

Colonel Thomas F. Burpee Collection

Overview of the Collection

Creator: Thomas F. Burpee Post #71

Dates: 1862, 1864, 1866, 1887, 1889, 1909, 1992, 1994, 2017, undated

Abstract: This Collection contains photographs, paperwork, and correspondence related to Colonel Thomas F. Burpee of the 21st Connecticut Infantry Regiment, primarily around his death in 1864 and the purchasing of these items from Auction. The last Series is about the fight to preserve Burpee's Battery in Virginia from development.

Quantity: One box.

Accession: 1992.003, 1992.004, 2020.001

Language: The records are in English.

Biographical Note

Thomas Francis Burpee was born in Stafford, Connecticut in 1830. When the Civil War broke out he was living in Vernon, Connecticut with his wife and three children. Burpee enlisted on July 12, 1862 as a Captain and on August 20th he was commissioned into Company D of the 14th Connecticut Infantry Regiment. Five days later he was promoted to Major. Not long after he was then commissioned into the Field and Staff of the 21st Connecticut Infantry Regiment as Lt. Colonel. After the death of Colonel Arthur H. Dutton on June 5, 1864 Burpee was recommended for promotion to Colonel however he was wounded by a Rebel sharpshooter while inspecting picket lines during the Battle of Cold Harbor in Virginia on June 9th and died two days later. His body was sent back to Connecticut and was buried at Grove Hill Cemetery in Rockville.

Scope and Content

The Collection is organized first with photographs of Col. Burpee before the Civil War and copies of his enlistment document and then materials after his death in 1864. The second Series holds financial documents and correspondence related to the purchase of the items in the first Series. The third Series contains correspondence and newspaper articles around Alden Skinner Camp #45 and their fight to preserve Burpee's Battery in 1994 from demolition.

Series 1: Col. Burpee's Photos and Papers, 1862, 1864, 1866, 1887, 1889, 2017, undated. Begins with photographs of Col. Burpee in civilian attire and his 5th CT Militia uniform and then copies of his enlistment paperwork. The following paperwork and correspondence are after his death in 1864. Arranged chronologically.

Series 2: Purchasing of the Col. Thomas F. Burpee Collection, 1992. Contains receipts, correspondence, newspaper clippings related to the purchase. Arranged chronologically.

Series 3: Preserving Burpee's Battery, 1994. Correspondence and newspaper clippings about the saving of the land on which Burpee's Battery was located on in Virginia. Arranged chronologically.

Arrangement

Series 1: Col. Burpee's Photos and Papers, 1862, 1864, 1866, 1887, 1889, 2017, undated

Series 2: Purchasing of the Col. Thomas F. Burpee Collection, 1992

Series 3: Preserving Burpee's Battery, 1994

Restrictions

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.

Related Material

Thomas F. Burpee Post #71 Collection

Processing Information

Processed by the Archivist, Wayne Buckmir, in 2022.

Index Terms

Subjects:

Grand Army of the Republic.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cold Harbor, Battle of, Va., 1864.

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

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

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

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

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

Adams Express Company

Memorial Day.

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

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

Places:

Rockville (Conn.)

Persons:

Burpee, Thomas F., 1830-1864.

Document Types:

Correspondence

Receipts (financial records)

Photographs

Daguerreotype

Administrative Information

Provenance

The bulk of the Collection was first formed from a purchase by Ross Dent from Winter Associates, Inc. Auctioneers & Appraisers in May of 1992. Then another purchase was made by Mr. Dent in the following month from Charles Apfelbaum of more items related to Col. Burpee along with a personal donation from Mr. Apfelbaum himself. Subsequent materials were added afterwards such as those with “Preserving Burpee’s Battery” in 1994. The two daguerreotype photographs of Col. Burpee were purchased by the New England Civil War Museum in 2020.

Container List

Series 1. Col. Burpee’s Photos and Papers, 1862, 1864, 1866, 1887, 1899, 1909, 2017, undated

	Box	Folder
	1	
Photograph of Burpee in civilian attire		1
Photograph of Burpee in Militia uniform		2
Enlistment paperwork copies (1862)		3
Map marked where Burpee was wounded (undated)		3
Certificate of Death (1864)		4
Smith Brothers receipt from Adams Express Co. for body (1864)		4
Certificate of corpse envelope from Adams Express Co. (1864)		4
21 st CT Infantry Regiment Chaplain’s letter to Mrs. Burpee (1864)		4
Shipment receipt from Adams Express Co. to Mrs. Burpee (1864)		4
Poem from Col. Burpee’s cap box (undated)		4
HQ District of Eastern Virginia envelope for “Commanding Officer 21 st Conn. Vols.”		4
Col. Burpee’s grave lot purchase document (1864)		5

	Box	Folder
	1	
Envelope titled "Grandfather's Portrait" (undated)		5
Letter from members of Co. A 5 th CT Militia to Mrs. Burpee about portrait gift (undated)		6
Framed letter of Gov. Buckingham to Col. John Thayer for Mrs. Burpee (1866)		
Transcription of Gov. Buckingham's letter to Col. Thayer to Mrs. Burpee (1866)		6
Letter from Lucian F. Burpee being unable to attend 21 st C.V. reunion (1887)		7
Envelope "Uncle Lucien F. Burpee re this escutcheon – etc." (undated)		7
Letter from Lucien F. Burpee sending escutcheon (1899)		7
Photograph of Burpee's gravestone on Decoration Day (1909)		8
Close up photograph of Burpee's gravestone inscription on Decoration Day (1909)		8
Photograph of a house with inscription "where we lived Norfolk, Va. 1863" (undated)		8
Colored photograph of Burpee's gravestone "Before cleaning" (2017)		9
Colored photograph of Burpee's gravestone "After cleaning" (2017)		9
Series 2. Purchasing of the Col. Thomas F. Burpee Collection, 1992		
Courant newspaper article on auction of Burpee Items		10
Alden Skinner Camp #45 check for Burpee items to Winter Associates Inc.		10
Winter Associates Inc. receipt for Burpee items		10
Charles Apfelbaum letter on sent Burpee items, invoice, and personal donations		10
Invoice from Charles Apfelbaum Rare Books & Collections for Burpee items		10
Journal Inquirer newspaper article on purchase of Burpee items		10
Newspaper article on purchase of Burpee items (undated)		10

	Box	Folder
	1	
Series 3. Preserving Burpee's Battery, 1994		
Letter from Ross S. Dent to George L. Fickett Jr. about preserving the Battery		11
Letter copy from John L. Raye to CT Senator Chris Dodd asking for funds		11
Letter from Mark B. Stephanou on response from the Assc. Dir. Of Cultural Resources		11
Response copy from Assc. Dir. Jerry L. Rogers of Cultural Resources about funding		11
Letter from Dr. Robert Girard Carroon to George L. Fickett Jr. about support from the Connecticut branch of The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States for preserving the Battery		11
Map marked with Burpee's Battery location		11
Letter from Vernon Mayor Edward C. Slattery to Geroge L. Fickett Jr. about importance of Burpee to town history		11
Letter from George L. Fickett Jr. to Ross S. Dent about costs to buy the land where the Battery sat		11
Map of Battery location, the "Howlett Line," and other notable positions on the "Federal Line"		11
Map of land plots with Burpee Battery marked		11
Map of land plots with line of "protected" areas		11
Hartford Courant article on the loss of Burpee's Battery if funding is not secured		11