

Guide to the William H. Thomas Papers, 1863-1910

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

William H. Thomas Papers, 1863-1910

Repository:

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

Collection Number:

2003.027

Author of Finding Aid:

Jason Lewis

Creator:

Thomas, William H., 1840-1917

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box ; 0.21 linear feet

Abstract:

William Harrison Thomas was a resident of Laconia, NH, in the early 1860s. The papers were originally found in the Civil War field desk of Thomas from his time as Chaplain of the 4th New Hampshire Regiment. They contain personal letters and documents pertaining to the 4th New Hampshire Volunteers Veterans Association, as well as personal diaries, a "Soldier's Manual of Devotion," and a "Catalogue of Library."

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The William H. Thomas Papers were a gift of Felicia M. Robinson and the descendants of the Rev. William Harrison Thomas on July 15, 2003. The papers were originally found in Thomas' Civil War field desk (New Hampshire Historical Society museum accession 2003.027) from his time as Chaplin of the 4th New Hampshire Regiment.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Jason Lewis in November 2019. The finding aid was written by Jason Lewis in November 2019. 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.

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, William H. Thomas Papers, 2003.027. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

William Harrison Thomas was born in Brooklyn, NY, on March 29, 1840. He was a resident of Laconia, NH, in the 1860s. He married Sarah Jane Place (1841-1928) on May 2, 1861 in Brooklyn and together they had five children: Frank Place (1862-1891), Elizabeth (1867-1868), Nellie (1869-1956), Mabel (1871-1964), and William (1872-1944). Thomas was a Methodist Minister and during the Civil War was appointed Chaplin of the 4th Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers. He was appointed on October 23, 1863 and mustered in on November 16, 1863. Due to his wife's illness, he resigned on June 28, 1864. He went on to live in Brooklyn in the early 1870s, before moving to Norwalk, CT. William Thomas died there on April 25, 1917.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The William H. Thomas Papers consist of approximately 52 items including diaries, letters, and printed material. The correspondence consists of approximately 32 letters, passes, and general

orders from 1863 to 1910. Many of these documents come from Thomas's time at Morris Island, South Carolina, during the Civil War. Also included is some correspondence from the 4th New Hampshire Volunteers Veterans Association, dated from 1901 to 1910. Other materials include 16 documents relating to 4th New Hampshire Volunteers Veterans Association. Most of these documents are pamphlets from their annual reunions. The last two folders contain two volumes of diaries dated 1863 and 1864, *Soldier's Manual of Devotion* dated 1863, and a *Catalog of Library* dated 1863. Thomas' diaries contain brief daily notes during his time in the Civil War, including notes on confessions, burials, services, the names and addresses of soldiers, and a short account book of expenses.

Arrangement:

The William H. Thomas Papers are organized into folders by type, then chronologically.

Contents List

Box 1

- Folder 1 Correspondence, 1863
- Folder 2 Correspondence, 1864
- Folder 3 Correspondence, 1901-1910, undated
- Folder 4 4th New Hampshire Volunteers Veterans Association papers, 1895-1910
- Folder 5 Diaries, 1863-1864
- Folder 6 *Soldier's Manual of Devotion* and *Catalogue of Library*, 1863

Separated Materials:

Due to the size of the broadside "The Greatest Hero of the War," this item has been moved to the Broadside Collection, Entertainment Series.

Subject Terms

People:

- Drew, Jeremiah D., 1821-1905
- Lawrence, Jackson H., 1826-1910
- Sanborn, True, 1829-1903
- Thomas, William H., 1840-1917
- Whipple, Thomas J., 1816-1889

Organizations:

- United States. Army. New Hampshire Infantry Regiment, 4th (1861-1865)

Subjects:

- Correspondence
- Diaries
- Religion
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
- Veterans

Locations:

- Concord, NH
- Francestown, NH

Hilton Head, SC
Laconia, NH
Manchester, NH
Methuen, MA
Morris Island, SC

Occupations:

Clergy
Military chaplains

Related Materials

Museum

Desk, Campaign, owned by William H. Thomas (1840-1917), 2003.027