

10 SEP 1975

Mrs. Eileen Aspinall  
Pavilion Center Antique Shop  
Pavilion, NY 14525

Dear Mrs. Aspinall:

It has come to my attention that you are offering for sale the wartime letters of Surgeon Henry Van Arnam of the 154th New York. Such papers are of interest to the Military History Research Collection, and we might well consider buying them. Before we could justify expending tax dollars on them, however, we would need to be assured of their historical usefulness - that they impart information of utility to scholars, not just purely personal comments. ~~We shall promptly render a decision and make you an offer if we want them or return them if we do not want them. It goes without saying that they will be treated with the greatest care and confidence while in our custody.~~

They should be sent by registered mail. The inclosed franked label will enable them to be dispatched without cost to you.

We hope you will consider our suggestion. Many other dealers and private parties have comparably sent us manuscripts on approval, and we would appreciate it if you would, too. We would like to pursue this matter with you.

Sincerely yours,

Incl  
As stated

RICHARD J. SOMMERS, Ph.D.  
Archivist - Historian

*No reply sent because of the nature of this letter.*

Pavilion, New York  
September 24, 1975

Richard J. Sommers Ph.D.  
Dept. of the Army  
U. S. Army History Research Collection  
Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

Dear Sir.

In re: your letter of Sept. 10, 1975. I do have 43 letters written by Henry Van Aerssens of the 154<sup>th</sup> N.Y.

We purchased the contents of his former home and in cleaning out a blind attic under the eaves we found them - in an open wicker basket where they had lain for 100 years. They were in very bad condition a lot of them unreadable stained eaten up etc & had to be destroyed. We were able to salvage these 43 and for over 2 months I poured over them and copied them off as I didn't want to handle them more than I had to. Some words where I left blanks in the copies were un decipherable - # the description of Lucial

across them to be sure and get them back. Luckily  
they were returned 2 weeks before he died.

If you find these letters of any value for the  
historical context we will mail the originals for  
your appraisal.

Sincerely

Eileen T. Aspinall

Pavilion Center Antique Shop  
Pavilion, N. Y. 14525

Pavilion, New York  
November 7, 1975

Mathilde Y. Carter  
Acquisition Librarian  
Dept. of the Army  
Research Collection  
Carlisle Barracks, Pa 17013

Dear Mathilde Y. Carter,

Re: your 3 Nov. 1975 letter - We feel that  
your offer of \$150.00 is insufficient for the 43  
letters of Dr. Van Aersum. It does not cover the  
cost of transcription. We will accept \$300.00.  
If this does not reach your approval - please  
send our folio of the copies to us via registered  
mail.

No letters or parts thereof are to be used  
without our written permission

Sincerely

Mrs. Eileen T. Aspinall

Pavilion Center Antique Shop  
Pavilion, N.Y.

16 FEB 1982

Mr. Allen Sessarego  
A&B Sessarego Early Photography & Collectables  
225 Steinwehr Avenue  
Gettysburg, PA 17326

Dear Mr. Sessarego:

This letter is in lieu of the agreed-upon phone call. We had attempted to reach you by phone during the appointed time of 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., February 12, but did not get an answer.

We are pleased to inform you that we have recommended that the U.S. Army Military History Institute obtain the Henry Van Aernam papers at a price of \$800.00 and have initiated the necessary paperwork for the Purchasing Office on post. As previously indicated to you, we can only recommend the purchase and cannot legally obligate government funds. The Purchasing Office makes all final decisions concerning procurement of acquisitions from dealers and publishers.

Thank you for allowing us to have the Van Aernam papers here on approval. It is a splendid collection.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD J. SOMMERS, Ph.D.  
Archivist-Historian