



Guide to the Leonard Drown Papers, 1759-1944 (bulk 1861-1864)

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Leonard Drown Collection, 1759-1956, bulk 1861-1864

Repository:

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

Collection Number:

2015.037

Author of Finding Aid:

Sandra L. Wheeler

Creator:

Drown, Leonard, 1819-1862
Lincoln, Levi, c.1840-1864

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

One 5" box, one 2.5" box, one oversize folder.

Abstract:

The Leonard Drown Papers center around letters written to family from two Civil War Union soldiers, Leonard Drown (1819-1862), Captain in Company E, Second Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, and his brother-in-law, Levi Lincoln (c. 1840-1864), Ninth Independent Battery, MA Light Artillery. The correspondence mostly describes camp life in Maryland and Virginia, with occasional mention of officers, glimpses of President Lincoln, battle preparations. Levi Lincoln describes the Battle of Gettysburg (July, 1863). Ephemera and newspaper clippings relating to Drown's death and funeral are also present. Other materials in the collection include deeds for Drown property in Rehoboth, MA and Fisherville (later Penacook),

NH (1759-1820) and for Drake property in Belknap County, NH (1841-1900). There are also scattered letters among relatives of the men, military commissions, insurance papers and other miscellaneous materials.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Leonard Drown Papers were a New Hampshire Historical Society purchase on April 23, 2015.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Sandra L. Wheeler in May, 2015. The finding aid was written by Sandra L. Wheeler in May, 2015. 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:

This collection is on paper. Some items are fragile or torn.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Researchers are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Leonard Drown Papers, 2015.037. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information

Leonard Drown (1819-1862) was born in Rehoboth, MA and apprenticed as a blacksmith in Providence, RI. He married Mary Lincoln (c.1821-1896), daughter of Caleb Lincoln of Cohasset, MA, in 1845 and they had 3 children: Lucy (1847-?), Israel (1852-1879), and Mary Drown Drake (1860-1932). Leonard's older brother, Israel Drown, had a blacksmith shop in Fisherville, NH (later called Penacook), and Leonard joined him in 1854. He raised a company and volunteered to serve in the Union army. He was senior captain of Company E, Second Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry and was the first officer from New Hampshire to be killed in battle at the Battle of Williamsburg, VA, on May 5, 1862.

The battle in which he died is described as follows:

"The Division embarked on steamers for Yorktown, April 5, 1862 [...], performed the customary siege duty before Yorktown until the morning of May 4, when the rebel defenses were discovered to have been evacuated. Within an hour Hooker's division was pushing in pursuit, and

at daylight the following morning impetuously attacked the rebel rear guard at Williamsburg. After a most obstinate and sanguinary struggle the Excelsior and New Jersey brigades were beaten back, when the entire 2nd Regiment was deployed as skirmishers to cover the line of two brigades, and maintained a savage bush fight for 2 hours, until relieved by the arrival of Kearney's division. The 2nd Regiment lost 18 men killed, 66 wounded, 23 missing." [Martin A. Hayes, "2nd Regiment NH Volunteer Infantry" *Register of NH Soldiers and Sailors, War of the Rebellion*. Concord, 1895, p. 25]

Levi Lincoln (c. 1840-1864) served in the Ninth Independent Battery, Massachusetts Light Artillery. He lived in Cohasset, MA and was the brother of Leonard Drown's wife Mary, though many of his letters were written to her daughter, Lucy. He was the last of the 12 children of his father, Caleb Lincoln, and seems to have been unmarried. He was present at the battle of Gettysburg (July 1862); his last letters were written from "Camp near Brandy Station VA" and "Minor Hill" Va in April, 1864. He was killed on June 18, 1864 in a battle before Petersburg VA.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The core of the Leonard Drown Papers are the letters written home by Leonard Drown of New Hampshire (1818-1862) and Levi Lincoln of Massachusetts (c. 1840-1864), who were both Union soldiers during the Civil War. Other materials concern the family of Leonard Drown: correspondence among some of his siblings, deeds for family property in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, a few Drake family letters, deeds and military commissions [Leonard Drown's daughter Mary married Benjamin Drake]. There are ephemera about Drown's death and funeral, and newspaper clippings about activities and deaths of some New Hampshire Civil War veterans.

Leonard Drown was Captain of Company E, Second Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry and fell at the Battle of Williamsburg on May 5, 1862. There are about 75 letters to his wife Mary ("Molly"), written between his muster in 1861 and his death in May 1862. For much of that time he was encamped on the Potomac River in Virginia and Maryland (among them: Camp Union, Bladensburg, MD; Camp Beaufort, MD; Camp Winfield Scott near Yorktown, VA). In addition to asking after her and their children and answering questions about managing things at home, he describes camp life -- daily routines, the health of his men, what they are eating, whether packages and letters have arrived or been sent, the construction of their cabins and how they keep warm during the winter, the weather, glimpses of President Abraham Lincoln, and his opinion of various commanding officers.

Drown frequently reports about a younger soldier from Fisherville, NH, in his company, Hiram Durgin, who was ill in Washington, DC but recovered and rejoined the unit. Durgin was later killed at the Second Battle of Bull Run in August 1862, though Drown did not live long enough to know this. There is a brief mention on December 31, 1861 of "Miss Dame of Concord, the Matron of the Hospital" and how grateful Drown is to her for her care and attention.

There is no political discussion and little assessment of how the war in general is going, though he is sure it will be over soon.

Leonard Drown's brother-in-law, **Levi Lincoln**, served in the Ninth Independent Battery, Massachusetts Light Artillery and died before Petersburg in June 1864. His approximately 17 letters were written to his sister, Mary Lincoln Drown and to her daughter, Lucy Drown. Lincoln's letters, like Drown's, are mostly about life in camp (Jamaica Plain, MA; Brandy Station VA; Centerville VA; Kelly's Ford VA; Minor Hill VA). He describes the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1863), how he and his fellows manage winter in camp, weather, health, pay, etc. His letters are more specific than Drown's about military activities such as marches from place to place. He also offers positive assessments of senior officers (Hooker, Burnside) and thinks the war will be over soon.

Arrangement:

The Leonard Drown Papers have been divided by genre (correspondence, ephemera, financial documents, legal documents, newspaper clippings and newspapers, photographs). Correspondence is filed alphabetically by surname, then chronologically. Other materials are filed alphabetically by name (when available), then chronologically.

Contents List

Box 1

Folder 1	Accession and biographical information
Folder 2	Genealogical information: Drake, Drown, Lincoln
Folder 3	Correspondence: Drake, family, 1902, 1904, 1911, 1912, 1944 B.F. Drake, Jeanette Tilden, Lt. Don[?] Drake, official report about the loss of submarine
Folder 4	Correspondence: Drown, Leonard (incoming), 1857, 1861 (from siblings -- B., Christina, George, Matilda, Sophia)
Folder 5	Correspondence: Drown, Leonard, 1858, February-July 1861 (from Fort Constitution, NH; Camp Constitution, NH; Camp Sullivan, Washington, DC)
Folder 6	Correspondence: Drown, Leonard, August-September 1861 (from Camp Sullivan, Washington, DC; Camp Union, Bladensburg, MD)
Folder 7	Correspondence: Drown, Leonard, October 1861 (from Camp Union, Bladensburg, MD; Hilltop, on the Potomac)
Folder 8	Correspondence: Drown, Leonard, November 1861 (from Hilltop, MD; Camp Hooker, Hilltop, MD; Camp Baker, renamed Camp Beaufort, MD)
Folder 9	Correspondence: Drown, Leonard, December 1861 (from Camp Beaufort, MD)
Folder 10	Correspondence: Drown, Leonard, January – February 1862 (from Camp Beaufort, MD)
Folder 11	Correspondence: Drown, Leonard, March – April 1862 (from Camp Beaufort, MD; Ship South America; Camp Lookout; Camp Winfield Scott near Yorktown, VA)
Folder 12	Correspondence: Drown, Leonard, undated
Folder 13	Correspondence: Drown, Leonard and Mary, empty envelopes

- Folder 14 Correspondence: Drown, Lucy (incoming, but not letters from Levi Lincoln) 1863-1895, undated (letter of July 12, 1863 discusses the deaths of her father and Captain Hubbard)
- Folder 15 Correspondence: Drown, Lucy (incoming and outgoing), 1921-1922
- Folder 16 Correspondence: Drown, Lucy, empty envelopes
- Folder 17 Correspondence: Drown, Mary [Mrs. Leonard], 1862
- Folder 18 Correspondence: Drown, Mary [Mrs. Leonard (incoming), 1862, 1863 (condolences and a letter describing Leonard Drown's death forwarded to her after having been sent to someone else)
- Folder 19 Correspondence: Lincoln, Levi, 1862-1863 (from Cohasset, MA; Jamaica Plain, MA; Brandy Station, VA; Centerville, VA; Kellys Ford; Minor Hill, VA; also describes battle of Gettysburg, July 12 1863)
- Folder 20 Correspondence: Lincoln, Levi, 1864, undated (from Brandy Station, VA)
- Folder 21 Correspondence: Lincoln, Samuel, 1855, 1859
- Folder 22 Correspondence, miscellaneous (3 empty envelopes)
- Folder 23 Ephemera: Drake, George, 1951, 1956
- Folder 24 Ephemera: Drown, Leonard - bound volume: *William Tell, or, Switzerland Delivered*. Concord NH, 1831. (noted to have belonged to Drown. other items noted were not found in the collection when processed, May 2015)
- Folder 25 Ephemera: Drown, Leonard, 1842-1861 Certificates of membership (Odd Fellows, Masons, etc); military commissions
- Folder 26 Ephemera: 1861 bound diary (mostly blank)
- Folder 27 Ephemera: Drown, Leonard death and funeral, 1862
- Folder 28 Ephemera: miscellaneous, 1899, 1929, 1952, undated (Penacook Academy Reunion 1899; Lake Winnepesaukee water table 1870-1929; Christmas card with Center Harbor streamer 1952; dance program, meeting announcements_
- Folder 29 Financial documents (bills, receipts, insurance policies, etc.): Drown, Leonard and Mary, 1842-1865
- Folder 30 Legal documents: Drake, Darius, 1839 (military commissions; five other commissions 1831-1834, 1837 are in oversize folder in Drawer 66)
- Folder 31 Legal documents (will, probate): Drake, Darius, 1877
- Folder 32 Legal documents: Deeds, Drake family, 1841, 1879, 1887, 1900
- Folder 33 Legal documents: Deeds, Drown family, 1759-1770
- Folder 34 Legal documents: Deeds, Drown family, 1771-1780
- Folder 35 Legal documents: Deeds, Drown family, 1781-1790
- Folder 36 Legal documents: Deeds, Drown family, 1791-1800
- Folder 37 Legal documents: Deeds, Drown family, 1801-1810
- Folder 38 Legal documents: Deeds, Drown family, 1811-1820
- Folder 39 Legal documents: Marriage certificate, Leonard Drown and Mary Lincoln, 1845

Box 2

- Folder 1 Newspaper clippings: Civil War Veterans. "Story of Miss Dame, Nurse of 2nd New Hampshire Regiment" *Boston Journal*, undated
- Folder 2 Newspaper clippings: Civil War Veterans. obituaries, various dates.

- (Clara Barton, Hiram Gerrish, Charles Hapgood, John Linehan, Gilman Marston, Joab Patterson)
- Folder 3 Newspaper clippings: Civil War Veterans, 1874-1890, undated (reunions, reminiscences, etc.)
- Folder 4 Newspaper clippings: Drake, George, 1954
- Folder 5 Newspaper clippings: Drown, Leonard, 1882
- Folder 6 Newspaper clippings: Drown family, 1932, undated
- Folder 7 Newspaper clippings: general, 1899, undated
- Folder 8 Newspapers, May 8, 1862 *Providence RI Evening Press*
- Folder 9 Newspapers, May 20, 1862 *Boston Morning Journal*
- Folder 10 Newspapers, May 21, 1862 *Boston Daily Journal*
- Folder 11 Newspapers, May 24, 1862 *The New-Hampshire Statesman*
- Folder 12 Newspapers, May 29, 1862 *Congregational Journal*
- Folder 13 Newspapers, January 19, 1871 *Salem MA Register*
- Folder 14 Newspapers, October 30, 1925 *The Laconia Democrat*
- Folder 15 Other piece of wooden shingle from church on Drake's Hill
- Folder 16 Photographs, Drake, 1892, undated
(Drake family on porch, Mary Drake, Robert Leonard Drake)
- Folder 17 Photographs, Drown, 1885, undated
(Mary Drown, Israel Drown, Boston grasshopper statue)
- Folder 18 Photographs, unidentified people
- Folder 19 Photographs, places. Antrim, NH, undated
(Union Chapel, house and barn)

Separated Materials: In Oversize drawer 66

Military Commissions, Drake, Darius. 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1837. Placed in oversize folder i

Subject Terms

People:

Dame, Harriett
Drake, Darius
Drake, George
Drown, Leonard 1819-1862
Drown, Lucy 1847-?
Drown, Mary Lincoln 1821-1896
Durgin, Hiram c. 1842-1862
Lincoln, Levi c. 1840-1864

Organizations:

United States. Army. Massachusetts Light Artillery Battery, 9th (1862-1865)
United States. Army. New Hampshire Infantry Regiment, 2nd (1861-1865)

Subjects:

Civil War battles – Gettysburg
Civil War – camp life
Deeds
United States – History – Civil War 1861-1864

Locations:

Camp Beaufort, MD
Camp Hooker, Bladensburg, MD
Camp Union, Bladensburg, MD
Cohasset, MA
Camp Sullivan, NH
Fisherville, NH [later Penacook]
Fort Constitution, NH
Penacook, NH
Brandy Station, VA
Centerville, VA
Minor Hill, VA
Gettysburg, VA