



BHC-MSS 0042

Guide to the History of the 17th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry by William
Warren
By Meg Rinn and Carolyn B. Ivanoff
June 2019

Descriptive Summary

Creator: William Warren

Title: History of the 17th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry

Dates: 1901-1918

Quantity: 15 volumes which includes 12 volumes of history, 2 individual indexes and 1 photo album, each individually housed

Abstract: Representing a unique dedication to his regiment, William Warren's ambition was to write a complete history of the 17th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. Partially typed and partially hand-written, the 11 volumes and two indexes that make up the collection collect the experiences of the 17th and showcase Warren's unceasing pursuit of his goal.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Note: Biographical history by researcher Carolyn B. Ivanoff

ACCESS IS RESTRICTED DUE TO DELICATE NATURE OF THE MATERIAL

Biographical History

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:

The material within the 12 volumes (there is a duplicate copy of volume 1) represents Warren's work to organize a history that relies heavily on first person narratives and memories. Volumes 1 to 6 are typeset, the remaining material is entirely handwritten and represents a less coherent organization.

Lt. Col. Art House (USA, Retired) has written a volume-by-volume summary of the contents. <https://seventeenthcvi.org/blog/history-index/william-warren-history/> Please refer to his detailed listings for events contained in each volume. As it is, the volumes of the history cover the following years:

Volume 1 covers July-December, 1862.

Volume 2 covers January 1-June 30, 1863 and includes the Battle of Chancellorsville

Volume 3 covers the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

Volume 4 covers the rest of July 1863 to December 1863.

Volume 5 contains various rosters, diary entries, and other media, extending after the war.

Volume 6, contains various rosters, diary entries, and other media, extending after the war.

Volume 7 covers 1864 to the end of the regiment's service in 1864.

Volume 8 also covers events in 1865.

Volume 9, relates to events that happened during the capture of commanding officer Colonel William H. Noble

Volumes 10 and 11 contain additional material

Both indexes attempt to manage all of the material described above.

The photo album contains about 200 images of the regiment's soldiers.

Arrangement note:

Material is arranged in volume order and individually housed. After volume 5, material is handwritten rather than printed. Indexes are also handwritten. An image album is the last item in the series.

Administrative information:

Provenance: Unknown

Access restrictions: This collection is closed to the public at this time due to the extremely fragile nature of the material. Please directly contact the Bridgeport History Center through our contact page if you require access.

Preferred Citation:

History of the 17th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry (BHC-MSS 0042), 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 volume listing

1. Volume 1, 1900 [printed]
2. Volume 1, 1905 [printed]
3. Volume 2, 1901 [printed]
4. Volume 3, 1906 [printed]
5. Volume 4, 1905 [printed]
6. Volume 5, 1905 [printed]
7. Volume 6, 1906 [printed, binding says volume 6, interior says volume 2]
8. Volume 7, 1906 [Handwritten]
9. Volume 8, undated [Handwritten]
10. Volume 9, 1891 [Handwritten]
11. Volume 10, c. 1918 [Handwritten]
12. Volume 11, c. 1918 [Handwritten]

13. Index of all volumes of 8th edition, undated [Handwritten]
14. The last revised general index of all volumes, undated [Handwritten]
15. Photoalbum, 1916