Folder 2 Bailey, Ginnie letters to John R. Siperly, (1863-1865)
School children; Women teachers
2 items

Folder 3 Bailey, Harriet F. letter to [Jennie Safford Smith], [undated]
Young women
1 item

Folder 4 Bailey, Harriet F. letters to John R. Siperly, (1862-1864)
Young women
14 items

Folder 5 Bailey, Harriet F. letters to [John R. Siperly], [undated]
Young women
Included: Fragments
3 items

Folder 6 Bailey, Philene Tuttle, 1842-1919 letters to John R. Siperly, (1862-1864)
8 items
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bell, Lucilia C. Bailey, 1847- letters to John R. Siperly, (1863-1964) African Americans; Copperhead movement; Women teachers; Young women 16 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Church, Orville letter to “Dear wife &amp; children,” (1854, June 25) Possibly John R. Siperly’s father-in-law 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Clark, David H. letters to John R. Siperly, (1854-1855) Courtship 2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Clark, George letter to John R. Siperly, (1864, Feb. 11) Location: Chattanooga (Tenn.) 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ferow, Cyrus E., 1835-1907 letters to John R. Siperly, (1862-1863) Farmers 2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Hall, Elnora letters to John R. Siperly, (1862-1865) Wisconsin -- Religious life and customs; Young women 5 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Hall, H. letter to John R. Siperly, (1862, Sep. 9) 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Hall, Nora letter to John R. Siperly, (1865, Apr. 30) Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1865; Teachers; Young women 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Irving, Irene letter to John R. Siperly, (1863, July 9) Courtship 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Safford, Jennie letters to John R. Siperly, (1862) Teachers; Young women 2 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Folder 20  Safford, LM letters to John R. Siperly, (1862-1863)
            2 items

Folder 21  Sharp, H.J. letters to John R. Siperly, (1862-1863)
            Location: Delavan (Wis.)
            2 items

Folder 22  Sharp, J.W. letter to John R. Siperly, (1863, June 28)
            Location: Delavan (Wis.)
            1 item

Folder 23  Sheldon, Selinda E. letter to John R. Siperly, [1863], (Sep. 21)
            Walworth County (Wis.)
            With envelope
            1 item

Folder 24  Siperly, Fred W. letters to ----- -----, (1851-1870)
            Primarily to John R. Siperly
            Included: Fragments
            10 items

Folder 25  [Siperly, John R.] letter to ----- -----, (1845, June 24 and 1845, July)
            Incomplete?

Box 2  Correspondence: Siperly - Unidentified
Folder 1  Siperly, John R. letter to [Fred W. Siperly], (1858, Apr. 7)
            1 item

Folder 2  Siperly, John R. letter to [Samuel W. Bar], [1858?]
            1 item

Folder 3  Siperly, John R. letter to ----- -----, [1860s]
            Incomplete
            4 items

Folder 4  Siperly, John R. letter to Peter and Elizabeth Siperly, (1862, Jan. 8)
            Location: Camp near Danville (Ky.)
            1 item

Folder 5  Siperly, John R. letter to Peter and Elizabeth Siperly, (1862, Sep. 9)
            Location: Camp Utley, Racine (Wis.)
            1 item

Folder 6  Siperly, John R. letter to Peter Siperly, (1862, Nov. 18)
            1 item

Folder 7  Siperly, John R. letter to “Friends at home,” (1862, Nov. 26)
            Location: Camp Coburn, Kentucky
            With envelope
            1 item
Folder 8  
**Siperly, John R. letter to “Friends at home,” (1862, Dec. 1)**  
**Location:** Camp Coburn, Kentucky  
1 item

Folder 9  
**Siperly, John R. letter to “Dear friends at home,” (1862, Dec. 25)**  
**Location:** Danville (Ky.)  
1 item

Folder 10  
**Siperly, John R. letter to ----- -----, (1862, Dec. 28)**  
1 item

Folder 11  
**Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1863, Jan. 24)**  
**Location:** Camp near Danville (Ky.)  
1 item

Folder 12  
**Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1863, Feb. 7)**  
**Location:** Cumberland River (Ky. And Tenn.)  
1 item

Folder 13  
**Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly “Sister, and friends all,” (1863, Feb. 11)**  
**Location:** Camp near Nashville (Tenn.)  
1 item

Folder 14  
**Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1863, Feb. 16)**  
**Location:** Camp near Nashville (Tenn.)  
1 item

Folder 15  
**Siperly, John R. letter to Peter Siperly, (1863, Feb. 20)**  
**Location:** Camp near Nashville (Tenn.)  
1 item

Folder 16  
**Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1863, Apr. 23)**  
**Location:** Benton Barracks, Missouri  
1 item

Folder 17  
**Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1863, May 27)**  
**Location:** Camp Jackson, Saint Louis (Mo.)  
1 item

Folder 18  
**Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1863, June 14)**  
**Location:** In Depot at New Albany (Ind.)  
With envelope  
1 item

Folder 19  
**Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1863, June 17)**  
**Location:** Camp near Nashville (Tenn.)  
1 item

Folder 20  
**Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1863, July 24)**  
**Location:** Murfreesboro (Tenn.)  
1 item
Folder 21
Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1863, Aug. 20)
  Location: Murfreesboro (Tenn.)
  With envelope
  1 item

Folder 22
Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1863, Sep. 3)
  Location: Murfreesboro (Tenn.)
  1 item

Folder 23
Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1863, Sep. 11)
  Location: Murfreesboro (Tenn.)
  With envelope
  1 item

Folder 24
Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1863, Sep. 26)
  Location: Murfreesboro (Tenn.)
  With envelope
  1 item

Folder 25
Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1863, Oct. 9)
  Location: Murfreesboro (Tenn.)
  With envelope
  1 item

Folder 26
Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1863, Nov. 11)
  Location: Murfreesboro (Tenn.)
  1 item

Folder 27
Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1863, Dec. 7)
  Location: Murfreesboro (Tenn.)
  1 item

Folder 28
Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1863, Dec. 15)
  Location: Murfreesboro (Tenn.)
  With envelope
  1 item

Folder 29
Siperly, John R. letter to ----- -----, [1863]
  1 item
  Incomplete

Folder 30
Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, Jan. 31)
  Location: Robertsville (S.C.)
  With envelope
  1 item

Folder 31
Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, Feb. 9)
  Location: Fort Overall
  1 item
Folder 32  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, Feb. 27)
    Location: Fort Negley, Nashville (Tenn.)
    With envelope
    1 item

Folder 33  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, Mar. 25)
    Location: Camp at Nashville (Tenn.)
    With envelope
    1 item

Folder 34  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, Apr. 2)
    Location: Camp at Nashville (Tenn.)
    1 item

Folder 35  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, Apr. 5)
    Location: Goldsboro (N.C.)
    With envelope
    1 item

Folder 36  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, Apr. 13)
    Location: Camp at Nashville (Tenn.)
    1 item

Folder 37  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, Apr. 18)
    Location: Camp at Nashville (Tenn.)
    With envelope
    1 item

Folder 38  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, Apr. 21)
    Location: In Camp at Murfreesboro (Tenn.)
    1 item

Folder 39  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, May 12)
    Location: Camp in the field, South Dakota
    1 item

Folder 40  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, May 31)
    Location: General field hospital, Resaca (Ga.)
    1 item

Folder 41  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, June 9)
    Location: General field hospital, Resaca (Ga.)
    1 item

Folder 42  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, June 26)
    Location: Near Marietta (Ga.)
    1 item

Folder 43  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, June 30)
    Location: General field hospital, Kennesaw (Ga.)
    1 item
Folder 44  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, July 5)  
   Location: Cartersville (Ga.)  
   1 item

Folder 45  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, July 18)  
   Location: General field hospital, Marietta (Ga.)  
   1 item

Folder 46  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, Aug. 21)  
   Location: General field hospital, Vinings (Ga.)  
   1 item

Folder 47  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, Sep. 22)  
   Location: General field hospital, Atlanta (Ga.)  
   With envelope  
   1 item

Folder 48  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, Oct. 22)  
   Location: General field hospital, Atlanta (Ga.)  
   1 item

Folder 49  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, Oct. 23)  
   Location: Atlanta (Ga.)  
   With envelope  
   1 item

Folder 50  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, Nov. 3)  
   Location: Atlanta (Ga.)  
   1 item

Folder 51  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, Nov. 7)  
   Location: In camp near Atlanta (Ga.)  
   1 item

Folder 52  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, Dec. 21)  
   Location: On bank of Savannah River near Savanna (Ga.)  
   With envelope  
   1 item

Folder 53  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1864, Dec. 23)  
   Location: Camp near Savannah (Ga.)  
   1 item

Folder 54  Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, [1864]  
   Location: General field hospital, Atlanta (Ga.)  
   1 item

Folder 55  Siperly, John R. letter to [Elizabeth and Peter Siperly], [1864]  
   African Americans; Fugitive slaves  
   Incomplete  
   1 item
Folder 56  
**Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1865, Mar. 12)**  
**Location:** Camp near Fayetteville (N.C.)  
1 item

Folder 57  
**Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1865, Apr. 14)**  
**Location:** Camp at Raleigh (N.C.)  
With envelope  
1 item

Folder 58  
**Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1865, Apr. 18)**  
**Location:** Camp at Raleigh (N.C.)  
With envelope  
1 item

Folder 59  
**Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1865, Apr. 24)**  
**Location:** Raleigh (N.C.)  
1 item

Folder 60  
**Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1865, May 20)**  
**Location:** Camp near Alexandria (Va.)  
With envelope  
1 item

Folder 61  
**Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1865, May 31)**  
**Location:** Camp near Washington (D.C.)  
With envelope  
1 item

Folder 62  
**Siperly, John R. letter to Elizabeth and Peter Siperly, (1865, June 11)**  
**Location:** Camp near Washington (D.C.)  
With envelope  
1 item

Folder 63  
**Siperly, John R. letters to ----- -----, (1870-1907)**  
Primarily letters to Fred W. Siperly  
16 items

Folder 64  
**Siperly, Peter letters to John R. Siperly, (1862-1864)**  
9 items  
Included: Fragment

Folder 65  
**Siperly, R.H. letter to John R. Siperly, (1861, Sep.)**  
**Location:** Effingham County (Ill.)  
1 item

Folder 66  
**Siperly, Sarah A. letters to ----- -----, [undated]**  
Included: Fragment  
2 items

Folder 67  
**Vroman, T.N. letters to John R. Siperly, (1863, July 11)**  
**Location:** Walworth County (Wis.)  
With envelope
Folder 68  
**Ward, Augusta M. letters to John R. Siperly, (1863-1864)**  
2 items

Folder 69  
-----, Harold letters to “Dear Sister” and “Dear Sister and Brother,” (1918)  
2 items

Folder 70  
----- ----- letters to John R. Siperly, (1862-1907)  
Miscellaneous  
8 items

Folder 71  
----- ----- letters to John E. Spriggs, (1874-1877)  
Miscellaneous  
3 items

Folder 72  
----- ----- letters to ----- -----, (1857-1906)  
Miscellaneous  
Included: Lucy Jane; Mrs. Joseph Bailey; [Henry Travers?]; W.W.S.; Peter Siperly; and fragments  
14 items

Box 3  
**Documents, manuscripts, and ephemera**  
**Bonds -- Confederate States of America, (1865-1880)**  
3 items

Folder 2  
**Business cards, [undated]**  
2 items

Folder 3  
**Circulars -- United States. Pension Bureau, (1891, Apr. 2)**  
Circular No. 1  
Included: Receipt from Pension Bureau dated April 3, 1907

Folder 4  
**Clippings (information artifacts), (1864-1926)**  
Miscellaneous  
12 items

Folder 5  
**Crafts (art genres) -- Bailey, Harriet F., [undated]**  
Artwork on plum pits, pumpkin seeds, and apple seeds  
6 items

Folder 6  
**Empty envelopes, (1864-1904)**  
37 items

Folder 7  
**Empty envelopes, (1917-1958)**  
8 items

Folder 8  
**Financial documents -- Siperly family, (1863-1910)**  
Primarily from Wisconsin. Office of the State Treasurer

Folder 9  
**[Journals (accounts)] -- Siperly, John R., (1858)**  
Included: Accounts and technical drawings
Folder 10  **Legal documents -- Siperly family, (1858-1889)**
     Miscellaneous

Folder 11  **Manuscripts (documents), [undated]**
     Miscellaneous essays and poems
     Fragile
     11 items

Folder 12  **Notes, (1871)**
     Miscellaneous
     5 items

Folder 13  **Photographs -- Miracle, Arnold J., [1917]**
     13 items

Folder 14  **Printed ephemera -- Miracle, Arnold J., (1917-1918)**
     Windy City Echo vol. 1, no. 1 and vol. 1, no. 9; target score cards; French map; General Orders for Interior Guard Duty; and “U.S. Soldiers Running Trains in War Zone” clipping, (1917, Sep. 21)