



BHC-MSS 0035
Guide to the Papers of William Warren
By Meg Rinn and Carolyn B. Ivanoff
April 2019

Descriptive Summary

Creator: William Warren

Title: Papers of William Warren

Dates: 1861-1913

Quantity: 4 manuscript boxes

Abstract: William Warren is best known for his various volumes that represent a comprehensive history of the 17th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. Within this collection are lectures he gave within his lifetime, research material used for both the lectures and for his regimental history, and additional photographs of regiment members, as well as secondary works.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Note: Biographical history by researcher Carolyn B. Ivanoff.

Biographical History

Written by Carolyn B. Ivanoff

William H. Warren was born on March 28, 1842. Warren was listed in the 1860 census as a railroad hand living in Danbury, Connecticut. In August 1862, as the Civil War raged, Warren patriotically enlisted in the 17th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry as an 18 year old private. The regiment's first combat was at Chancellorsville, where the 17th Connecticut, part of the 11th Corps, was routed by Stonewall Jackson's surprise flank attack on May 2, 1863. The Gettysburg Campaign began in early June and the 17th Connecticut reached the battlefield at the height of the fighting on the first day of battle on July 1, 1863. Overwhelmed by a superior Confederate onslaught at Barlow's Knoll, the Eleventh Corps folded. The survivors re-formed on East Cemetery Hill. Many in the regiment were killed, missing, or wounded on the first day. Warren became a POW and was sent with other prisoners to Belle Isle prison camp in Richmond. Warren would be exchanged in late August 1863 and would rejoin the regiment. After Gettysburg, the regiment was sent to South Carolina and then Florida where they were engaged in various actions until the survivors, including, Private William Warren, were mustered out at Hilton Head in July 1865.

William Warren's lifelong ambition was to write and publish a regimental history of the 17th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. He was never successful, but devoted himself obsessively to this task until the very end of his life. Warren was unceasing in his efforts to compile and collect accounts of the regiment's service and experiences. He corresponded widely with the officers and men of the 17th Connecticut, soliciting their accounts of their experiences. He compiled photographs, letters, first-hand accounts and numerous sources. The Bridgeport Public Library is the repository of eleven bound volumes of Warren's writing. Several of the volumes are typed and

devoted to specific events such as Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. Several of the volumes are hand written.

Warren worked on the unpublished manuscript diligently until the end of his life. He passed away on June 5, 1918 and was interred in Wooster Cemetery in Danbury.

Bibliography

17thcvi.org - An Online History of the 17th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry during the U.S. Civil War, <https://seventeenthcvi.org/blog/>

Ancestry.com - information on William Henry Warren, Birth:1842 - Death: 1918,

Cauchon, Barry, "An Awesome Talk With" CHARLENE HENDERSON: The 17th Regiment CVI Gravesite Location Project, UPDATE: March 02, 2010, <https://awesometalks.wordpress.com/tag/william-h-warren/>

Hines, Blaikie, Civil War Volunteer Sons of Connecticut, American Patriot Press, 2002

House, Art, Lt. Col. Retired, Fragile Volumes Reveal the 17th's Regimental History, 17thcvi.org

Warren, William H., Eleven Volume Manuscript History of the 17th Connecticut Regiment, Bridgeport Public Library History Center <https://seventeenthcvi.org/blog/history-index/william-warren-history/>

Scope and Content note:

Material within the collection relates to the lectures that Warren gave on the 17th in his lifetime, as well as the research material he gathered for his history of the 17th. For the final product of that research, please see BHC-MSS 0042 History of the 17th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry by William Warren. This collection also contains additional secondary works Warren owned.

Note that the "tour" maps do not have maps at all. They are instead handwritten accounts for a lecture, essentially meant to create a verbal tour for the audience to easily follow the three year period of the regiment staving in Fairfield County and moving through New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, South Caroline and Florida.

Volume by volume, the tour maps cover the following, and are taken from the notes of previous archivists.

- Map 1: Lists the number of men from each of the 23 towns of Fairfield County, comprising of about 1,000 men of the 17th reg. under command of Colonel William H. Noble. It relates the group's departure from Bridgeport.
- Map 2: Account of travels through New York, New Jersey, through to Reading, PA, 1862
- Map 3: Account of time spent in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington DC, 1862

- Map: Account of time spent in Alexandria, Virginia, to scene of Bull Run Battle, and the marches to Bumfries, Falmouth, and Fredricksburg in the winter of 1862 to spring of 1863; the battle of Chanceslorsville, various marches camps in northern Virginia, Gettysburg, and return to Alexandria, Virginia
- Map 5: Account of time spent after departing Alexandria, Virginia by steamer, proceeded down Potomac, stops at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, August 10, 1863
- Map 6 and 7: Arrival at Charlestown Harbor, sails by Fort Sumter, etc.

Arrangement note:

Series I consists of various lectures and drafts that Warren prepared within his lifetime. The tour maps have been placed first, and all other material has been arranged chronologically.

Series II, research material, contains correspondence between Warren and other members of the 17th, notes, diaries, and a compiled record of monthly and yearly deaths of regiment members. It is arranged chronologically.

Series III contains photographs and other visuals. Photographs are mostly arranged by identified companies within the regiment.

Series IV, Additional material related to the Civil War contains mostly secondary works and ephemera produced after the war, and is arranged chronologically.

Administrative information:

Provenance: Unknown

Preferred Citation:

Papers of William Warren (BHC-MSS 0035), Bridgeport History Center.

Names and Subject Tracings

Personal names

Warren, William.

Subject tracings

American Civil War, letters and diaries

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Battlefields—Florida

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Battlefields--Pennsylvania--Gettysburg.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Battlefields—South Carolina.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Battlefields--Virginia.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Manuscripts.

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

Detailed box and folder listing

Series I, lectures and lecture material

Box 1

1. An Evening with Civil War Diaries

2. Tour of the 17th Regiment, 1862-1865, map 1
3. Tour of the 17th Regiment, 1862-1865, map 2
4. Tour of the 17th Regiment, 1862-1865, map 3
5. Tour of the 17th Regiment, 1862-1865, map 4
6. Tour of the 17th Regiment, 1862-1865, map 5 and 6
7. Tour of the 17th Regiment, 1862-1865, map 7
8. Diary, August 11-December 21, 1863
9. Description of men in Company C, 17th Connecticut Regiment, 1866
10. Description of men in Company C, 17th Connecticut Regiment, 1866
11. Description of Barlow's Knoll at Gettysburg, written in 1894
12. Washington and Richmond Excursion, written in 1911
13. Gettysburg Lecture, 1st day, pages 50-100
14. Gettysburg, undated

Box 2

1. For lecture, Sketch of Gettysburg, undated
2. Part Eight no. 153, undated
3. Charles E. Dotym page 653, undated
4. Flag, undated
5. General index of volume 14
6. Uncategorized drafts, undated
7. Uncategorized drafts, undated
8. Uncategorized drafts, undated
9. Uncategorized drafts, undated

Series II, Research material

Box 3

1. Correspondence between Warren and other members of the 17th, 1865-1900s
2. Middlebrook's detail book, volume 1, May 13-December 30, 1864
3. Middlebrook's detail book, volume 2, December 31, 1864-July 24, 1865
4. George Morrell's reminisces, pages 11-21, undated
Note: Apparently written to William c. 1890-1891. Consists of pages numbered 11 through 21, part of a longer letter (other parts unknown re: location). Narrative tells of Morrell's capture during battle of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863, experiences in prison camps, patrol, and return to regiment in Jacksonville, FL.
5. Diary, Corporeal Dewitt C, Ruscoe c. 1860s
6. Diary, Justus M. Silliman, December 1863-May 1864
7. Justus M. Silliman, handwritten notes, undated
8. Other diaries, undated
9. Notes and parts of diaries, undated
10. Monthly and yearly records of deaths in the 17th Connecticut Regiment, July 1, 1862-January 1, 1918
11. 3 Years of Changes in the Regiment, 1899?

12. Numbers of enlistments per-day for the 17th Connecticut while recruiting, 1861-1865
13. Notebooks, recruit deaths with index
14. Notes and research about small items, undated
15. Notes and research about small items, undated
16. Additional research notes, undated
17. Additional research notes, undated
18. Research notes of clippings related to Battle of Gettysburg
19. Research newspaper and magazine clippings

Series III, Photographs

Box 4

1. Sketch, diplomacy tent, November 1, 1863
2. Photographs, company A
3. Photographs, company c, undated
4. Photographs, company D, undated
5. Photographs of veterans, undated
6. Photograph, 1898-1910
7. Photographs, persons identified, company unknown, dated
8. Photographs, unidentified

Series IV, Additional material related to the Civil War

9. 17th Regiment reunion booklets, 1883-1884, 1889
10. Tickets from 17th Regiment dinner, 1885 and 1888
11. Story of a Private by Charles Richardson, 1897
12. Map of Chancellorsville, VA, 1891
13. Maps, 1890s
14. "Our Flag" by Francis Scott Key, 3rd edition, 1909
15. Gettysburg: The pictures and the story, 1913
16. Ephemera related to the Civil War, undated
17. Acts of the Apostles from the Smaller Cambridge Bible for Schools, undated
18. Handkerchief, undated