

Brigham Family Papers, 1853-1909, bulk 1862-1864

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Brigham Family Papers, 1853-1909, bulk 1862-1864

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

2016.107

Author of Finding Aid:

Sandra L. Wheeler

Creators:

Brigham, Charles Lewis, 1843-1864
Brigham, Edward H., 1845-1880

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

2 boxes ; 0.63 linear feet

Abstract:

This collection consists primarily of letters written home by two brothers from Nashua, NH, while they were serving in the Union forces during the Civil War: Charles Lewis Brigham (1843-1864) and Edward H. Brigham (1845-1880). The collection also contains a few letters among other family members, a handful of photographs, and photocopied records from the U.S. National Archives relating to Edward Brigham and his parents' pension applications.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Brigham Family Papers were gifted in memory of Richard Bean Law and George B. Law, arranged by Jerrilee Cain. The papers were gifted on October 5, 2016.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Sandra L. Wheeler in October 2016. The finding aid was written by Sandra L. Wheeler in October 2016. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use. Most items are in good condition, though a few are fragile or torn and should be handled carefully.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Brigham Family Papers, 2016.107. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date Accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Charles Amory Brigham (1814-1899) and Eliza Ann Fairbanks (1816-1900) married on August 9, 1842; lived in Nashua, NH; and had eight children, of which Charles Lewis and Edward H. were the two oldest.

Charles Lewis Brigham (1843-1864) worked for watchmaker Charles Ridgeway in Nashua, NH. On August 14, 1862, at age 19, he enlisted in Company F of the 9th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry. He was mustered in as a Private and later appointed Corporal. On July 30, 1864, he was wounded in a mine explosion in Petersburg, VA. He died on October 14, 1864 at Mt. Pleasant Hospital in Washington, DC, and is buried in Nashua, NH.

Edward H. Brigham (1845-1880) enlisted on December 9, 1861, in the New Hampshire Battalion of the First Regiment New England Volunteer Cavalry (also known as the First Regiment, Rhode

Island Volunteer Cavalry). At that time, he gave his occupation as “butcher,” but in census entries for 1870 and 1880 he is listed as “laborer” or “clerk in grocery.” He mustered in as a Private, re-enlisted in January 1864, and was wounded and captured on June 29, 1864 at Ream’s Station (near Petersburg), VA. He was released on June 30, 1865, and appointed Corporal on July 1, 1865. He mustered out on July 15, 1865, and returned to Nashua. His activities for the next years are undocumented, but he received a government pension because of his war service. He died, unmarried, on October 22, 1880, in Nashua.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

This is a collection primarily of Civil War letters written by two young New Hampshire volunteers to their parents and siblings in Nashua, NH. There are also a few letters among other family members, some photographs, and photocopied records about the pension awarded to one of the brothers after the war.

The letters of the older brother, **Charles Lewis Brigham (1843-1864)**, who variously signed himself as “Charles” and “Lewis,” are more detailed and informative than those of Edward. They describe his housing, food, soldiering activities, the countryside in which he found himself, and the people there. When hospitalized early in his military career for “bowel trouble” he told his parents about his treatment and, once recovered and assigned to ward duties, what hospital work entailed. At the end of his life, hospitalized for a wound to his left hand, he again described his treatment, including care given him by the “sanitary ladies.” He often asked questions about what was happening to family at home and commented upon their activities. He kept a journal describing his movements (kind of transport, dates, places; also, a list of names of men in his regiment 1862-1864). He writes from a number of places, including: Massachusetts; Washington, DC; Frederick and Falmouth, MD; Newport News, VA; Paris and Cynthiana, KY; Vicksburg, LA; and Gaines Bluff, MI. There is a notice of his death sent from an attorney to his parents, but no further documentation of his death or burial.

The younger brother, **Edward H. Brigham (1845-1880)**, wrote much more briefly and much less descriptively, mostly from Washington, DC, and Manassas, VA. Official records indicate he was wounded and captured, but no letters from him document this – perhaps he was unable to write during that time. Of his years after returning home there is also no record except that he received a pension. The donor of the papers acquired photocopied official pension records from the National Archives and these are also included.

The family correspondence consists largely of letters to Eliza F. Brigham from her aunts and sister-in-law Martha Brigham about the death of a child and family matters. One letter is from J.L. Andrews to Charles A. Brigham concerning where Edward, who had been captured, might be. The rest of the letters are largely business matters, with one condolence letter to Eliza about Edward’s death.

The ephemera folder in Box 2 contains two fabric swatches, one red and one black. The collection also includes some photographs: originals, copies, and negatives.

Arrangement:

The collection has been organized by primary correspondent: Brigham family, Charles Lewis

Brigham, Edward H. Brigham; all arranged chronologically. The photographs are at the end of the collection and are arranged by sitter. Envelopes, from which all stamps have been removed, have been kept with the letters only when found together and with the same date.

Contents List

Box 1

Folder 1	Finding aid
Folder 2	Secondary information and research done by donor, 1862-1864, undated
Folder 3	Brigham family correspondence, 1857-1862
Folder 4	Brigham family correspondence, 1863-1865
Folder 5	Brigham family correspondence, 1867, 1872-1874, 1880, 1909
Folder 6	Brigham family correspondence, undated
Folder 7	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1859-1860
Folder 8	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1862 August
Folder 9	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1862 September-December
Folder 10	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1863 January
Folder 11	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1863 February
Folder 12	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1863 March
Folder 13	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1863 April
Folder 14	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1863 May-June
Folder 15	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1863 July-September
Folder 16	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1863 October
Folder 17	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1863 November
Folder 18	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1863 December
Folder 19	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1864 January
Folder 20	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1864 February
Folder 21	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1864 March-April
Folder 22	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1864 May
Folder 23	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1864 June
Folder 24	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1864 July-August
Folder 25	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, 1864 September-October
Folder 26	Brigham, Charles Lewis correspondence, undated
Folder 27	Brigham, Charles Lewis journal, 1862-1863
Folder 28	Brigham, Charles Lewis journal, 1862 August-1864 March
Folder 29	Brigham, Charles Lewis military documents, 1862, 1864
Folder 30	Brigham, Edward correspondence, 1862 January-August
Folder 31	Brigham, Edward correspondence, 1862 September-December
Folder 32	Brigham, Edward correspondence, 1863 February-August
Folder 33	Brigham, Edward correspondence, 1863 September-December
Folder 34	Brigham, Edward correspondence, 1864-1865
Folder 35	Brigham, Edward military documents, 1864-1890

Box 2

Folder 1	Brigham, Edward military documents, photocopies, 1862-1865
Folder 2	Brigham, Edward military documents and pension file, photocopies, 1866, 1877

- Folder 3 [Brigham, Edward] military documents, survivor's pension claim, photocopies, 1890
- Folder 4 Ephemera: two fabric swatches, one red and one black, undated
- Folder 5 Photographs: Brigham, Albert, undated
- Folder 6 Photographs: Brigham, Charles A. and Eliza Fairbanks, 1880, 1890, undated
- Folder 7 Photographs: Brigham, Charles Lewis, undated
- Folder 8 Photographs: Brigham, Charles Lewis and Edward H., circa 1853
- Folder 9 Photographs: Brigham, Edward H., undated, circa 1863
- Folder 10 Photographs: Brigham, George, undated
- Folder 11 Photographs: Brigham relatives: unidentified toddler, Annette Fairbanks Ellis, A.W. Sprague, undated
- Folder 12 Photograph negatives, undated
- Folder 13 Empty envelopes, 1862-1864, 1909, undated

Subject Terms

People:

- Brigham, Charles A., 1815-1899
- Brigham, Charles Lewis, 1843-1864
- Brigham, Edward H., 1845-1880
- Brigham, Eliza Fairbanks, 1816-1900

Organizations:

- United States. Army. New Hampshire Infantry Regiment, 9th (1862-1865)
- United States. Army. Rhode Island Cavalry Regiment, 1st (1861-1865)

Subjects:

- Military life
- Military pensions--United States--Civil War, 1861-1865
- Slavery
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Hospitals
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Medical care
- War wounds

Locations:

- Boston, MA
- Kentucky
- Manassas, VA
- Nashua, NH
- Petersburg, VA
- Virginia
- Washington, DC

Occupations:

- Soldiers