



BHC-MSS 0022
Guide to the Papers of Captain Frederick Doten
By Meg Rinn
September 2018

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Captain Frederick Doten

Title: Papers of Captain Frederick Doten

Dates: June 1863-April 1865

Quantity: ½ manuscript box

Abstract: Serving as an officer for Company F, 14th Connecticut, Captain Frederick Doten experienced fighting at Antietam and Gettysburg, and spent time in Libby Prison. His letters to his girlfriend, Georgia, offer an intimate view into both daily life of a Civil War officer and the horrors of the war. In several cases, letters were sent every other day.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History

Captain Frederick Bartlett Doten was born on December 9, 1841 in Sheffield, Massachusetts. The eldest son of Bartlett and Augusta, Frederick was educated in both the town where he was born, and in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

It is unclear when Frederick elected to move to New York City for work, but it is known that he had been a clerk at a carriage manufacturing company in the city until the American Civil War began. He enlisted with the 14th regiment of Connecticut on April 1, 1862, first being placed in Company A. He was promoted to 2nd lieutenant, being moved to Company F upon that promotion. He soon thereafter was promoted to 1st lieutenant, then Captain which saw him return to Company A.

Frederick was present for many key battles of the war, including Antietam and Gettysburg. He was captured at Morton's Ford and sent to Libby Prison in February of 1864, only to be a part of a prisoner exchange in March of 1864.

With the conclusion of the war, Doten was mustered out in May 1865, returning first to Bridgeport and then to New York City to work in carriage manufacturing again. He married Georgiana L. Wells, whom he had written to extensively in the war, on October 4, 1866.

The couple moved back to Massachusetts in 1871, and lived a quiet life. Members of the local Unitarian church, Frederick was a part of the choir. It is unclear if the two had any children.

Frederick Doten died on April 9, 1903. He is buried in Unitarian Cemetery, Marblehead, MA

Scope and Content Note

The letters cover a period of 1863 to 1865, with a bulk focusing on October 1864-April 1865. All written to his then girlfriend, later wife Georgiana Wells, the letters discuss both the daily responsibilities of an officer during the American Civil War, and the horrors of what Doten witnessed as the war neared its end.

Arrangement note:

Chronological

Administrative information:

Provenance: Purchased in 1994.

Preferred Citation:

Papers of Captain Frederick Doten (BHC-MSS 0022), Bridgeport History Center.

Names and Subject Tracings

Personal Names

Doten, Captain Frederick.

Corporate Names

Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 14th (1862-1865).

Subject tracings

American Civil War--United States.

American Civil War--United States--Collected Correspondence.

Connecticut--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Connecticut--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Regimental histories.

Detailed box and folder listing

Box 1

1. Letter, June 4, 1863
2. Letter, May 1864
3. Letter, June 28, 1864
4. Letter, July 5, 1864
5. Letter, July 8, 1864
6. Letter, July 12, 1864
7. Letter, July 18, 1864
8. Letter, September 23, 1864
9. Letter, September 29, 1864
10. Letter, October 10, 1864
11. Letter, October 18, 1864
12. Letter, October 20, 1864
13. Letter, October 24, 1864
14. Letter, November 11, 1864
15. Letter, November 13, 1864
16. Letter, November 17, 1864
17. Letter, November 19, 1864
18. Letter, November 23, 1864
19. Letter, November 25, 1864

20. Letter, December 14, 1864
21. Letter, December 18, 1864
22. Letter, December 22, 1864
23. Letter, December 24, 1864
24. Letter, December 26, 1864
25. Letter, January 1, 1865
26. Letter, January 3, 1865
27. Letter, January 5, 1865
28. Letter, January 11, 1865
29. Letter, January 25, 1865
30. Letter, January 27, 1865
31. Letter, January 29, 1865
32. Letter, January 31, 1865
33. Letter, February 2, 1865
34. Letter, February 4, 1865
35. Letter, February 11, 1865
36. Letter, February 12, 1865
37. Letter, February 16, 1865
38. Letter, February 25, 1865
39. Letter, February 27, 1865
40. Letter, March 1, 1865
41. Letter, March 7, 1865
42. Letter, March 15, 1865
43. Letter, March 19, 1865
44. Letter, March 24, 1865
45. Letter, March 28, 1865
46. Letter, March 31, 1865
47. Letter, April 12, 1865
48. Letter, April 24, 1865
49. Envelope, February 12, 1865
50. Envelope, February 16, 1865