

Civil War Collection

COLLECTION, MS B15

DATE

1861 – 1889

CONTRIBUTOR

Fairfield Museum

ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY ELEMENT

This subject collection was created in 1986 by accumulating gifts from a number of donors, along with printed documents and Fairfield Town Records that were gathered by Historical Society staff or given by unknown donors. It has been added to over time as items were collected.

SCOPE & CONTENT

The collection consists of letters from soldiers to their families, muster and bounty receipts, and commemorative items relating the activities of and reactions to the Civil War. Letters and other military papers are organized into series alphabetically by soldier's name. The most complete series of letters (Series B) are from William W. Disoway of New York who was killed in battle October 13, 1863. In addition to letters to his family, William's papers include a letter sent by his Captain to his parents notifying them of his death; a resolution on his service from officers of his regiment; and letters of condolence to his family. Several of the items are accompanied by wrappers with notes presumably written by his mother, mourning the loss of her son. There are also pen and ink drawings of scenes from the war, including "William's tent," and copies of a card de visite William had made before his death. William also served as a judge advocate, as evidenced by copies of court-martial proceedings.

Other letter-writing soldiers include Walter Abbe of the 37th Regiment, New York Militia (Series A); Sergeant George Hale of Westport (Series D) and Corporal Allen Smith of Ridgefield (Series E) who served in the 17th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers; and Captain George Staff (Series F) of the 104th Regiment, New York Volunteers. The discharge certificate, 1863, of M.V.B. Bunham (later doctor of Greenfield Hill) from the 43rd Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, in in Series C. Two passes issued to Frederick Sturges in 1861 constitute Series G. Assorted correspondence and legal documents, including a parole, a discharge, and pension records are organized chronologically in Series H, along with photocopies of letters written by George E. Northrop to his parents in Southport between 1861-1863. Series L consists of the 1865 discharge papers of Frank Burr from Co. C, 2nd Regiment New York Artillery Volunteers. A leather-bound diary kept by Private Levi French of Co. D, 23rd Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers in 1863 while with Major General Nathaniel Banks' expedition, Commander of the Department of the Gulf, is Series M.

Fairfield Town Records related to the Civil War include correspondence to and from town selectmen, pay vouchers, draft notices, the appointment of an extra postmaster, muster receipts, and bounty receipts, 1862-1864. These documents are arranged in Series I. Series J encompasses reunion programs and songs honoring the 17th Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers, and a handwritten copy of John H. Glover's speech at the Fairfield reunion in 1883. The original is extremely fragile. Researchers are asked to use the photocopy.

Commemorative and published items not associated with a specific person are organized in Series K. Among these materials are commemorative envelopes; a newspaper from Mobile, Alabama, 1862, and the New York Herald issue announcing President Lincoln's assassination in 1865; and printed documents related to the draft. Of interest is a list of corps, evidently part of the Corps of Engineers, with hand-drawn and -colored symbols for the three divisions within each corps. The artist is anonymous.

Oversized items stored in the flat files include a Solders Memorial, 1st Regiment Connecticut Cavalry, 1864; muster list of the 2d Connecticut Light Battery, 1862; and an illustrated certificate of George C. Short's activities in the U.S. Navy.

Collection Contents

Civil War Collection

Muster Rolls - 14th Regiment

Oversize Items: Memorials, Lists, Certificates, & Music

Memorials, Lists, Certificates, & Music

OS B: Copies of "Drum the Beat"

Copies of "Drum the Beat"

OS A: Solders Memorial, Muster list, Certificates

Solders Memorial, 1st Regiment, Connecticut Cavalry, 1864

Muster list, 2d Connecticut Light Battery, 1862

Certificate, George C. Short, U.S. Navy



Certificate, Solders Aid Society, Southport, CT, 1866
Certificate, Nelson K. Smith, 1867

Series A: Walter Abbe Papers, 1862-1864

Folder 1: Correspondence and discharge and membership certificates, 1862-1864; pass for G.W. Abbe, 1862
Correspondence and discharge and membership certificates, 1862-1864; pass for G.W. Abbe, 1862

Series B: William Wilkins Disoway Papers, 1861-1864

Folder 11: Family letters, 1861, 1862
Family letters, 1861, 1862

Folder 10: Sketches of war scenes, ca. 1863
Sketches of war scenes, ca. 1863

Folder 9: Cartes de visite, 1863 (1 record)
Cartes de visite, 1863

William Wilkins Disoway

Folder 8: Newspaper clippings, 1863
Newspaper clippings, 1863

Folder 7: Correspondence and resolutions concerning his death, 1863-1864
Correspondence and resolutions concerning his death, 1863-1864

Folder 6: Military passes, 1861-1862; court-martial documents, 1862
Military passes, 1861-1862; court-martial documents, 1862

Folder 1-5: Correspondence to family members, 1861-1863
Correspondence to family members, 1861-1863

Series C: M.V.B. Dunham Papers, 1863
M.V.B. Dunham Papers, 1863

Folder 1: Discharge, 1863
Discharge, 1863

Series D: George Hale Papers, 1863-1865
George Hale Papers, 1863-1865

Folder 1: Correspondence with Francis D Perry, 1863-1865
Correspondence with Francis D Perry, 1863-1865

Series E: Allen Smith Papers, 1863-1864
Allen Smith Papers, 1863-1864

Folder 1: Correspondence with family, 1863-1864
Correspondence with family, 1863-1864

Series F: George H. Starr Papers, 1862-1864
George H. Starr Papers, 1862-1864

Folder 1: Correspondence with Ruth Root, 1862-1864
Correspondence with Ruth Root, 1862-1864

Series G: Frederick Sturges Papers, 1861
Frederick Sturges Papers, 1861

Folder 1: Military passes, 1861
Military passes, 1861

Series H: Correspondence and Legal Papers, 1861-1880
Correspondence and Legal Papers, 1861-1880

Folder 2: Copies of letters from George E. Northrop, 1861-1863
Copies of letters from George E. Northrop, 1861-1863

Folder 1: Letters and other official documents
Letters, 1863; parole document, Charles H. Willson, 1862; discharge and service certificate, Ludwig Jeckel, 1865, 1886; pension documents, Andrew Crissey, 1880

Series I: Fairfield Town Records, 1862-1864
Fairfield Town Records, 1862-1864

Folder 3: Bounty receipts, 1862
Bounty receipts, 1862

Folder 2: Muster receipts, 1862, including muster-in for Elias Howe, Jr., Company D, 17th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry
Muster receipts, 1862, including muster-in for Elias Howe, Jr., Company D, 17th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry

Folder 1: Correspondence, pay vouchers, draft notices, postmaster appointment, 1862-1864
Correspondence, pay vouchers, draft notices, postmaster appointment, 1862-1864

Series J: 17th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers Records, 1882, 1889
17th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers Records, 1882, 1889

Folder 2: Speech by John H. Glover, 1883
Speech by John H. Glover, 1883

Folder 1: Reunion programs and songs, 1883, 1889
Reunion programs and songs, 1883, 1889

Series K: Commemorative and Printed Materials, 1862-1886
Commemorative and Printed Materials, 1862-1886

Folder 7: Penant, Richmond, 1865, Lt. General U.S. Grant
Penant, Richmond, 1865, Lt. General U.S. Grant

Folder 6: Mobile Evening News, 1862; New York Herald, 1865
Mobile Evening News, 1862; New York Herald, 1865

Folder 5: Draft documents, printed, 1862
Draft documents, printed, 1862

Folder 4: Drawing of Corps of Engineers insignia, n.d.; G.A.R. rules, 1886
Drawing of Corps of Engineers insignia, n.d.; G.A.R. rules, 1886



Folder 1-3: Commemorative envelopes, ca. 1863
Commemorative envelopes, ca. 1863

Series L: Frank Burr Papers, 1865
Frank Burr Papers, 1865

Folder 1: Discharge certificate from Company C, 2nd Regiment, NY Artillery Volunteers, 1865
Discharge certificate from Company C, 2nd Regiment, NY Artillery Volunteers, 1865

Series M: Levi French Papers, 1863
Levi French Papers, 1863

Folder 1: Leatherbound diary kept by Private French, Company D, 23rd Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, 1863
Leatherbound diary kept by Private French, Company D, 23rd Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, 1863