

Guide to the George E. Upton Papers, 1857-1864

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

George E. Upton Papers, 1857-1864

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society

30 Park Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-6688

<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

1963.029, 1964.016

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified; reformatted by Korrena Cowing

Creator:

Upton, George E., 1832-1864

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box ; 0.29 linear feet

Abstract:

The George E. Upton Papers contain more than one hundred letters from George to his wife Sarah while he served with the 6th New Hampshire Regiment during the Civil War, a few letters from Sarah to George, and some letters from other persons.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The George E. Upton Papers are composed of two accession numbers. Accession 1963.029 was a gift of Ralph D. Matthews on October 15, 1963. Accession 1964.016 was a gift of Ralph D. Matthews on August 28, 1964. The letters were initially discovered by his wife, Mrs. Matthews, in an abandoned house and were donated by her husband after her death. He later discovered more letters, which accounts for the second donation.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date and reformatted by Korrena Cowing in March 2020. 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:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

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

Preferred Citation:

Item title, George E. Upton Papers, 1963.029. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

George Edwin Upton, son of John and Sarah (Witherspoon) Upton, was born at Lynnfield, MA, on October 10, 1832. His sister Elizabeth Ann was born October 11, 1826, and his brother Henry Brigham on September 17, 1834. John Upton purchased a 90-acre Derry, NH, lot, in 1838, moved his family there, and commenced farming it. George married Sarah Jane Gilchrist at Derry on November 27, 1856. The daughter of David and Sally (Holmes) Gilcreast, Sarah was born March 12, 1832 at Londonderry, NH. George and Sarah had three children:

i) Edwin G. born November 11, 1857 at Derry. He married Anna J. Emerson (her second marriage) on July 28, 1884 at Haverhill, MA. They divorced probably before 1900. Edwin then

married Julia M. (Reynolds) Day (widow) on January 4, 1912 at Haverhill. She was the daughter of Luther and Sarah A. (Carleton) Reynolds, born December 18, 1854 at Groveland, MA. Edwin worked in a Haverhill shoe factory. He died in 1929 and is buried in Groveland. Julia died July 29, 1937 and is buried with her first husband at Riverview Cemetery in Groveland. Edwin appears to be childless.

ii) Mary Adeline born May 16, 1859. She died at Derry on June 26, 1868.

iii) William H. born April 25, 1861 at Derry. He married Minnie E. Bemis on October 21, 1903 at Medway, MA. The daughter of Ezra G. and Marinda Louisa (Hicks) Bemis, Minnie was born on August 3, 1859 at Rowe, MA. William worked at a Medway bank and rose to treasurer, and Minnie became assistant treasurer. William and Minnie both died, probably at Medway, he in 1922 and she in 1949. They are buried together in East Derry, NH. William appears to be childless.

On October 9, 1861 George enlisted in the Union Army. He was mustered November 28, 1861 as a private in the 6th New Hampshire Regiment and appointed sergeant in March of 1862. He was promoted to first lieutenant in October of 1863. Organized at Keene, the 6th Regiment left on December 25, 1861 and arrived at Washington, DC, on December 28. The regiment was part of many of the well-known battles: Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Wilderness, and Cold Harbor. On July 30, 1864, Upton was wounded in the mine explosion at Petersburg, VA, and died of his wounds the next day.

Sarah Upton died at Londonderry on April 17, 1905.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

George Upton carried on a regular correspondence with his wife, Sarah, throughout his service with the 6th New Hampshire Regiment in the Civil War. There are one hundred letters from George to Sarah recounting daily life in the army, descriptions of the country he is passing through, and accounts of the battles in which he fought.

There are eleven letters from Sarah to George telling of life at home, recounting neighbors' activities, war rumors, town meeting business, etc. On October 14, 1862, Sarah comments, "but the lifting of the apples and potatoes was something of a task for me." In another letter she asks George how many blacks it takes "to wait on you?". Also included are a few letters to other people. Making up the bulk of this collection, these letters date from 1861 to 1864.

The miscellaneous materials include an undated broadside on a planetarium for schools made by H. B. Upton of Boston and a photocopy of the partial front page of the Winnepesaukee Gazette dated 1857. The majority of the miscellaneous materials are envelopes removed from Upton's correspondence before the collection was acquired by the New Hampshire Historical Society.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are arranged by type, then chronologically.

Contents List

Box 1

Folder 0	Register
Folder 1	Letters to Sarah, 1861 November-1862 March
Folder 2	Letters to Sarah, 1862 April-July
Folder 3	Letters to Sarah, 1862 August-December
Folder 4	Letters to Sarah, 1863 January-May
Folder 5	Letters to Sarah, 1863 June-September
Folder 6	Letters to Sarah, 1863 October-December
Folder 7	Letters to Sarah, 1864 January-April
Folder 8	Letters to Sarah, 1864 April-June
Folder 9	Letters to Sarah, 1864 June-July
Folder 10	Letters from Sarah, 1862 March-1864 July
Folder 11	Letters from others, 1862-1864
Folder 12	Miscellaneous, 1857, undated
Folder 13	Envelopes, 1862-1864

Subject Terms

People:

Upton, George E., 1832-1864

Upton, H. B.

Upton, Sarah J., 1832-1905

Organizations:

United States. Army. New Hampshire Infantry Regiment, 6th (1861-1865)

Subjects:

African Americans

Astronomy

Cold Harbor, Battle of, Va., 1864

Correspondence

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

Women

Locations:

Annapolis, MD

Derry, NH

Falmouth, VA

Keene, NH

Kentucky

Mississippi

Newport News, VA

Petersburg, VA

Roanoke Island, NC

Washington, DC

Occupations:

Soldiers