

# **Finding aid for the Isaac Lewis Tower correspondence Collection 200**

**Finding aid prepared by Jamie Barger**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

October 1996

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Creator - Collector</b>	Tower, Isaac Lewis, b. 1842
<b>Title</b>	Isaac Lewis Tower correspondence
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1863-1865
<b>Extent</b>	0.21 Linear feet One box
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Photocopied letters to Isaac Lewis Tower, a soldier with the 13th Michigan Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. Tower was wounded at Chickamauga in 1863, and returned home after being captured and paroled in 1864. Topics include his brother, George Tower's, death; attitudes toward Confederate sympathizers and daily life during the war. Another group of letters reflect daily life at home and women's opinions about the war. Also, there are letters from soldiers of the 13th Regiment to Isaac after he was discharged, which discuss the feelings of soldiers towards the war, their officers and the times between battles. The final group of letters are from Eustace Tower, a younger cousin of Isaac Lewis, who was stationed in Washington, DC, where he participated in the hunt for John Wilkes Booth in 1865.</p>

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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Isaac Lewis Tower was born in 1842 in Albany, New York, while the family was en route from Vermont to Michigan. The family has resided in Oakfield Township in Kent County, Michigan since this time. Isaac joined the 13th Michigan Infantry Regiment in 1861 at age 18 with his father, Samuel, who was 42, and his brother, George, who was 16. Samuel Tower resigned because of poor health and George was killed at the Battle of Stones River in January 1863. Isaac was wounded at Chickamauga in September, 1863. At this time he was captured and later paroled. Tower returned home to Oakfield Township in April 1864 after having spent four months at a Detroit hospital recovering from his wounds.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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Consists of photocopies of 64 letters sent to Isaac Lewis Tower from 1863 through 1865. Letters are from his father, Samuel Tower, after he returned home to Oakfield Township and cover topics like George Tower's death, attitudes toward Confederate sympathizers known as Copperheads and daily life during the war.

Another group of letters are from the female relatives of Isaac Tower which also reflect daily life at home and women's opinions about the war. Also, there are letters from soldiers of the 13th Regiment to Isaac after he was discharged. These letters express the feelings of soldiers towards the war, their officers and the times between battles. The final group of letters are from Eustace Tower, a younger cousin of Isaac Lewis, who was stationed in Washington DC, where he participated in the hunt for John Wilkes Booth in 1865 after President Lincoln's assassination.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department October 1996

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Sue Conklin, January 1996, accession number 1996.031

## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials note**

See also Collection 242, GRPL Civil War Documents Collection

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Genre(s)**

- letters (correspondence)

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives

## Letters

## Collection Inventory

<b>Series I Letters 1863-1865</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
By Isaac Lewis Tower 1863	1	1
By Samuel Lewis Tower 1863-1864	1	2
By Eustace Tower 1864-1865	1	3
By female relatives of Isaac Tower 1863-1864	1	4
By George Cathay 1864-1865	1	5
By soldiers of the 13th Regiment 1863-1865	1	6-8
Regarding pension collection 1864	1	9