

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

**O'Neill Family Papers**  
1842-1899  
MssCol 6157

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## Summary

<b>Main entry:</b>	O'Neill family
<b>Title:</b>	O'Neill Family papers, 1842-1899 (bulk 1860-1864)
<b>Size:</b>	0.4 linear feet (1 box)
<b>Source:</b>	Gift of an anonymous donor, 2004.
<b>Abstract:</b>	This collection consists of papers of the O'Neill family of Connecticut, chiefly letters from Charles O'Neill to his wife Carrie while serving in the Union Army during the American Civil War, 1861-1864.
<b>Access:</b>	Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.
<b>Preferred citation:</b>	O'Neill Family Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.
<b>Special formats</b>	Ephemera

## Biographical note

Charles O'Neill, Jr. (1837-ca. 1875) lived in New Haven, Connecticut. He was a first lieutenant of the Wide Awakes before September 1861 when he enlisted in the 7th Regiment Connecticut Infantry. During the fall of 1861 he recruited for the army throughout the state. Charles married his sweetheart Caroline (Carrie) Townsend Bartholomew when he visited New London (on leave from the army) in November of 1861. He changed regiments twice in the fall of 1861, from the 7th to the 11th to the 12<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Infantry, with which he was affiliated as 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant until his discharge in November 1864. After the war the family settled in Hartford, Connecticut.

## Scope and content note

The bulk of this collection consists of letters written from Charles O'Neill to his wife, Carrie (Caroline née Bartholomew), 1860-1864. Some of the letters are accompanied by transcriptions, but the transcriptions are sometimes incomplete or inaccurate. O'Neill records his movements during the war, particularly through Louisiana, 1862-1864, and briefly through Virginia in 1864. His letters describe the battles he witnessed at Ship Island, Georgia Landing, and Port Hudson, relate details of army life and his reasons for joining the Union Army, and express concern for his wife back home. He often enclosed poems clipped from newspapers with his letters.

Other items in the collection include an 1842 letter from Carrie's father to her mother, letters from Lieut. Perkins Bartholomew, 14<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Vols., to his mother and sister Carrie, 1864, a letter from the headquarters of the 14th Connecticut Volunteers to Carrie providing details about the death of her brother Perkins in battle in Virginia in 1864, and a letter to her regarding her membership in the Pilsbury Chapter of the Eastern Star dated March 7, 1885. There are also some pieces of Republican Party campaign ephemera listing candidates for 1872 elections in Connecticut and three issues of the newspaper "The Soldiers' Record" of Hartford, Connecticut. The issue dated July 18, 1868 announces the birth of a son on July 2 to Lieutenant Charles O'Neill, Junior "late of the 12th C.V." Present also are a few receipts and some genealogical notes prepared by the donor of the collection.

**Container list**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
		Letters, 1842, 1860-1899
1	1	undated
	2	1842 Aug 26
	3	1860 [Jan]-Oct
	4	1860 Nov-Dec
	5	1860 (Transcriptions)
	6	1861 Sep-Dec
	7	1861 Sep-Dec (Transcriptions)
	8	1862 Jan-Aug
	9	1862 Sep-Dec
	10	1862 Jan-Aug (Transcriptions)
	11	1862 Sep-Dec (Transcriptions)
	12	1863 Jan-Apr
	13	1863 May-Dec
	14	1863 (Transcriptions)
	15	1864 Jan-Aug
	16	1864 Sep-Nov
	17	1864 (Transcriptions)
	18	1885 Mar 7 (Original and Transcription)
	19	Receipts, 1897, 1899
	20	<i>The Soldiers' Record</i> , 1868 Jul-Aug
	21	Republican Party campaign ephemera, 1872
	22	Notes on O'Neill family genealogy, undated