

Marshall University

Marshall Digital Scholar

[Guides to Manuscript Collections](#)

[Search Our Collections](#)

1973

0054: Aleshire Family Papers, 1862-1889

Marshall University Special Collections

Follow this and additional works at: https://mds.marshall.edu/sc_finding_aids



Part of the [Appalachian Studies Commons](#), [Genealogy Commons](#), [Military History Commons](#), and the [Other History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Aleshire Family Papers, 1862-1889, Accession No. 1973/06.0054, Special Collections Department, Marshall University, Huntington, WV.

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the Search Our Collections at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Guides to Manuscript Collections by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact zhangj@marshall.edu, beachgr@marshall.edu.

REGISTER
OF THE
Aleshire Family Papers

Accession Number: 1973/06.0054



Special Collections Department
James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University
Huntington, West Virginia
1974

James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University

ALESHIRE FAMILY PAPERS, 1862-1889

Accession Number: 54

Processed by: Cora P. Teel

Date completed: January 1974

Location: Special Collections Department

(Word processed document prepared by Amanda Quait, 1997)

This collection was part of the Catherine Bliss Enslow Papers. The collection was received June 30, 1973.

Linear feet of shelf space: 1

Literary rights: not assigned to Marshall University.

CONTENTS

	<u>page</u>
Content and Scope of Collection	1
Biography	2 - 3
Inventory of the Collection	
I. Correspondence	4 - 13
Family Correspondence (immediate family of Reuben and Margaret Aleshire)	
General Correspondence (relatives and others)	
II. Miscellany	13 - 14
III. Index	15

Explanatory notes:

Bx refers to "box" in which papers are filed.

Fd refers to "folder".

CONTENT AND SCOPE OF THE COLLECTION

The Aleshire Family Papers consist mainly of correspondence dating from 1863 to 1888. Many of the letters are written by various members of the family to Joseph Aleshire as he traveled the Midwest, buying wheat for the family flour mill. Most of these letters concern fluctuations of the wheat market and other business matters.

There are a number of letters from Mary Aleshire to her parents and brothers, dating from 1863 to 1878. These describe her life at college in Cincinnati, and later, upon her return to Gallipolis, her involvement with social and family matters.

The letters from Charles Aleshire to his mother and brother, dated 1863-1869, discuss his life as an officer in the Union Army, both during the Civil War and afterward. Several letters from his brother Edward also describe service in the Civil War.

Also a part of the collection are a number of letters from friends, relatives and business associates. Included in these are letters to Joseph Aleshire concerning business and political matters; letters to Reuben Aleshire, Jr., from his fraternity brothers at Marietta College; letters to Margaret Aleshire from a northern sympathizer living in Tennessee during Reconstruction; and condolences received by the family upon the death of Reuben Aleshire.

Other items included in the collection are programs, news clippings, receipts, notes on family, business, and social matters, and photographs.

ALESHIRE FAMILY

The Aleshire family, of Scotch-Irish extraction, settled in Page County, Virginia, in Colonial times.

Reuben Aleshire was born in Loudoun County, Virginia, in 1808. As a young man, he moved to Gallipolis, Ohio, where he was engaged in the flour milling business for many years. He served on the city council as president in 1865, and as vice-president from 1881 to 1883. He died in 1888. His wife, Margaret Shepard Aleshire, born in 1813, was the daughter of Luther Shepard, and early pioneer of Gallia County, and the granddaughter of Enoch Shepard, one of the first settlers of Marietta, Ohio.

Reuben and Margaret Aleshire were the parents of six sons and one daughter: Joseph, Charles, Edward, Mary, Reuben, Jr., James, and Harry.

Joseph acted for the family milling business as a buyer of wheat in the Midwest. In the 1880's he was associated with ore mining operations in Vinton County, Ohio.

Charles, born in 1840, was captain of the 18th Battery of the Ohio Volunteer Artillery during the Civil War, and was active in the Middle Tennessee Campaign, taking part in the battles of Thompson's Station, Shelbyville, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Nashville.

Edward, born in 1842, also served in the Civil War. He became captain of Company F, Second Ohio Heavy Artillery, was a member of the General Courts Martial at Bowling Green and Louisville, Kentucky, commanded Fort Dickinson at Knoxville, Tennessee, and was Judge Advocate of the General Court Martial and Military Commander of the Twenty-third Army Corps, Army of Ohio. After the war, he engaged in the flour milling business in partnership with his father. He moved to Huntington, West Virginia in 1896 and died there in 1904.

Another son, James, born in 1856, was a graduate of West Point, and after forty years of service, retired from the Army as Quartermaster General in 1916.

Edward Aleshire and his wife, Justine Onderdonk Aleshire, of Hempstead, Long Island, New York, were the parents of seven children, one of whom was Henry Onderdonk Aleshire. He was born in Gallipolis, Ohio, in 1869; after graduating from Gallia Academy, he moved to Huntington, West Virginia, in 1890, where he was active in banking. In 1904 he married Grace Shepard, also a descendant of pioneer Gallia County families. Henry Aleshire died about 1930; his wife died in 1951.

Material for biographical information about the Aleshire family was taken from the following sources:

Howe, Henry, Historical Collections of Ohio. Norwalk, Ohio: Laning Printing Co., 1898.

Johnson, Mary McKendree, Representative Men and Women of Cabell County, West Virginia. Parkersburg: 1929.

Naret, Edward, History of the French Settlers at Gallipolis, Ohio, in 1790. Cincinnati: Keating and Co., n.d.

War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series I. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880. vols. 23, 30, 39, 45.

I. Correspondence

Bx 1 Family Correspondence (Immediate family of Reuben and Margaret Aleshire)

21 Fds

Fd 1 Aleshire, Reuben to Margaret Shepard Aleshire, 1870-1873

2 items

March 30, 1870 - Gallipolis, Ohio

Mrs. Aleshire is visiting in Marietta, Ohio. He tells her of the delay of the steamboat and advises her about alternate boats home. He describes a visit to their home the previous evening by Governor Stevenson of West Virginia and his staff: the festivities, entertainment, and notable guests.

Oct. 9, 1873 - Gallipolis, Ohio.

Again advising her about steamer connections, Mr. Aleshire tells his wife that she may also choose to come by rail to Portland, then by carriage to Gallipolis, 'where you will be received with open arms and welcome greetings by your friends.'

Fd 2 Aleshire, Reuben to Joseph P. Aleshire, 1867

20 items

Oct. 2, 1867 - Gallipolis, Ohio.

Reports on advance of wheat prices in Cincinnati, but is unsure of similar advances in New York and Chicago. Cannot advise as to whether to buy immediately or wait.

Oct. 23, 1867 - Gallipolis, Ohio.

Encloses a draft on New York for one thousand dollars and mentions arrival of some of the wheat in Cincinnati. Says that "H. M. Onderdonk is going to contest the election of your Republican State Senator--grounds--illegal votes--Negroes. In turn the Republicans contest the election of Hebow and Tipton (Dem.) Sheriff..."

Nov. 14, 1867 - Gallipolis, Ohio.

The mill has been unable to ship flour because of low water. Finances are tight because of the rapid arrival of wheat from Cincinnati; this requires an outlay of cash for freight. Therefore, he tells Joseph to buy new scales only if he can get thirty-day terms.

Bx 1 Family Correspondence

(cont'd)

Fd 3 Aleshire, Reuben to Joseph P. Aleshire, 1867

3 items

These items are telegrams conveying information about the wheat market to Joseph Aleshire in Winona, Minnesota.

Fd 4 Aleshire, Reuben to Joseph Aleshire, 1868-1878 7 items

Dec. 7, 1868 - Gallipolis, Ohio.

More information and advice on wheat buying: "Want you to buy not less than ten thousand bushels no. 1 wheat before you return...if you can buy at 1.70 in Shelbyville with your special freight rate, do so."

May 2, 1870 - Gallipolis, Ohio.

Business is doing well. They have made a deposit at Cincinnati First National Bank, but will make no "further deposits until after you come home."

June 16, 1878 - Gallipolis, Ohio.

Tells Joseph that Luther and his father started to Washington "for the purpose of disproving the slanderous report about the jewelry. This theft will be fixed on Luther." This refers to the theft of two rings belonging to Mary Aleshire. The letter goes on to describe the rings and what was done to them after the theft.

Fd 5 Aleshire, Charles to Margaret S. Aleshire, 1863-1872 8 items

May 4, 1863 - Franklin, Tenn.

Charles alludes to the battle at Thompson's Station and difficulties between him and Lt. Bockman. He describes the fortification of Franklin against the rebels and comments on how much he enjoys the "soldier life." He gives advice on the building of the new home and suggests a name for the expected baby.

Nov. 23, 1869 - Ft. Jefferson, Florida.

Charles has just returned from Savannah, where he spent the summer. He describes the problems of communication with the mainland and comments on the death of a fellow-officer of yellow fever. He is anxious to see service in the field again.

Fd 5 Aleshire, Charles to Margaret S. Aleshire

(Cont'd)

March 16, 1872 - New York City.

Charles is now working in the law office of Judge Spencer. He hopes to have his wife and son join him soon

Fd 6 Aleshire, Charles to Joseph Aleshire, 1867-1878 4 items

Oct. 22, 1867 - Ft. Preble, Maine.

Charles is in close arrest by the post commander following several difficulties regarding Charles' position as quartermaster of the post. He has refused the commander permission to use horses for private purposes, has refused repairs to the commanding officer's house without proper authorization, and has objected to the commanding officer's superseding Charles' authority by having excused Charles' men from duty.

Fd 7 Aleshire, Edward to Reuben Aleshire, 1864 1 item

May 18, 1864 - Nashville, Tenn.

His company has orders to move immediately but has no transportation. He is in good health, and he expected to find Charles here, but finds that Charles has gone on to the front.

Fd 8 Aleshire, Edward to Margaret S. Aleshire, 1865 1 item

April 11, 1865 - Loudon, Tenn.

He reassures his mother that all will be well now that Lee has surrendered, that the fighting must surely end soon, that "it is madness for the Rebels to fight anymore..." He tells her to look on the bright side of things. He describes the celebration on receipt of the news of the fall of Richmond.

Fd 9 Aleshire, Edward to Joseph Aleshire, 1878-1883 6 items

June 5, 1878 - Gallipolis, Ohio.

Discusses wheat prices, which are low. He is being treated for the same ailment that has sent Joseph to Hot Springs.

March 20, 1883 - Gallipolis, Ohio.

Says that Joseph has received a letter from Simmons, who wants to see him, and suggests a trip to Chicago for that purpose. "Trusting...that your fondest anticipations will be realized..."

Bx 1 Family Correspondence (Cont'd)

Fd 10 Aleshire, Harry to Margaret S. Aleshire, 1872 1 item

Sept. 15, 1872 - Gallipolis, Ohio.

Says that there have been many shows. He is in the third part of arithmetic and the intermediate geography. He discusses his teachers and says that Walter and Henry want her to come home.

Fd 11 Aleshire, Joseph to Reuben Aleshire, 1867 11 items

Oct. 10, 1867 - Winona, Minn.

He has received the draft and can now pay for all his wheat purchases. The telegram that they sent him reading "Red 65 and rise never hold wheat" so he has shipped 1500 sacks. But he feels that it is more to their advantage to ship than to hold it at Winons.

Nov. 1, 1867 - Winona, Minn.

He has received their statement of the 26th. The Chicago prices are now 1.79 and 1.88. He is anxious to hear about the wheat he has already shipped. The 600 sacks have not arrived.

Fd 12 Aleshire, Joseph to Margaret S. Aleshire, 1866-1867 2 items

Oct. 25, 1866 - Winona, Minn.

He has met a Mr. Kellogg of Milwaukee, attending to the shipment of wheat for his firm. Joseph can't accept his invitation to stop off in Milwaukee on his way home because he had to return the suit he bought in Cincinnati. Inquires about the newly married cousins and wants to know when Ned and Tenie are "to combine the miseries of this life making it one vast sea of trouble."

Fd 13 Aleshire, Joseph to Jim Aleshire, 1878 1 item

Dec. 16, 1878 - Gallipolis, Ohio.

Encloses a draft on New York for thirty dollars. Ned has left for New York and intends to stop and see Jim if possible. Asks about his friend Barr and the California enterprise.

Bx 1 Family Correspondence (Cont'd)

Fd 14 Aleshire, Mary to Reuben and Margaret S. Aleshire, 1864-1870 4 items

March 13, 1864 - College Hill, Ohio.

Mary hopes her parents can come down to school around the first of April for a visit. She discusses her music lessons, chemistry, and Latin. She is going to write Ned for his advice on how much Latin she should take.

February 21, 1870 - Parkersburg, W. Va.

Mary has found some bargains at Mr. Mayberry's store. She discusses these and her need of means to pay for them. Wishes Ned had come on to see her when he was passing through.

Fd 15 Aleshire, Mary to Reuben Aleshire, 1874 3 items

Oct. 29, 1874 - Lexington, Ky.

Mary discusses recent election results in Gallipolis, and comments of the Episcopal Church.

Fd 16 Aleshire, Mary to Margaret Aleshire, 1863-1874 8 items

Nov. 13, 1863 - College Hill, Ohio.

Mary thanks her mother for the clothing. She writes about the visit of Mrs. Leclerque and Jimmie. Is afraid her father is angry with her for asking for more money. She plans to do some Christmas shopping; asks her mother to send sardines and oysters in the next box.

May 17, 1865 - College Hill, Ohio.

Discusses plans for her mother's visit to Cincinnati and their return trip to Gallipolis. Tells her mother she plans to help with the housework when she get home. Needs more money for music.

Aug. 14, 1874 - Gallipolis, Ohio.

Tells Mrs. Aleshire not to hurry home, that she (Mary) is not ready to leave yet. She assures her mother that all her "favorite departments" are being looks after, even the chickens, that cellar and the garret.

Bx 1 Family Correspondence (Cont'd)

Fd 17 Aleshire, Mary to Joseph Aleshire, 1878 3 items

June 9, 1878 - Gallipolis, Ohio.

Tells Joseph that the drama or music has not been cast yet for the

proposed entertainment in Gallipolis. Discusses the rings that were stolen from her, and an accident the Reuben had. Everyone is discouraged about the railroad. The ladies are raising money to build a music stand on the square.

June 17, 1878 - Gallipolis, Ohio.

More news about the jewelry theft. Evidence points to a member of the family.

Fd 18 Aleshire, Mary to Jim Aleshire, 1863 1 item

Nov. 1863 - College Hill, Ohio.

Mary asks how he gets along with his baby brother, and if he is going to Sunday School.

Fd 19 Aleshire, Mary to brothers, 1863-1800 9 items

Sept. 6, 1863 - College Hill, Ohio.

This is Mary's first week away at school: she describes her room and part of the routine at school. She wants some red apples sent to her.

Jan. 1, 1868 - Gallipolis, Ohio.

Mary write of local marriages, tells about their New Year's Eve celebration and the calls she has had today.

March 16, 1880 - Gallipolis, Ohio.

Wants her brother to come home in time for the "Juvenile Pinafore next Thursday." Mr. Keith is the superintendent at the mill, and is boarding with them. Writes of the death of the father of one of her friends.

Fd 20 Aleshire, Reuben, Jr. to Joseph Aleshire, 1868-1882 2 items

Jan. 15, 1868 - Gallipolis, Ohio.

Writes of some social events in town: ice skating and a dance. Ice is now running in the river and the steamboats will have to "lay to the bank."

Fd 20 Aleshire, Reuben Jr. to Joseph Aleshire, 1868-1882 (Cont'd)

June 20, 1882 - Eagle Station, on the Columbus Hocking Valley and Toledo Railway.

Writes about problems concerning the leases of land. Coal is coming in slowly, so that the furnaces probably won't be started as soon as expected.

Laf Douglas says that one thousand tons of ore can be taken from his drift.

Fd 21 Aleshire, Venie to Margaret Aleshire, 1872 1 item

Sept. 18, 1872 - Hempstead, Long Island.
Venie invites her mother-in-law to come to visit.

Bx 2 General Correspondence (relatives and others) 16 Fd

Fd 1 Bosley, J. J. to Edward Aleshire, 1881 1 item

June 20, 1881 - Newark, Ohio.
News about negotiations with the Boston syndicate concerning the Eagle Furnace property. He is sure the sale will be made.

Fd 2 Caldwell, Mary to Margaret Aleshire, 1866-1869 8 items

Nov. 13, 1866 - Shelbyville, Tenn.
She tells Mrs. Aleshire that she can send letters directly in her name now that cholera has removed the postmaster from office. Wishes "Capt. Charley" had come to Tennessee instead of going back into the army. Mr. Caldwell wants to know the price of four barrels of flour.

Jan. 4, 1867 - Shelbyville, Tenn.
The gift of a barrel of flour has arrived and Mrs. Caldwell prizes it very much.

April 21, 1867 - Shelbyville, Tenn.
Mr. Caldwell is attending the state Supreme Court; he is also publishing his law reports. Therefore, he may not be able to visit the Aleshires. Their daughter Frances may marry an Alabamian.

Fd 2 Caldwell, Mary to Margaret Aleshire, 1866-1869 (Cont'd)

Feb. 20, 1869 - Shelbyville, Tenn.
Praises the climate of Tennessee and the many natural resources of the state. Feels that emigrants from the north will make it a garden state. Hopes that Grant will put down the Ku Klux Klan.

Fd 3 Conway, James to Reuben Aleshire, 1887 2 items

Aug. 1, 1887 - Mechanicsburg, Ohio.
Inquiry about a vacancy at Gallia Academy.

Fd 4 Currier, Charles Pratt to Reuben Aleshire, Jr., 1864-1866 4 items

January 16, 1864 - Marietta, Ohio.
Sorry to hear that Rube is not returning to school. Describes a Baptist immersion ceremony.

March 22, 1866 - Marietta, Ohio.
Comments on Rube's new job on the packet boat. Gives news of mutual friends and discusses the ladies of Marietta.

Fd 5 Forsyth, Jennie to Margaret Aleshire, 1869-1870 4 items

Feb. 11, 1870 - Louisville, Ky.
Apologizes for the stationery. Complains about being alone so much because of her husband's employment. Relates news of her family, and comments on Mrs. Aleshire's news of her daughter's impending marriage.

Fd 6 Newsom, John to Reuben Aleshire, Jr., 1864 2 items

May 27, 1864 - Cincinnati, Ohio.
In Cincinnati for boat repairs. Went out to Reading to see "the girls" and plans to go out to College Hill tomorrow.

Fd 7 Nieman, Theodore to Joseph Aleshire, 1867-1868 2 items

Letters requesting payment.

Bx 2 General Correspondence

(Cont'd)

Fd 8 Shepard, E. L. to Margaret Aleshire, 1874 1 item

Nov. 1874 - Kanawha Falls, W. Va.
Mrs. Aleshire's brother discusses their nephew Bub and his political aspirations.

Fd 9 Simmons, J. A. to Joseph Aleshire, 1880-1881 2 items

Jan 22, 1880 - Athens, Ohio.

Business associate of Joseph writes to say that many more wood choppers are needed. Discusses mining interests and royalty payments.

Fd 10 Miscellaneous letters to Mrs. Margaret Aleshire from relatives, 1872-1888 6 items

June 29, 1881 - Page County, Virginia.

Sister Julia describes trip by packet boat and train to Virginia.

April 24, 1888 - Cleveland, Ohio.

Expressions of sympathy about the death of Reuben Aleshire extended by nephew Reuben Vance.

Fd 11 Miscellaneous letters to Mrs. Margaret Aleshire from friends, 1868-1888 6 items

Dec. 7, 1868 - Batavia, Ohio.

Letter from J. P. Clark, whom Mrs. Aleshire had befriended in Gallipolis during the War. He tells of his political experiences and prospects.

April - May, 1888.

Letters of condolence regarding the death of Mrs. Aleshire's husband, Reuben Aleshire.

Fd 12 Letters to Joseph Aleshire, undated; 1867-1881 13 items

January 6, 188 - Jackson, Ohio.

Letter from Irvine Dungan offering Joseph the opportunity to join him in taking coal and mineral options.

Fd 12 Letters to Joseph Aleshire, undated; 1867-1881 (Cont'd)

Aug. 5, 1881 - Frankfort, Ind.

Letter from business associate James Hilton describing his trip to Frankfort and discussing the mine operation.

Fd 13 Letters to Mary Aleshire, 1888 8 items

These are letters of condolence, written on the occasion of the death of Mary's father, Reuben Aleshire.

Fd 14 Letters to Reuben Aleshire, Jr., undated; 1864-1865 7 items

Dec. 30, 1864 - Marietta, Ohio.

C. H. Turner, a fraternity brother of Reuben's at Marietta College, writes news of mutual friends and criticizes the committee in charge of remodeling their hall.

Jan. 5, 1865 - Dayton, Ohio.

Preserved Smith, another fraternity brother from Marietta College, writes Rube of his intentions to do better next term, so that his father will allow him to remain in school. He also expresses concern about the temptations of life in Gallipolis, and hopes that Reuben will not fall prey to them.

Fd 15 Letters, recipient unknown, 1867-1887 6 items

Fd 16 Telegrams, 1875-1883 3 items

II. Miscellany

Bx 3 Miscellany 10 Fd

Fd 1 Miscellaneous notes 2 items

Fd 2 News clippings - obituary of Mrs. Henry O. Aleshire, 1951 1 item

Fd 3 Notes on boat trips and parties 4 items

Bx 3 Miscellany (Cont'd)

Fd 4 Notes on Shepard family 3 items

Fd 5 Photographs - Mrs. Margaret Menager Shepard 3 items

Fd 6 Printed brochures 4 items

Fd 7 Programs 3 items

Fd 8 Promissory note - Margaret Shepard Aleshire, 1889	1 item
Fd 9 Receipts, 1866-1881	9 items
Fd 10 Unidentified tintype	1 item

The first number indicates the box, the second number denotes the folder where the material is located.

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad,2:9
 Burnside, General Ambrose,1:5
 Cholera,2:2
 Democratic Party,1:15
 18th Battery, Ohio Volunteer Army,1:5
 Episcopal Church,1:15
 Fort Jefferson, Florida,1:5
 Fort Preble, Maine,1:5
 Franklin, Tennessee,1:5
 Grant, General Ulysses, 1:5, 1:8, 2:2, 2:11
 Hooker, General Joseph,1:5
 Key West, Florida,1:5
 Ku Klux Klan,2:2
 Lee, General Robert,1:8
 Lookout Mountain, 1:5
 McClellan, General George,1:5
 Marietta College,2:14
 Nashville, Tennessee,1:7
 Pacific Railroad,2:5
 Richmond, Virginia,1:8
 Rosecrans, General William,1:5
 Santo Domingo,1:5
 Stevenson, Governor William, of West Virginia,1:1
 Thompson’s Station, Tennessee,1:5
 Tullahoma, Tennessee,1:5
 Yellow Fever,1:5