These are Civil War letters of Richard Ryall, 6th Missouri Cavalry, from New Iberia, Louisiana. The letters, written to his brother, Isaac, in Maries County, Missouri, concern war news and family matters including the death of a brother in Union service. With the letters are typescripts, a photograph of Ryall in uniform, and a biographical sketch provided by the donor.

Richard H. Ryall was a native of Ireland. During the potato famine he came with his family to the United States, settling in 1857 on a farm near Vienna in Maries County, Missouri. He enlisted at Rolla in Co. K of the 6th Missouri Cavalry in March 1862, and gained a commission as second lieutenant of that company in November 1862. The 6th Missouri Cavalry served under U. S. Grant during the Vicksburg campaign, then in the District of Eastern Arkansas, the Department of the Gulf, and the District of Baton Rouge. Richard H. Ryall was discharged at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on 22 February 1865. Following the war, Ryall worked for the Barr-Duncan department store in St. Louis until 1869. In 1873, he joined other members of his family in Marseilles, Illinois, where they had moved after being forced out of Maries County by turmoil caused by the war. He lived in Marseilles until his death in 1894.

Included with Richard Ryall’s letters is one by his brother, Charles Ryall, to his mother. Charles was a member of the 1st Missouri Artillery. He died of disease at Memphis, Tennessee, on 1 September 1863. His death is the subject of Richard Ryall’s letter of 22 December 1863.
Maries County (Mo.).
Missouri Artillery—1st Regiment. SEE United States. Army. Missouri Artillery Regiment, 1st
Missouri Cavalry—6th Regiment. SEE United States. Army. Missouri Cavalry Regiment, 6th
New Iberia (La.).
Ryall, Charles, 1840-1863.
Ryall, Isaac.
Ryall, Richard Huston, 1836-1894.
United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States. Army. Missouri Artillery Regiment, 1st
United States. Army. Missouri Cavalry Regiment, 6th