

Guide to the **Ostrom Civil War Letters**

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COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This collection contains various letters and personal effects of Corporal Lyman Ostrom. Born in Nassau, NY on January 15, 1834, Lyman was a soldier in the 169th New York Infantry Regiment, fighting for the Union during the Civil War. Lyman was killed during battle at Chester Station, VA, and his remains buried and identified as well as possible with a makeshift headstone. During the war, deceased soldiers were buried as quickly as possible –if at all- due to the timing and nature of battle. Lyman lived with his wife, Elizabeth Smith Ostrom, and their son, William Lyman, in Trumansburg, NY. He sang bass in the choir of the Dutch Reform Church, in which his father, Cyrus Ostrom, sang tenor and directed. Lyman lived a devout Christian life, which he spoke much of in his letters, particularly to his wife. Vivid details of his surroundings, duties, fellow soldiers, and even rebels and townspeople of the south comprised much of his letters to home. Lyman also offered his opinions and advice in times of need, particularly during the passing of Elizabeth’s aunt, and organ training for the choir.

CONTAINER LIST

<i>Description</i>	<i>Folders</i>
Letters to Cyrus Ostrom (father)	1
Transcriptions	2
Letters to Elizabeth Smith Ostrom (wife)	3
Transcriptions	4
Notifications of death	5
Transcriptions	6
Special Orders & Pension Certificates	7

Two Autograph Books	8
-One belonging to Kathie Campbell	
-One belonging to unknown	
Family and Regimental History, CD	9
Additional Transcriptions	10