

Patterson Family Letters

Overview of the Collection

Dates: 1860-1861, 1864-1869, 1877, 1896, undated

Abstract: This Collection consists of envelopes and letters for Patterson and Frink family members. The bulk of the letters are sent from and to Walter L. Patterson, a soldier who was with the 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery Regiment. Walter writes to his wife, Sarah M. *Frink* Patterson, and there are letters to him from Sarah and Walter's sister, Susan "Susie" E. *Patterson* Lewis. Other family members noted in the collection are Mary L. *Millspaugh* Patterson and Phebe E. *Frink* Main along with her husband John L. Main. There are also a few letters to unknown recipients and some assorted materials such as farm receipts, a picture of Reverend John Wesley, and a marketing flyer.

Quantity: One box.

Accession: 2017.008

Language: The records are in English.

Biographical Note

Walter L. Patterson was born in 1841 in New Milford, Connecticut and listed as residing in Ledyard, Connecticut when he enlisted on January 1, 1863 and was mustered into Company E of the 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery Regiment. He was discharged on August 8, 1865. Sarah M. Frink was born in 1844 in Rhode Island and married Walter in January 1864 in Connecticut. They were together until Sarah's death in 1869. Walter and Sarah had a daughter together in 1866 also named Sarah, however the child sadly died in 1867. Both Sarah and her daughter are buried in Preston, Connecticut. Walter later remarried to a woman named Julia and is listed in the 1880 census as having two children with her. Walter passed away on October 3, 1896 and is buried in New Haven, Connecticut.

Susan E. Patterson, was born on October 21, 1838 and Rufus W. Lewis was born on February 9, 1836. In November of 1858 Rufus and Susan married each other. On August 25, 1862 Rufus was mustered into Company H of the 15th Connecticut Infantry Regiment until March 24, 1864 when he was transferred into the 112th Company, Second Battalion, of the Veteran Reserve Corps and then transferred into the 18th Veteran Reserve Corps Regiment on January 1, 1865. While with the 18th he obtained the rank of First Sergeant of Company D and was discharged on June 24, 1865. Also, during his time with the 18th Rufus was a part of the Honor Guard on President Abraham Lincoln's funeral train. Rufus and Susan were long time residents of Naugatuck, Connecticut and were both buried there after Rufus' death on March 21, 1909 and Susan's death on June 1, 1918.

Mary L. Millspaugh was born on August 20, 1838 and was the wife of Lyman S. Patterson, the brother of Walter and Susan. Mary lived until June 30, 1904 and Lyman lived until March 11, 1924.

Phebe E. Frink was born April 13, 1845 in North Stonington, Connecticut and was the sister of Sarah M. *Frink* Patterson. John L. Main was born on August 25, 1841 in Ledyard, Connecticut and was listed as having the same town of residence when he enlisted for service on August 25,

1862. On September 5, 1862 he was mustered into Company G of the 21st Connecticut Infantry Regiment. He was discharged from service on January 14, 1863. Phebe and John married in 1864. Phebe lived until October 10, 1918 and John died a year previously on February 8.

Scope and Content

The Collection is organized into two series of correspondence and miscellaneous.

Series 1: Correspondence, 1860-1861, 1864-1869, 1877, 1896, undated, arranged into two subseries: Civil War Letters and Family Letters. The Civil War Letters involve “Anna,” Walter Patterson, Sarah Patterson, Susie Lewis (Susan E. Patterson), Mary Patterson, Almira Tyler Greene, and “Emma” to “George” during the Civil War. In Walter’s letters he speaks of camp life, combat experiences, most notably during the Siege of Petersburg, being sick in the hospital at times, and longing to be with Sarah again. The Family Letters contain pre- and post-Civil War letters with Sarah Patterson, Allan Crouch, Mary Patterson, Susie Lewis, Emogene “Genie” Austin, John and Phebe Main, Ledyard selectman John Brewster, and a man with the last name “Breed.” Each subseries is organized chronologically.

Series 2: Miscellaneous, 1860, undated, consists of farm receipts of purchased goods, a printed picture of Reverend John Wesley, and a flyer for “Clark’s Anti-Bilious Compound” from R.C. and C.S. Clark. This series is organized chronologically.

Arrangement

Series 1: Correspondence, 1860-1861, 1864-1869, 1877, 1896, undated

Series 2: Miscellaneous, 1860, undated

Restrictions on Access and Use

Please contact the Museum if you wish to view the Collection and review the hours of operation. Food and drink are prohibited when using the Collection. Only one box at a time is available to be requested and if notes are to be taken, a pencil must be used unless it is an electronic device (computer, cellphone, etc.). Collection materials must be handled with care and will be reviewed with you prior to using the Collection. **Do not rearrange or repair the items.** If an item appears out of order or is in need of repair, please inform a member of the staff. Information regarding photocopies, print-outs, and publications using our materials is listed under “Rules and Restrictions” on the Library home page.

Processing Information

Processed by the Archivist, Wayne Buckmir, in 2023 to 2024.

Index Terms

Subjects:

Artillery--United States--History--19th century.

Bermuda Hundred Region (Va.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Bounties, Military--United States.

Connecticut--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Forts & fortifications--Union--1860-1870.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Assassination--Public opinion.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Funeral journey to Springfield.
Military pay.
Petersburg (Va.)--History--Siege, 1864-1865.
United States. Army. Connecticut Artillery Regiment, 1st (1862-1865)
United States. Army. Connecticut Infantry Regiment, 15th (1862-1865)
United States. Army. Connecticut Infantry Regiment, 21st (1862-1865)
United States. Army. Veteran Reserve Corps. Battalion, 2nd (1863-1865)
United States. Army. Veteran Reserve Corps. Regiment, 18th (1864-1865)
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Artillery operations,
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Casualties.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Equipment and supplies.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Food.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Hospitals
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Medical care.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Military life.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Poetry.
Washington (D.C.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Places:

Alexandria (Va.)
Arlington County (Va.)
Bermuda Hundred (Va.)
Bethlehem (Conn.)
Castle Thunder Prison (Richmond, Va.)
Fort Darling (Va.)
Fort Trumbull (New London, Conn. : Fort)
James River (Va.)
Ledyard (Conn.)
Naugatuck (Conn.)
Norwich (Conn.)
Poquonock (Conn.)
Scotland (Conn.)
Waterbury (Conn.)

Persons:

Abbot, Henry Larcom, 1831-1927
Patterson, Walter L, 1841-1896
Lewis, Rufus W., 1836-1909
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.
Main, John L., 1841-1917
Wesley, John, 1703-1791.

Document Types:

Correspondence

Administrative Information

Provenance

The letters were donated by Larry E. Savage in 2017.

Container List

Series 1: Correspondence, 1860-1861, 1864-1869, 1877, 1896, undated

	Box	Folder
	1	
Civil War Letters, 1861, 1864-1865		
1861		
September		1
1864		
January		2
February		3
March		4
April		5
May		6
July		7
August		8
September		9
October		10
November		11
December		12
1865		
January		13
February		14
March		15

	Box	Folder
1865	1	
April		16
May		17
June		18
July		19
Family Letters, 1860, 1866-1869, 1877, 1896, undated		
1860		
June		20
1866		
August		21
1867		
January		22
November		23
1868		
August		24
1869		
February		25
1877		
April		26
1896		
February		27
March		28
Undated and assorted envelopes		29

Series 2: Miscellaneous, 1860, undated

	Box	Folder
Farm Receipts	1	30
October-November 1860		
April-June 1860		
Undated		
Printed picture of Reverend John Wesley (Undated)		30
Flyer for "Clark's Anti-Bilious Compound" from R.C. and C.S. Clark (Undated)		30