



Fairfield Museum and History Center Library  
370 Beach Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824

### **Manuscript Finding Aid**

Title: Civil War Collection

Collection #: Ms B15

Dates: 1861-1889

Size of Collection: .5 linear feet (1 box)

Accession Number: unknown; L96.29; L2007.13

Donor: Mrs. William H. Van Dusen; Roland B. Burke; William B. Glover;  
Mrs. Allan Prior; Mr. and Mrs. F. Sturges III; Earl Blair; Beth  
Northrop; Katherine Sullivan; Paul Brzozowski

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Martha Rockwell; additional processing by Barbara Austen and  
William Sansfield

Date: July 1986; July 1996; added to June 2010

#### Biographical/ historical note:

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 as items were collected.

#### Scope and content note:

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 carte 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 Starr (Series F) of the 104th Regiment, New York Volunteers. The discharge certificate, 1863, of M. V. B. Dunham (later doctor of Greenfield Hill) from the 43d Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, is 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 leatherbound 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 Soldiers 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.

Series A. Walter Abbe Papers, 1862-1864

Series B. William Wilkins Disoway papers, 1861-1864

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

Series D. George Hale Papers, 1863-1865

Series E. Allen Smith Papers, 1863-1864

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

Series G. Frederick Sturges Papers, 1861

Series H. Correspondence and Legal Documents, 1861-1880

Series I. Fairfield Town Records, 1862-1864

Series J. 17th Regiment Connecticut Volunteers Records, 1862-1889

Series K. Commemorative and Printed Materials, 1862-1886

Series L. Frank Burr papers, 1865

Series M. Levi French papers, 1863

#### Oversized Items

Series A. Walter Abbe Papers, 1862-1864

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

Series B. William Wilkins Disoway Papers, 1861-1864

Folder 1-5. Correspondence to family members, 1861-1863  
Folder 6. Military passes, 1861-1862; court-martial documents, 1862  
Folder 7. Correspondence and resolutions concerning his death, 1863-1864  
Folder 8. Newspaper clippings, 1863  
Folder 9. Cartes de visite, 1863  
Folder 10. Sketches of war scenes, ca. 1863  
Folder 11. Family letters, 1861, 1862

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

Folder 1. Discharge, 1863

Series D. George Hale Papers, 1863-1865

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

Series E. Allen Smith Papers, 1863-1864

Folder 1. Correspondence with family, 1863-1864

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

Folder 1. Correspondence with Ruth Root, 1862-1864

Series G. Frederick Sturges Papers, 1861

Folder 1. Military passes, 1861

Series H. Correspondence and Legal Papers, 1861-1880

Folder 1. Letters, 1861, 1863; parole document, Charles H. Willson, 1862;  
discharge and service certificate, Ludwig Jeckel, 1865,  
1886; pension documents, Andrew Crissey, 1880

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

Series I. Fairfield Town Records, 1862-1864

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

Folder 2. Muster receipts, 1862, including muster-in for Elias Howe, Jr.,  
Company

D, 17<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteer Infantry  
Folder 3. Bounty receipts, 1862

Series J. 17th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers Records, 1883, 1889

Folder 1. Reunion programs and songs, 1883, 1889

Folder 2. Speech by John H. Glover, 1883 (please use photocopy)

Series K. Commemorative and Printed Materials, 1862-1886

Folder 1-3. Commemorative envelopes, ca. 1863

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

Folder 5. Draft documents, printed, 1862

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

Series L. Frank Burr Papers, 1865

Folder 1. Discharge certificate from Company C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, NY Artillery  
Volunteers, 1865  
Series M. Levi French Papers, 1863 [L2007.13]

Folder 1. Leatherbound diary kept by Private French, Company D, 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, 1863

#### Oversize Drawer

Soldiers Memorial, 1st Regiment, Connecticut Cavalry, 1864  
Muster list, 2d Connecticut Light Battery, 1862  
Certificate, George C. Short, U.S. Navy

#### Subject headings:

Bounties, military--Connecticut--Fairfield  
Fairfield (Conn.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865  
New York (State)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865  
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives

1st Regiment, Connecticut Cavalry  
2d Regiment, Connecticut Light Battery  
17th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers  
23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers  
1st Regiment, New York Mounted Rifles  
Abbe, Walter  
Burr, Frank  
Disoway, William Wilkins, 1843-1863  
Dunham, Martin Van Buren, 1840-1932  
French, Levi  
Hale, George, 1840-1920  
Smith, Allen  
Starr, George H.  
Sturges, Frederick

#### Regiments mentioned in the collection:

1st Regiment, Connecticut Cavalry  
2nd Regiment, Connecticut Light Battery  
17th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers  
23rd Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers  
43rd Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers  
1st Regiment, New York Mounted Rifles  
2nd Regiment, New York Artillery  
9th Regiment, New York

20th Regiment, New York Volunteers  
37th Regiment, New York Militia  
104th Regiment, New York Volunteers  
Names included in the collection:

Abbe, Walter  
Burr, Frank  
Crissey, Andrew  
Disoway, William Wilkins  
Dunham, Martin Van Buren  
French, Levi  
Glover, John H.  
Hale, George  
Jeckel, Ludwig

Walter Abbe	soldier
Frank Burr	pvt.
W. W. Disoway	lieut.
Levi French	pvt.
George Hale	sgt.
George E. Northrop	
Allen Smith	
George H. Starr	lieut./capt.

Kennedy, John  
Northrop, George  
Perry, Francis  
Root, Ruth D.  
Short, George C.  
Smith, Allen  
Starr, George H.  
Sturges, Frederick  
Willson, Charles H.

Co. F, 37th Reg., NY State Militia  
Co. C, 2nd Reg., NY Artillery  
Troop M, 1st NY Mounted Rifles  
Co. D, 23rd Reg., Conn. Volunteers  
Co. E, 17th Reg. Conn. Volunteers  
Co. A, 8th Reg. Conn. Volunteers  
Co. G, 17th Reg. Conn. Volunteers  
Duryea's Brigade, 104 NY Regiment