

February 6,  
1985

Chippewa Valley Museum, Inc.  
Carson Park  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Dear Sirs:

Several years ago a co-author and myself had a Civil War regimental history published on the 154th Regiment, New York State Volunteer Infantry (brochure inclosed for your information). We are still avidly collecting information on the 154th New York and just recently in looking through a book dealing with surgeons in the Union Army, I noted that Surgeon Dwight W. Day of the 154th New York settled in Eau Claire after the war.

Now, it is my hope that the Chippewa Valley Museum may have some of Dr. Day's memorabilia, papers, letters, diaries, memoirs, photographs, uniform, insignia, sword, etc. If you have any such material of Dr. Day's dealing with his Civil War service I would certainly be pleased to hear about it. You may want to advise me of your charges for xeroxing paper materials and for having photographs made if you have items that would need to be photographed or photos that might need to be copied.

May I add that I am a curator of eighteen years experience. I have served in my present employment for more than ten years. At the U.S. Army Military History Institute we are pursuing a project of copying photographs of Civil War soldiers. We do this by borrowing photos from institutions and private collectors, making copies in our lab and then returning the originals along with a complimentary 8" X 10" glossy print.

I say all of the above to say this: If you should care to, you could send Dr. Day's papers and photos to me at the Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pa. 17013, and I can have all of the material copied there. We would like to add a copy of Dr. Day's photographs to the MHI collections anyhow. I wanted to give you my credentials because I want you to know that I can be trusted with such materials, having worked with like items professionally for 18 years. Hundreds of other persons and institutions send such materials to the Institute for us to copy every year and we always return them via registered mail.

Of course my request is personal but it is also official in the case of the photographs. It is really difficult in this museums/archives business to separate a vocation from an avocation when in both cases for many of us they are one and the same.

I do hope you have some materials of Dr. Day's and that arrangements

can be made for me to get copies/photos of it. I will be happy to pay for registered mail sent from your institution and I will return anything you may choose to send in the same condition.

I am inclosing a photo of Surgeon Dwight W. Day for your retention. Also inclosed are several informational brochures on the U.S. Army Military History Institute.

Thank you for considering my request.

Michael J. Winey

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Winey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

March 21/1985

Dear Mr. Winny:

Received your most interesting letter some time ago. But being understaffed and over worked I have not had the opportunity to answer it until now. I searched our records to see what we had on Dwight F. Day and enclosed you will find several copies of what I have in the Archives. The catalog card is in reference to newspaper at the L. E. Phillips Memorial Library here in Eau Claire. The newspapers are on micro-film at the library.

We do not have any diaries, letters, uniforms, etc in our collection. I called Area Research here in Eau Claire and they have no information other than what I have. You might get in touch with Dr. Richard J. Zeitlin, Director Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Capitol 419 North Madison, WI. 53702. He has a very nice G.A.R. Memorial Hall Museum in our State Capitol. Perhaps he has other things available.

Thank you for the photograph of Dwight Day. Sounds  
as though you have a very interesting Institute.  
I hope this information will be of help to you.

Sincerely,  
Alberta Kimmelmeyer  
Librarian