

**Collection #
M 0147
OM 0699
DVD 1487–1488**

**HOUGHTON FAMILY
PAPERS, 1850–1889**

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Collection Information | 1 |
| Biographical Sketch | 2 |
| Scope and Content Note | 3 |
| Series Contents | 4 |

Processed by

Paul Brockman
August 2018

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 box, 1 half-size box, 1 oversize folder, 1 flat file folder, 2 folders of photographs, 2 disks

COLLECTION DATES: 1850–1889

PROVENANCE: Howard B. Houghton, Huntington, Indiana, 1965; James P. Houghton, Los Ranchos, New Mexico, July 2018

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1965.0310; 2018.0230

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

William Houghton (1839–1918) was born in Daviess County, Indiana, where he farmed with his family. In June 1861, he was mustered into Company C of the 14th Indiana Regiment as a 1st lieutenant. Houghton was promoted to captain in May 1862, and was wounded at the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862. In February 1863, he was promoted to major, and was discharged in June 1864. After his discharge, Houghton settled in Loogootee, Martin County, Indiana where he ultimately became a bank president around the 1890s. In January 1870, he married Kizziah “Kissie” E. Reinhart (b. 1847).

Walter Houghton (1845–1929) was also born in Daviess County. In July 1863, he enlisted in Company D of the 113th Indiana Regiment as part of the defense force against Morgan's Raid. He served seven days. In 1864, he enlisted in Company F of the 137th Regiment (100-day enlistment). After the war, he attended Indiana University and became a professor/teacher in Fayette and Wayne counties. He married Alice Margaret Neely in December 1878.

Eugene Houghton (1847–1910) was born in Daviess County. Like his brother Walter, he also served in the 137th Indiana Regiment for seven days because of Morgan's Raid. In July 1864, he was mustered into Company E of the 18th Indiana Regiment and served until August 1865. Eugene Houghton and his wife, Effa, were married in July 1876. They later moved to Texas and where he was a dry goods merchant and postmaster.

Sources:

Ancestry, Library Edition, accessed 23 August 2018.

Information in collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection primarily contains letters, a diary, and military records pertaining to Major William Houghton, Company C of the 14th Indiana Regiment during the Civil War. There are approximately 200 letters mostly written by William Houghton, although there are also letters written by his brothers, Walter and Eugene, during their time in the Union Army.

The William Houghton letters date from 12 May 1861 to 15 June 1864. Most of the letters were written to his parents and other family members. Locations include Camp Vigo, Indiana; Randolph County, Virginia; Winchester, Virginia; and Fredericksburg, Virginia. Topics include information about fellow soldiers; destruction of farm land; the Battle of Winchester; political discussion such as Emancipation Proclamation and the removal of McClellan; the Battle of Antietam including his arm wound; the Battle of Fredericksburg where he was more severely injured and sent to Washington, D.C. to recuperate; the arrival of black troops; and the execution of two deserters.

Additional William Houghton material includes his diary from 5 July 1861–23 February 1862. In his diary, Houghton writes from Virginia of engagements with the enemy and casualties as well as troop movements' inspections, officer resignations, and constructing fortifications and winter quarters. He describes in detail the Battle of Greenbriar (West Virginia), August 1861, and taking Winchester, Virginia, without a fight in March 1862. Also in the collection are muster rolls and ordnance records for the 14th Indiana as well as a survivor's list from a reunion in 1889. In addition the collection contains several carte de visite photographs of unidentified Civil War soldiers, presumably William Houghton and brothers.

The collection also contains letters from brothers Walter and Eugene Houghton, while they were serving in the Union Army. Walter writes while a soldier in Company G of the 137th Regiment at Duck River Bridge, Tennessee, 28 May to 1 July 1864. Eugene writes while serving with Company E of the 18th Indiana near Winchester, Virginia, 21 July 1864 to 5 January 1865. Both brothers wrote to their parents and to their brother William.

Post-Civil War correspondence centers on the three Houghton brothers and other relatives, 1869–1880. Most of the topics are family news related with a few references to their business ventures.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Correspondence, 1850–1880

| CONTENTS | CONTAINER |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Correspondence, 1850; May–Sept., 1861 | Box 1, Folder 1 |
| Correspondence, Oct.–Dec., 1861 | Box 1, Folder 2 |
| Correspondence, Jan.–Feb., 1862 | Box 1, Folder 3 |
| Correspondence, March–May, 1862 | Box 1, Folder 4 |
| Correspondence, June–July, 1862 | Box 1, Folder 5 |
| Correspondence, Aug., 1862 | Box 1, Folder 6 |
| Correspondence, Sept.–Dec., 1862 | Box 1, Folder 7 |
| Correspondence, Jan.–March, 1863 | Box 1, Folder 8 |
| Correspondence, April–May, 1863 | Box 1, Folder 9 |
| Correspondence, June–Aug., 1863 | Box 1, Folder 10 |
| Correspondence, Sept.–Dec., 1863 | Box 1, Folder 11 |
| Correspondence, Jan.–April, 1864 | Box 1, Folder 12 |
| Correspondence, May–Dec., 1864 | Box 1, Folder 13 |
| William Houghton Civil War Diary, 1861–1862 | Box 1, Folder 14 |
| Civil War Photographs, William Houghton in uniform, ca. 1861; General Phil Sheridan | Photographs: Folder 1 of 2 |
| Civil War and family photographs, ca. 1860s | Photographs: Folder 2 of 2 |
| Correspondence, 1870–1880 | Box 2, Folder 1 |

Series 2: Records and Muster Rolls, 1861–1889

| CONTENTS | CONTAINER |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Ordnance Receipts, 1863–1866 | Box 2, Folder 2 |
| Camp Rolls, 1861 | Box 2, Folder 3 |

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Survivors Roll, Reunion, Sept. 1889 | Box 2, Folder 4 |
| Ordnance Records, 1861–1862 | OM 0699, Folder1 of 1 |
| Muster Rolls, 1861 | Flat File Storage: FF 11-e |
| Digital Copy of Muster Rolls and Ordnance Records, 1861–1862 (User copy) | DVD 1487 |
| Digital Copy of Muster Rolls and Ordnance Records, 1861–1862 (Master copy) | DVD 1488 |