

**The New York Public Library
Humanities and Social Sciences Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

George A. Hubbard Papers
1862-1865
MssCol 6160

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Summary

Main entry:	Hubbard, George A.
Title:	George A. Hubbard papers, 1862-1865
Size:	.8 linear foot (2 boxes)
Source:	Gift of an anonymous donor, 2004.
Abstract:	This collection consists of the letters and diaries of George A. Hubbard, a member of the 117th Regiment of the New York Infantry. He served in the American Civil War from August 1862 until May 1865.
Access:	Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.
Preferred citation:	George A. Hubbard Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.
Special formats	Diaries, photographs

Biographical note

George A. Hubbard was born in 1843 in the town of Paris in the county of Oneida, New York. In August 1862 he enlisted as a private in the 117th Regiment of the New York Infantry. The census of 1880 describes him as a carriage or wagon maker, a trade he was learning during the course of the 1861 diary. Later, after the war, he married a woman named Ines with whom he had a daughter, Charlotte. He died in New Haven, Connecticut, on December 2, 1914.

Scope and content note

The collection consists of the letters and diaries of George A. Hubbard, a member of the 117th Regiment of the New York Infantry. He served in the American Civil War from August 1862 until May 1865.

Hubbard's letters are all addressed to his parents. He wrote frequently, requesting letters from home and provisions such as money, stamps, paper, and food. The letters are sometimes transcriptions of his diary entries. Some of the letters are very faded and nearly impossible to read. The letters were all numbered by a previous owner, and some of the numbers are fractional (64 1/2, 106 3/4) and there are unnumbered letters. There are no letters numbered 101, 126, 127, 128, or 134. Most, but not all, of the letters have been transcribed by a previous owner and these transcripts are included in the collection.

Hubbard's diaries (or remembrancers, as he calls them) consist of six volumes. Some of the diary is transcribed, but the transcriptions do not always reflect each entry in its entirety. His diary of 1861 records daily life in Sauquoit, New York (Oneida County), infatuations with young women, and bouts with depression. There is a gap of some months between 1861 and August 1862, when Hubbard enlisted. He recounts his life as a soldier, both on the battlefield and in troop movements and in camp. The entries extensively record his daily life, from the mundane aspects of sitting in camp and going on picket to the action of battle. He kept careful track of his spending habits in the back of his diaries and recorded movements and weather diligently. A recurring theme is his pride in being a soldier and his devotion to serving in the army until the war's end, even if offered a chance to leave beforehand. He was eager to see action and concerned with displaying courage and valor. Notable actions of the 117th Regiment that are mentioned in the diaries are the defense of Washington (at Tenleytown), Siege of Suffolk, Folly Island, Morris Island, Bermuda Hundred, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and Fair Oaks. He frequently transcribes conversations and speculates on the progress of the war. There are entries describing interactions with Confederate soldiers and African-American soldiers.

The diaries can be difficult to read because the entries are not presented consecutively. Usually, Hubbard began his entries on the page of the volume featuring the corresponding preprinted date (such as May 25). When he ran out of space, he would note "see [Jan. 1]" and under that preprinted date the entry for May 25 would continue. After filling up an entire volume, Hubbard employed an "Accompaniment to Remembrancer" (volumes V and VI), the pages of which he numbered, noting in the diary (remembrancer) on which page of the accompaniment the entry continues. The collection does not include a diary (remembrancer) for 1865, only an accompaniment to remembrancer. Therefore, the entries in Volume VI are all continuations of entries that are not found within this collection. The transcriptions do not reflect this arrangement.

Five cartes-de-visite were removed from Volume III. The subjects, mostly men in uniform, are identified on the verso. Three of the men are from the 117th Regiment.

The notes removed from the diaries consist of those created by Hubbard and by later researchers. Hubbard's notes are loose diary entries, a company roll, and a handwritten list of casualties suffered by his company. Notes left by later researchers contain lists of the diary entries and names mentioned in the diaries, as well as a hand-drawn map of fortifications around Washington, D.C. The notes removed from each volume have been kept together, regardless of creator.

Arrangement note

The George A. Hubbard Papers are organized in the following series:

Series I. Letters, 1862-1865
Series II. Diaries, 1861-1865

Container list**Series I. Letters, 1862-1865**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	1862 Aug 25-Oct 27
	2	1862 Nov 8-Dec 31
	3	1862 Aug 25-Dec 31 (transcriptions)
	4	1863 Jan 12-Mar 23 (fragile)
	5	1863 Jan 12-Mar 23 (transcriptions)
	6	1863 Mar 29-May 31
	7	1863 Mar 29-May 31 (transcriptions)
	8	1863 Jun 5-Jul 18
	9	1863 Jun 5-Jul 18 (transcriptions)
	10	1863 Jul 22-Oct 20
	11	1863 Oct 26-1864 May 8
	12	1864 May 17-Jul 9
	13	1864 Jul 15-Aug 26
	14	1864 Aug 29-Oct 9
	15	1864 Oct 12-Nov 23
	16	1864 Nov 28-Dec 24
	17	1865 Jan 1-Mar 4
	18	1865 Jan 1-Feb 7 (transcriptions)
	19	Lists of Letters

Series II. Diaries, 1861-1865

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
2	1	Volume I, 1861
	2	Volume I, 1861 (transcription)
	3	Notes (removed from diary volume I, 1861)
	4	Volume II, 1862-1863
	5	Notes (removed from diary volume II, 1862-1863)
	6	Volume III, 1863
	7	Notes and cartes-de-visite (removed from diary volume III, 1863)
	8	Volume IV, 1864
	9	Volume IV, 1864 (transcription)
	10	Volumes IV and V, 1864 (transcription)
	11	Notes (removed from diary volume IV, 1864)
	12	Volume V, 1864
	13	Volume V, 1864 (transcription)
	14	Note (removed from diary volume V, 1864)
	15	Volume VI, 1865
	16	Volume VI, 1865 (transcription)
	17	Notes (removed from diary volume VI, 1865)