



BHC-MSS 0039

Guide to the Papers of Alfred B. Beers

By Meghan Rinn

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Alfred B. Beers

Title: Papers of Alfred B. Beers

Dates: 1863-1920 [Bulk 1865-1866]

Quantity: 1 manuscript box, 3 oversize folders

Abstract: Alfred B. Beers served in the American Civil War, enlisting at the age of 16 and being honorably discharged as a captain at the age of 20. An active veteran in the Grand Army of the Republic, Beers served as an attorney and as a judge for the city of Bridgeport and was an active member of the community.

Collection Number: BHC-MSS 0039

Language: English

Biographical Information

Alfred B. Beers was a prominent citizen of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Born in New Rochelle, New York on April 23, 1845, he moved to Bridgeport at age six. His family had been in the United States since the 1670s.

Beers enlisted in the United States Army in September of 1861, meaning he was 16 years old at the time. Beers served as part of the Sixth Connecticut Infantry through the full of the Civil War, and was involved in major events including the bombing of Hiltonhead, South Carolina and the siege of Charleston, South Carolina among many, many others. During the war, Beers also rose through the ranks, with an honorable discharge in August of 1865, having achieved the rank of captain.

He began law school in 1867, and helped to found the Lockwood and Beers firm. Starting in 1872 when he was appointed the town clerk for Bridgeport, Alfred Beers spent much of the 1870s in service of the city. He became assistant city attorney in 1875, and judge of the city court in 1877.

From 1892 to 1897, Beers held a private law practice.

In Alfred Beers' personal life, he married Callie T. House of Vineland, New Jersey in February of 1872. The couple had four children. He was an extremely active presence in Bridgeport, especially with the Grand Army of the Republic Post that was within the city, which he joined in 1867. He was national commander of the organization from 1911 to 1912.

Beers died of heart problems on March 29, 1920.

Scope and Content Note

The material present in the Beers paper primarily relates to the Civil War. Due to his status as an officer, Beers saw major events with the Sixth Connecticut Infantry, and he spoke widely and publicly about it. His speeches, in series II, offer excellent insight into those events, and many of the documents in series I relate to administrative work Beers had to do as an officer. These include various vouchers for pay, artillery, and the like, especially for the last year of the war.

Arrangement Note

There are 3 series in the collection. Series I, the Civil War, contains administrative papers from Beers' work as an officer during that time period, with his various promotions being placed first, then vouchers in numerical order. Also included is material from Beers' activity as a Civil War veteran, including his time as Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR).

Series II contains speeches Beers gave at various points, and series III covers additional material.

Provenance

Unknown.

Name and Subject Tracings

Personal Names

Beers, Alfred Bishop (1845-1920.)

Corporate names

Grand Army of the Republic

Subject Tracings

American Civil War, letters and diaries

Bridgeport, Conn.

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

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

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

Administrative Information

Preferred citation

Papers of Alfred B. Beers (BHC-MSS 0039), Bridgeport History Center.

Detailed Box and Folder Listing

Box 1

Series I, Civil War

1. Appointment of ranks for corporal and first sergeant, 1863 and 1864
2. Appointment of rank for captain, 1865

3. North Carolina, Army Headquarters general orders, January-July, 1865
4. North Carolina, Special orders related to hospitalization, June-July, 1865
5. Voucher 1, Invoice of Stores, 1865-1866
6. Vouches 2 and 4, invoices of stores, 1865
7. Voucher 3, statement of charges on muster and payrolls, 1865
8. Voucher 51, Monthly return of clothing, camp, and garrison equipage, May-August 1865
9. Voucher 52, Quarterly return of ordnance and ordnance stores, 1865
10. Voucher 57 or 3, inventory and inspections report, 1865
11. Vouchers with no assigned numbers, 1865
12. Administrative correspondence including furloughs and invoices, 1863-1865
13. Soldiers monument dedication in Bridgeport, Connecticut, 1866
14. Certificate of non-indebtedness to US Government, November 1875
15. Appointment as judge, march 8, 1887 [fragile]
16. Connecticut state republican ticket with primary list, c. 1902
17. Campaign material for commander of Grand Army of the Republic, 1912
18. Documents from time as commander-in-chief of GAR, c. 1912
19. Groton Memorial Day material, 1913
20. Invitation and list of events for Star Spangled Banner centennial September 1914
21. Oversized material

Oversize folder 1

1. Muster-in roll of Alfred Beers, March 25, 1865
2. Receipts of clothing, May 25 and July 15, 1865

Oversize folder 2

1. Morning reports, 1865

Oversize folder 3

1. Muster out roll, Francis Leonard, September 1863
2. Abstract and articles retained, July 15, 1865
3. Consolidated morning reports, undated

Series II, Speeches

22. Address upon the GAR delivered at town hall, Meriden CT and Address before the Army and
23. Navy club and Governors Bigelow, 1881
24. Army Reminiscences, delivered at Bridgeport Public Library and including information about campaign in Charleston, South Carolina, January 7, 1901
25. Colored Soldiers, General Butler's Braise, January 17, 1901
26. Address of the Commander-in-Chief of GAR...at the Gettysburg Pennsylvania Celebration, July 1, 1913
27. Unidentified handwritten speech, undated

Series III, Additional material

28. Bills from Bridgeport merchants, 1891-1904
29. Additional documents, undated
30. Obituaries, April 1920
31. Photographs, 1861-1920
32. Original inventory for the collection, c. 1970s