

HOMER C. CARPENTER PAPERS, 1851-1897

Collection #
M 694
OM 369

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Processed By:
Paul Brockman
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USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 boxes, 2 oversized folders, daguerreotypes & artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: 1851-1897

PROVENANCE: Mary E. Fowler, West Hartford, CT, 30 April 1997.

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1997.0484

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Homer C. Carpenter (1830-1895) was born in Tolland County, Connecticut and was a civil engineer by trade. He married Mary Dibble around 1850 and they had one daughter. The Carpenters moved from Rochester, New York to Hendricks County, Indiana, around 1859, and in July, 1862 he enlisted as a private in Company "A" of the 4th Indiana Cavalry (77th Regiment). Carpenter was promoted to second lieutenant and named company adjutant in August, 1863. One year later he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. After the war Carpenter returned to Hendricks County where he was elected county surveyor and served from 1866-1867. After his term of office, he returned to work as a railroad surveyor for several lines from 1867-1888 including the St. Louis, Vandalia, Terre Haute & Indianapolis Railroad; the Terre Haute and Logansport Railroad; the Ohio Valley Railway Company; and the Chicago & Block Coal Railroad. No information was available on Mary Dibble Carpenter.

Sources:

Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General, Indiana*, vol. 3, p. 13; vol 6, p. 245.

History of Hendricks County, Indiana, 1914-1976, p. 44.

Information in Collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of the collection consists of approximately 200 letters written by Homer C. Carpenter to his wife, Mary Dibble Carpenter, from July, 1851-November, 1888. These are divided into three series by time periods. The first series of letters were written by Homer Carpenter while working as a civil engineer for railroads in Ohio and Indianapolis and Danville, Indiana to Mary Carpenter living with family in Rochester, New York, 1851-1859. Letters in the second series were from Homer while serving with the 4th Indiana Cavalry in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia, to Mary in Danville, Indiana, August, 1862-June, 1865. Letters in the third series were written while Homer was again employed as a railroad civil engineer for railroads in Indiana and were from Terre Haute (Vigo County); Newport, Perrysville and Veedersburg (Vermillion County); Montezuma (Parke County); Attica (Fountain County); Collinsville and Effingham, Illinois; Logansport (Cass County); Kewanna (Fulton County); South Bend and Lakeville (St. Joseph County); and Henderson, Kentucky, to Mary in Danville and Indianapolis, January, 1867-November, 1888. Most of the letters contain personal subjects and a brief mention of his work and everyday life. The letters from the Civil War years were mainly written from the headquarters of the 4th Indiana Cavalry and in addition to the personal items mention his duties and the regiment's movements.

Other items in the collection include Carpenter's military documents and orders as well as some return records for Company "A" of the 4th Indiana Cavalry, 1863-1865, pension records, 1891-1897, and the G.A.R. By-Laws for the Major Robert Anderson Post, 1885. There is also some correspondence and drawings regarding Carpenter's work as a surveyor, 1883, and a *Field Book for Railroad Engineers*, 1872. Also contained in the papers are letters from Carpenter to his sister, 1858, and his mother, 1864, as well as a document appointing him Hendricks County Surveyor, 1866, a copy of the will and documents relating to the Sidney Dibble estate, 1892, daguerreotype images of Homer and Mary Carpenter n.d., and military artifacts including G.A.R. ribbons and Carpenter's lieutenant's insignia, 1860s-1890s.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

BOX 1: *Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, July, 1851-June, 1865*
FOLDER CONTENTS

1 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, July, 1851-October, 1853

2 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, February, 1854-August, 1856

3 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, October, 1856-March, 1857

- 4 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, April, 1857-August, 1858
- 5 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, Sept., 1858-Sept., 1859
- 6 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, August, 1862-November, 1862
- 7 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, December, 1862-May, 1863
- 8 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, June, 1863-July, 1863
- 9 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, August, 1863-May, 1864
- 10 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, June, 1864-August, 1864
- 11 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, Sept., 1864-Dec., 1864
- 12 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, January, 1865-June, 1865

BOX 2: *Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, January, 1867-November, 1888; Military and Business Papers, 1863-1897*

FOLDER CONTENTS

- 1 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, January, 1867-November, 1869
- 2 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, January, 1870-December, 1872
- 3 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, February, 1873-May, 1877
- 4 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, January, 1881-January, 1883
- 5 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, February, 1883-November, 1883
- 6 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, March, 1884-November, 1884
- 7 Letters to Mary Dibble Carpenter, July, 1888-November, 1888
- 8 Letters to Family, 1858, 1864
- 9 Military Orders & Records, 1863-1865 (also OM 369)
- 10 G.A.R. By-Laws, Major Robert Anderson Post, 1885
- 11 Pension Records, 1891-1897
- 12 Appointment as Hendricks County Surveyor, 1866
- 13 Railroad Survey Papers, 1883 (also OM 369)
- 14 Field Book For Railroad Engineers, 1872
- 15 Sidney Dibble Will, 1892
- 16 (VC) Photographs (Daguerreotype) of Homer & Mary Carpenter, n.d.
- 17 (ART) Military Artifacts, 1860s-1890s (R 1816-1822)

R 1816--G.A.R. Post No. 369 Badge, n.d.

R 1817--Badge, "Indiana, Chicago, 1893"

R 1818--G.A.R. Medal, "Veteran 1866-1867"

R 1819--G.A.R. Hat Pin, n.d.

R 1820-1821--Shoulder Marks (2), Lieutenant, 1864?

R 1822 Shoulder Cord, n.d.

CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Carpenter, Homer C., 1830-1895

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Carpenter, Homer C., 1830-1895--Photographs

Carpenter, Mary Dibble

United States. Army. Indiana Cavalry Regiment, 4th (1862-1865)

Grand Army of the Republic. Major Robert Anderson Post No. 369 (Indianapolis, Ind.)

Railroad engineers--Indiana

Railroad engineering--Handbooks, manuals, etc.

Railroads--Indiana--Surveying

Soldiers--Indiana--Hendricks County

Military pensions--Indiana

Indiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

ADDED ENTRIES: Henck, John B. (John Benjamin), 1816-1903. Field-book for railroad engineers

Field-book for railroad engineers.

END