

The Ten Eyck Fonda Collection

Scope and Content

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The Ten Eyck Fonda Collection of Civil War Letters consists of 25 letters on 43 sheets of paper. Sixteen of the letters are on one sheet each, while five of the letters take up two sheets each, three take up four sheets each, and one required five sheets. Only seven of the letters were signed by Ten Eyck Fonda, the remaining eighteen letters were signed by “Nike.” Nike was very likely the nickname used by family and friends for Ten Eyck.¹ All the letters were written while the writer was serving as a telegrapher for the United States Military Telegraph Service. The letters are arranged in chronological order and range in date from July 12, 1861 to June 14, 1863.

Each letter was unfolded and placed in a mylar sleeve, such that all pages may be read without removing the letter from the sleeve. Each letter, in its mylar sleeve, was then placed in an acid-free folder. The collection is in twenty-five folders in one 700 cubic inch archival box.

The Letters

All the letters were written to immediate family members: fifteen were addressed to “Brother,” nine to “Father,” and one to “Sister.” Five of the letters addressed to “Father” and two addressed to “Brother” were signed “Ten Eyck Fonda.” The rest of the letters were signed “Nike,” or just “N.” Ten Eyck Fonda had five brothers and three sisters. Four of Ten Eyck’s brothers were still living at the time the letters were written, it has not been determined whether or not the letters addressed to “Brother” were all written to the same individual, or if some were written to one brother and some to another. Ten Eyck’s father was Garret T. B. Fonda. It has not been determined which sister was the recipient of the

¹ <http://fonda.org/stories.htm> - Ten Eyck, viewed 07Jan05.

one letter addressed to “Sister,” two of the sisters were still living at home at the time.² Although there are no envelopes with any of the letters it is likely they were addressed to the Fonda home in the [Mohawk Valley](#), Montgomery County, New York.³

Eight of the letters were written on official Military Telegraph stationery. Two by Ten Eyck Fonda and six by Nike. All of the letters are in very good condition with very little foxing, staining, or physical damage. Only one letter, TFL22, was crossed, having some of the text written at an angle over earlier text. This letter was written by Ten Eyck Fonda to one of his brothers.

² <http://www.fonda.org/>, viewed 05Jan05.

³ Ronald Vern Jackson, ed., *New York 1860 North*, (Salt Lake City, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems International, c1987) v.1:p.275; and Raeone Christensen Steuart, ed., *New York (Upstate) 1870 Census Index*, (Bountiful, Utah : Heritage Quest, c2000) v.2:p.809.

Ten Eyck Fonda Collection of Civil War

<i>Box #</i>	<i>Folder #</i>	<i>Item #</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Date</i>
TF01					
	<i>TF01</i>	Letter TFL01	"Nike"	"Brother"	12 July [1861]
	<i>TF02</i>	Letter TFL02	"Nike"	"Father"	30 July 1861
	<i>TF03</i>	Letter TFL03	"Nike"	"Brother"	6 August 1861
	<i>TF04</i>	Letter TFL04	"Nike"	"Father"	19 August 1861
	<i>TF05</i>	Letter TFL05	"Nike"	"Brother"	27 August 1861
	<i>TF06</i>	Letter TFL06	"Nike"	"Brother"	2 September 1861
	<i>TF07</i>	Letter TFL07	"Nike"	"Father"	3 September 1861
	<i>TF08</i>	Letter TFL08	"Nike"	"Brother"	13 September [1861]
	<i>TF09</i>	Letter TFL09	"Nike"	"Brother"	3 December [1861]
	<i>TF10</i>	Letter TFL10	"Nike"	"Brother"	3 May 1862
	<i>TF11</i>	Letter TFL11	Ten Eyck Fonda	"Father"	8 June 1862
	<i>TF12</i>	Letter TFL12	Ten Eyck Fonda	"Father"	1 July 1862
	<i>TF13</i>	Letter TFL13	"Nike"	"Father"	5 July 1862
	<i>TF14</i>	Letter TFL14	Ten Eyck Fonda	"Brother"	31 July 1862
	<i>TF15</i>	Letter TFL15	"Nike"	"Brother"	10 August 1862
	<i>TF16</i>	Letter TFL16	"Nike"	"Brother"	12 September 1862
	<i>TF17</i>	Letter TFL17	"Nike"	"Sister"	12 September 1862
	<i>TF18</i>	Letter TFL18	"Nike"	"Brother"	28 September 1862

<i>Box #</i>	<i>Folder #</i>	<i>Item #</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Date</i>
TF01					
	<i>TF19</i>	Letter TFL19	"Nike"	"Brother"	20 October 1862
	<i>TF20</i>	Letter TFL20	"Nike"	"Brother"	6 November [1862]
	<i>TF21</i>	Letter TFL21	Ten Eyck Fonda	"Father"	5 December 1862
	<i>TF22</i>	Letter TFL22	Ten Eyck Fonda	"Brother"	3 February [1863]
	<i>TF23</i>	Letter TFL23	Ten Eyck Fonda	"Father"	9 February 1863
	<i>TF24</i>	Letter TFL24	Ten Eyck Fonda	"Father"	17 March 1863
	<i>TF25</i>	Letter TFL25	"Nike"	"Brother"	14 June 1863