

## Guide to the Robert Bunker and George L. Dearborn Correspondence, 1861-1862, 1943-1945

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

Robert Bunker and George L. Dearborn Correspondence, 1861-1862, 1943-1945

**Repository:**

New Hampshire Historical Society  
30 Park Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-228-6688  
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

**Collection Number:**

2001.052

**Author of Finding Aid:**

Unidentified; reformatted and updated by Jay Lewis

**Creator:**

Bunker, Robert E., 1910-1992  
Dearborn, George L., 1841-1862

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English.

**Extent:**

1 box ; 0.21 linear feet

**Abstract:**

Robert Bunker was born in Concord, NH, on August 12, 1910. His letters cover the period from December 19, 1943 to October 7, 1945, and are addressed to his family. In these letters, Bunker tells of his time in World War II, from basic training in North Carolina, through various training camps in the United States and on to Scotland, England, France, and Holland.

George Dearborn was born January 15, 1841 in Concord, NH. His letters, which detail his service in the Civil War, cover the period from November 2, 1861 to October 2, 1862. They are addressed to his mother, with the exception of one letter addressed to his friend Edgar.

## Access and Use

### **Acquisition Information and Provenance:**

The Robert Bunker and George L. Dearborn Correspondence were a gift of Mary E. Bunker on August 15, 2001.

### **Processing Information:**

This collection was processed initially by an unknown person at an unknown date and the processing was finalized by Jay Lewis in January 2023. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date and updated by Jay Lewis in January 2023. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

### **Access Restrictions:**

Available for research.

### **Location:**

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

### **Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:**

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

### **Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:**

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Item title, Robert Bunker and George L. Dearborn Correspondence, 2001.052. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Biographical Information:**

Robert Edward Bunker was born on August 12, 1910, in Concord, NH, to Edward Pendergast Bunker and Sarah May Davis. He had two siblings: Phillip Dearborn, born October 24, 1913; and Elizabeth born March 23, 1917. At the age of 24, Robert married Katherine Louise Colby on April 6, 1935, in Concord. They had one daughter, Mary, born April 26, 1936. He enlisted in the Army in Manchester, NH, on November 30, 1943 and was a veteran of World War II. His wife, Katherine, died on January 16, 1989, in Concord. They had been married for 53 years. Robert Bunker died on July 29, 1992, in Concord at the age of 81.

George L. Dearborn was born on January 15, 1841, in Concord, NH, to Andrew P. Dearborn, a musical instrument maker, and Mary L. Dearborn. According to his letters, he joined the 5th New Hampshire Infantry Regiment in the Civil War in 1861. However, he does not appear in

official record of the regiment. According to records, Dearborn drowned in Boston, MA, on October 29, 1862 at the age of 21

Robert Bunker is distantly related to George Dearborn. His maternal grandmother is Sarah Dearborn (1851-1922).

**Collection Scope and Content Note:**

The Robert Bunker and George L. Dearborn Correspondence consist of the letters of Robert Bunker and George L. Dearborn as compiled by Mary E. Bunker, the daughter of Robert Bunker. The materials in this collection are letters to their families, containing correspondence of their service in World War II (Bunker) and the Civil War (Dearborn). The George L. Dearborn series covers the years 1861-1862. His letters to his mother tell of his time in camp, primarily in Alexandria, VA. The Robert Bunker series covers the years 1943-1945. His letters to his family, primarily his wife, Katherine, discuss his time in various basic training camps in the United States. He also tells her of his time in Scotland, England, France, and Holland.

**Arrangement:**

The materials in this collection are organized into the following series:

Series 1. George L. Dearborn, 1861-1862

Series 2. Robert Bunker, 1943-1945

Contents List

**Series 1. George L. Dearborn, 1861-1862**

**Extent:** 2 folders

**Scope and Content:** The bulk of series one consists of Dearborn's life in camp at Alexandria, Virginia. His letters also describe his trips to Washington, DC, and Fairfax, Virginia. The correspondence is primarily to his mother, Mary L. Dearborn, but there is one letter addressed to his friend, Edgar. The final letter in the series was written from Boston, Massachusetts, after he returned from the war.

**Box 1**

Folder 1            Correspondence, 1861

Folder 2            Correspondence, 1862

**Series 2. Robert Bunker, 1943-1945**

**Extent:** 8 folders

**Scope and Content:** Series two covers the period between December 19, 1943 to October 7, 1945, and are addressed to Bunker's family, primarily to his wife, Katherine. His letters tell of his time in basic training in North Carolina as well as his time in Scotland, England, France, and Holland.

**Box 1**

Folder 3            Correspondence, 1943 December

Folder 4            Correspondence, 1944 January-February

Folder 5            Correspondence, 1944 March-May

Folder 6            Correspondence, 1944 June-August

Folder 7            Correspondence, 1944 September-December

Folder 8        Correspondence, 1945 January-March  
Folder 9        Correspondence, 1945 April-May  
Folder 10       Correspondence, 1945 June-October

## Subject Terms

### **People:**

Bunker, Edward P., 1871-1943  
Bunker, Katherine Louise, 1909-1989  
Bunker, Mary E., 1936-2002  
Bunker, Robert E., 1910-1992  
Dearborn, Andrew P., 1803-1858  
Dearborn, Emily T., 1844-1865  
Dearborn, George L., 1841-1862  
Dearborn, Mary L., 1809-1880  
Ellsworth, E. E. (Elmer Ephraim), 1837-1861  
Sumner, Edwin V. (Edwin Vose), 1797-1863

### **Occupations:**

United States. Army

### **Subjects:**

Basic training (Military education)  
Correspondence  
Military bases  
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865  
World War II, 1939-1945

### **Locations:**

Alexandria, VA  
Bladensburg, MD  
Boston, MA  
Camp Butner, NC  
Concord, NH  
Durham, NC  
Elkins, WV  
Fairfax, VA  
Fort Indiantown Gap, PA  
Ireland  
Reims, France  
Scotland  
Saint-Lô, France  
Sluiskil, Netherlands

### **Occupations:**

Soldiers