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MS-176: Hoadley George Hosford, 44th New York Papers

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MS-176: Hoadley George Hosford, 44th New York Papers

Description

This collection consists of diary entries spanning three years of Hoadley G. Hosford's enlistment in the 44th New York and a brief time in the 146th New York and the 1st Division Sharpshooters during the Civil War. The entries give details about what camp life was like, the experience of battle, and the distance a Union soldier would march in the Eastern Theater during the war.

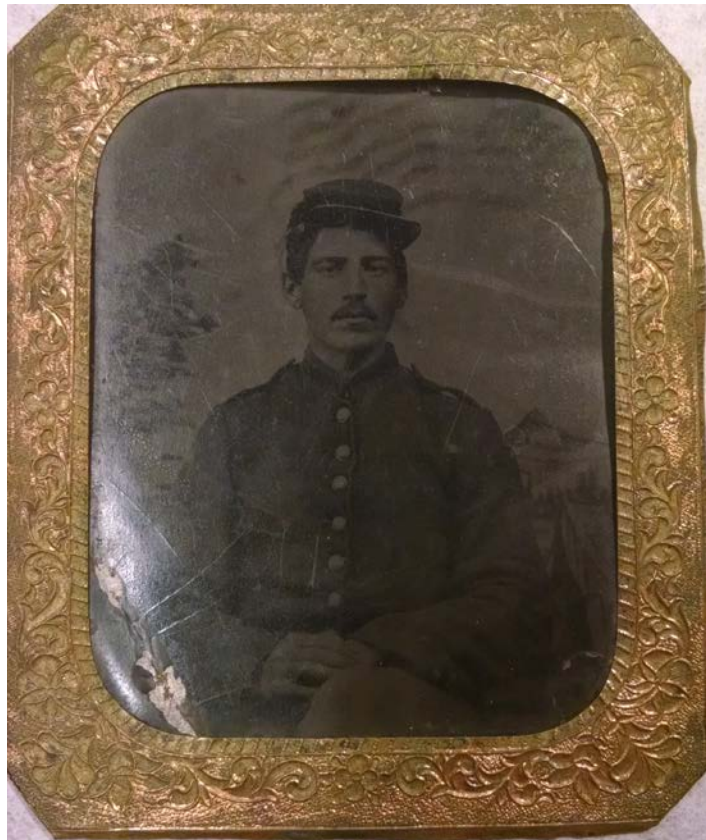
Keywords

Civil War, Civil War Diary, 44th New York, Ellsworth Avengers, Zouaves, 146th New York, 1st Division Sharpshooters

Disciplines

History | Military History | United States History

**Guide to the
Hoadley George Hosford, 44th New York Papers**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Steven Semmel '16, Pohanka Summer Intern
June 29, 2015**

MS – 176: Papers of Hoadley George Hosford, 44th New York

(2 box, 1 cubic foot)

Inclusive Dates: 1861-1880

Bulk Dates: 1862-1864

Processed by: Steven Semmel '16

June 29, 2015

Provenance

Purchased from The William Reese Co., New Haven, CT in April 2015, accession # 2015-0097.

Biography

Hoadley George Hosford was born on March 16, 1842 in Ashland, New York. His parents, Maria Lola Ives Hosford and Benajah Bracket Hosford, had three other children, Hannah, Julia, and Obedience. A couple of years after he was born, his father passed away from cholera leaving his wife and four children behind. Maria moved in with her parents and Hosford worked around the family farm making sure his family would be able to sustain itself. Hosford answered another call in 1861, serving his country in the Civil War.

At the age of 20 he enlisted for three years in the 44th New York, also known as the "Ellsworth Avengers".¹ Throughout his enlistment, he wrote in his diaries about his travels and experiences in battle. He mentions the Siege of Yorktown, Hanover Court House, Second Manassas², Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Bristoe Station, Rappahannock Station, Mine Run, Spotsylvania Court House, North Anna, Cold Harbor, Totopotomoy Creek, and the Siege at Petersburg. Hosford's three year enlistment was up before the 44th mustered out. Hosford reenlisted in 1864. During September of 1864, the 44th New York mustered out and Hosford transferred to the 146th New York. He spent the rest of the war with the 146th New York and mustered out in June of 1865. He was promoted several times during the war, being a 1st Sergeant in the 44th and 146th New York and a Sergeant Major in the 1st Division Sharpshooters.³

Immediately after the war, Hosford got married and moved west. He and his wife spent time in Wisconsin before finally settling in Nebraska where they raised five children. The diaries and artifacts were passed down to his youngest son, Ross Hosford. Hoadley

¹ Col. Ellsworth raised one of the first Zouave Regiments of the Civil War. He was the first officer killed in action at Alexandria, Virginia in 1861

² Hosford was wounded at Second Bull Run (August 28, 1862) in his side and is hospitalized for a month in Philadelphia.

³ Joins the Sharpshooter unit on August 17th, 1864

George Hosford passed away on August 4th 1903. He left behind stories of the 44th New York and his travels across the East coast during the Civil War in his three diaries.

History

Hosford's collection and diaries does not entirely capture the massive amount of information his studying service has to offer. During the course of his enlistment, he experienced the rare occurrence of wearing 3 different uniforms. The 44th New York (left soldier) wore a hybrid Infantry-Zouave uniform that was navy blue with red piping. The pants were also navy blue and worn with gators. They wore a Kepi and a decorative jacket. The jacket had 12 buttons down each side of the front, mostly used for decoration. The buttons in the collection are from the 44th New York uniform. As the war went on, the Zouave uniform was phased out and the 44th New York donned a New York State Jacket, as seen in Hosford's tintypes in this collection. In the collections's tin types, Hosford is wearing the State Jacket. When the unit mustered out in 1864, Hosford's transfer would put him in the 146th New York Zouaves (right soldier). They wore an ornate version of a Zouave uniform. Their jackets were sky blue with yellow piping worn over a red undershirt. The fez they wore was red with a yellow tassel, the pants were baggy, sky blue and worn with gators. ⁴



The 44th New York fought in more engagements than Hosford was present for. There were points where Hosford was sick or on leave during major engagements. Both the Battle of Hanover Court House and Battle of Malvern Hill, which Hosford missed, almost amounted to the same number of casualties the unit suffers at the Battle of Gettysburg. ⁵ He also missed the Battle of Antietam while he was in the hospital from a wound at Second Manassas and the Battles of Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House while he was on recruitment detail.

Scope and Content Notes

This collection consists of diary entries spanning three years of Hoadley G. Hosford's enlistment in the 44th New York and a brief time in the 146th New York and the 1st Division Sharpshooters. The diaries are almost entirely filled for each day. The entries of 1862 are on loose left paper, presumably transcribed from a pocket diary soon after his return home. The 1863 and 1864 diaries are the original ones he carried during the war. The entries give details about what camp life was like, the experience of battle, and the distance a Union soldier would march in the Eastern Theater during the war. The writing is very clear and with few spelling and grammar mistakes. However, he is very straight forward and matter of fact, hiding any emotions he had about the war. If there was a

⁴ Picture from *American Civil War Zouaves* by Robin Smith and Bill Younhusband

⁵ Hanover Court House 86 (25% casualties), Malvern Hill 100 (~50%), Gettysburg 111 (35%)

period of time where he was upset about something, he would write no more than a sentence of what was going on.

There are several tin types and photographs of Hosford and one picture of the 44th New York Regimental Colors. Some of the photographs are unidentified. Buttons from his 44th New York Zouave Uniform and his GAR medal are included with a wide range of military papers.

Series Description

This collection is divided into two Series. **Series I:** Diaries and Papers, **Series II:** Books, Photographs and Artifacts,

Series I consists of two of the original diaries that Hosford wrote, the transcribed version of the first diary, his enlistment papers, special orders and other documents about Hosford. **Series II** consists of photographs of Hosford and other related photographs, The Manual of Arms and Barracks song book, buttons from his 44th New York Zouave uniform and a tuning fork, and his GAR medal.

Box 1

1-1 Finding Aid and Biographical Information

Series 1 -- Diary and Papers

1-2 1862 Diary Entries

1-3 1863 Diary

1-4 1864 Diary

1-5 Gettysburg Monument, Newspaper Clippings and provenance note

1-6 Enlistment, Commission, Pensions, Special Orders, Other Docs.

Series 2 -- Books, Photographs, and Artifacts

1-7 Manual of Arms (1863) + Barracks Song Books

1-8 Photographs

Box 1-9 Tuning Fork + Uniform Buttons

Box 1-10 GAR Ribbon

Box 2: Original box containing the collection. Red printed-wooden box.

For more information about Hoadley George Hosford, 44th New York Papers

- 1) A book entitled *A History of the Forty-fourth Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry*, by Eugene Arus Nash located as an ebook or in Special Collection Civil War section. Call number: E523.5 44th.N37 1911
- 2) Brainard, Mary G. & Patrick A. Schroeder, *Campaigns of the One hundred and forty-sixth Regiment, New York State Volunteers*, 2000 (Google Book)