

## **HOMANS FAMILY LETTERS**

### **Biographical Note**

Edward Cranch Homans (Ned) was born in St. Louis Missouri on November 26, 1843. He was the son of Isaac Smith Homans (c.1807-1874) and Sarah Ann Sheppard. Homans served in the 22nd New York Infantry Regiment during the Civil War and worked as a stock broker for most of his career, founding the firm of Homans and Company in 1879. He was also a member of the New York Stock Exchange.

On April 20, 1864 Homans married Catherine Frances Eells (Frankie or Fannie). C. Francis Eells, born c. April 13, 1845, was the daughter of Timothy Dwight Eells (1815-1876) and Mary Caroline Ostrom (1819-1848).

The Homans's lived in New York City and in Englewood, New Jersey. Their children were: Alice (1865-1868), Helen (1869-1901), Rosalia (1872-1876), Katherine (1874-1955), Frances Elsie (1875-1951), Howard Parmelee (1878-c.1960's), Lois (1881-1972) and Ethel (1882-1932).

Edward Cranch Homans died c. 1894.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The letters of the Homans family span the years 1850-1938 with the bulk of the correspondence falling between the years 1862 and 1864. The correspondence is of interest not only for its record of Homans family history, but also for the information it provides on daily life in the 19th century. There are no letters at all between 1902 and the one letter for 1938, which was written by Charles D. Fuller to his mother, Lois Homans Fuller.

The letters for the years 1862 to 1864 which make up the bulk of the collection are for the most part letters from Ned Homans to Fannie Eells during their courtship and engagement. The correspondence reflects Ned's interests in theatre, sports, current literature, the Masons and his experimentation with marijuana and hasheesh. Of particular interest are Ned's letters from Harper's Ferry where he was stationed in 1862, in which he describes various aspects of camp life.

Fannie's letters to her father during her school years (c. 1859-1862) include many details of her life as a student. During this period she attended the Lake Erie Female Seminary in Ohio, the Englewood Institute and a school in Brooklyn, New York.

In addition the collection contains letters from Ned and Fannie to their children and siblings and letters between other family members.

The letters are arranged in numerical order as filed by the donor. A list is attached. Transcripts of the letters (arranged chronologically) and the donor's notes on family history are also included.

### **Container List**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Contents</b>
1	Letters 100-233
2	Letters 300-559 and not numbered (2)
3	Transcripts and donor's notes