

Guide to the Henry Ward Camp Papers

MS 881



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

February 1983

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 881

CREATOR: Camp, Henry Ward, 1839-1864

TITLE: Henry Ward Camp papers

DATES: 1851-1900

BULK DATES: 1861-1865

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.75 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, photographs, memorabilia and biographical materials relating to the Civil War make up the major part of these papers. Most important are the fifty-five letters from Henry Clay Trumbull, chaplain of Henry Ward Camp's regiment, to the Camp family, describing Camp's career in the Union Army and his death on the field. Among the biographical memorabilia are photographs of Camp and Trumbull, an autograph album from Camp's Class of 1860 at Yale College, military papers and newspaper clippings about Camp's death. Two nineteenth-century family diaries are also in the papers: those of Lizzie B. Camp and of C. H. Camp.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0881>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0881>.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased, 1940.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Henry Ward Camp Papers (MS 881). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Henry Ward Camp was born in Hartford, Conn., February 4, 1839, the son of Rev. Henry B. (Yale College, 1833) and Cornelia (Baldwin) Camp. After graduation he spent a few months in teaching and then commenced the study of law in the office of John Hooker, Esq., in Hartford. In December, 1861, he was commissioned as lieutenant in the Tenth Connecticut Infantry. He was afterwards appointed adjutant, and, on one occasion, was detailed as judge advocate of a general courtmartial [*sic*] on Seabrook Island. In July, 1863, he took part in the heavy fight on James Island, and also in the assault on Fort Wagner on the 19th of that month. In a cessation of hostilities for the burial of the dead and the removal of the wounded, he, with Chaplain H. C. Trumbull, was seized and carried as a prisoner to Charleston and thence to Columbia, S. C. He escaped at length from confinement, but, after a tramp of nearly a hundred miles was recaptured and held a prisoner till April, 1864. He made a short visit at home, but as soon as his exchange was effected, he hurried back to his regiment and shared with it, in the army of the James, five months of the most arduous and dangerous service. In September, 1864, while before Petersburg, he was commissioned as major.

On the 13th of October he fought his last fight. After skirmishing all day between the Darbytown and Charles City roads, about four miles from Richmond, his regiment was ordered to lead an assault upon the enemy's works. "Come on, boys! come on!" he shouted to his men, and the words were hardly uttered before he fell, shot through and through. His body was recovered next day and taken to Hartford for interment. The record of his beautiful heroic life has been written by the chaplain of the regiment, Rev. H. Clay Trumbull, under the title of "The Knightly Soldier: A Record of College, Field, and Prison." Champion wrote of him:

"Naturally retiring and modest, and ever esteeming others above himself, he needed some outside influence to cause him to display his powers openly. These modest and unassuming traits, joined to the greater dignity and boldness brought out by the war, united to render him one of the noblest of the many noble ones whom our class mourns for."

(Taken from *Yale College Biographical Record, Class of Sixty, 1860-1906*).

Scope and Contents

These papers consist of an assortment of correspondence, journals, printed matter, and memorabilia relating to Henry Ward Camp and his family, dating largely from the Civil War era.

Pre-dating the Civil War is Camp's Yale autograph album for the Class of 1860. This contains autographs, photographs, and engravings of Yale faculty and students, including Theodore Woolsey, Noah Porter, and William Dwight Whitney. There are also several photographs of Camp, and a leather wallet belonging to him.

Of the Civil War papers, the correspondence consists of fifty-five letters written by Henry Clay Trumbull (1830-1903) to the Camp family and one to his wife, all describing Camp's career with the Union Army, including his escape from a Confederate prison camp (1864 Jan 12; folder 1) and his death during fighting near Richmond (1864 Oct 13, 15). Trumbull also discusses his own experiences in the army, his sense of bereavement at Camp's death, and the biography that he wrote about Camp. Other items relating to Camp's Civil War service include military papers such as Camp's parole of honor that he would not try to escape from prison camp, letters from Camp to army officials requesting leaves of absence and so forth, his appointment as major, and other documents; a subscription book for a monument to him; and Connecticut newspapers giving accounts of his death. Materials pertaining to Henry Clay Trumbull include a draft editorial about him sent by Camp to the *Hartford Courant*, an advertisement for his biography, and a photograph.

The remaining items in the collection are a diary of Lizzie B. Camp, containing primarily financial records for 1887-1900, and a journal and a few miscellaneous papers of C. H. Camp.

Collection Contents

Henry Clay Trumbull letters

b. 1, f. 1	Extract from a letter to Alice C. (Gallaudet) Trumbull A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1864 January 12
b. 1, f. 2 - 8	Letters to the Camp family A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1864-1871, 1882

Henry Ward Camp

b. 1, f. 9	Yale Class of 1860 autograph book	1860
b. 1, f. 10	Cover letter and draft editorial, "Fighting and Praying," to the <i>Hartford Courant</i> A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1864 October 12
b. 1, f. 11	Military papers	1864, undated
b. 1, f. 12	Book of subscriptions to a monument for H.W.C.	1864
b. 1, f. 13	Advertisement for <i>The Knightly Soldier: A Biography of Henry W. Camp</i>	[1865]
b. 1, f. 14	Leather wallet	undated

Photographs

b. 1, f. 14	Henry Ward Camp: 6 photographs	1851-[1861-1864]
b. 1, f. 14	Henry Clay Trumbull	1864
b. 1, f. 14	Mrs. C. M. Palmer, sister of Cornelia (Baldwin) Camp	1870
b. 1, f. 15	Lizzie B. Camp: diary	1861-1900
b. 1, f. 16	C. H. Camp: journal and miscellaneous papers	1871, undated
b. 2, f. 17	Connecticut newspapers	1864-1865

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Geographic Names

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

Genres / Formats

Diaries

Subjects

Clergy

Occupations

Soldiers

Names

Camp, C. H.

Camp, Henry Ward, 1839-1864

Camp, Lizzie B.

Trumbull, H. Clay (Henry Clay), 1830-1903

Corporate Bodies

Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1860

Yale University -- Students