

Collection #
SC2966

**THEODORE FREHLINGHUYSEN UPSON
CIVIL WAR REMINISCENCES, CA. 1890**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 4 folders

COLLECTION
DATES: ca. 1890

PROVENANCE: Marian Mathews Clark, Iowa City, IA

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS: *With Sherman to the Sea: The Civil War Letters, Diaries &
Reminiscences of Theodore F. Upson*, General Collection, E506.5
100th .U78 1958

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 2008.0208

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Theodore Frelinghuysen Upson (May 5, 1845-January 29, 1919) was born in the small town of Orland, Indiana in Steuben County as James Madison Doyne to John and Lucy Doyne. However, he was orphaned as an infant and adopted by well-to-do farmers Jonathan and Elizabeth Upson in Lima (now Howe), Indiana, and his name was changed to Theodore. Upson was a schoolboy at the outbreak of the war, but convinced his family to let him enlist in the Army. Upson mustered into the 100th Indiana Infantry Regiment, Company C on September 10, 1862 at Fort Wayne. During his time with the Union Army, he travelled through much of the South, had his first drink of whiskey, and smoked his first pipe. Upson saw action at the siege of Vicksburg, on to Jackson, and then to Chattanooga, where he served as a scout for General Sherman. He also participated in the Battle of Missionary Ridge, the Battle of Atlanta, and then General Sherman's March to the Sea. At the end of the war, Upson participated with his regiment in the Victory Parade in Washington D.C. on May 20, 1865. During his time in the Army, Upson had marched around 4,000 miles and engaged in 25 battles.

After he was mustered out of the Army on June 9, 1865, Upson returned home to his parents in Lima. He then went to Morristown, New Jersey, where he learned the trade of carriage building and married Anna Elizabeth Beach on May 8, 1867. The couple had four daughters and two sons. Upson returned to Indiana with his family as a tradesman and lived in South Milford and Elkhart before eventually returning to Lima. He owned a wagon and carriage shop, and contributed letters and poems to the *Lagrange Standard*. He also served as the commander of the local G.A.R. post. Upson died at the age of seventy six on January 29, 1919.

Sources:

With Sherman to the Sea: The Civil War Letters, Diaries & Reminiscences of Theodore F. Upson, ed. Oscar Osburn Winther, 1958.

Materials in the collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This manuscript is Theodore Frelinghuysen Upson's handwritten memoir of his experiences during the Civil War, which he wrote almost 25 years after the conflict, drawing together notes he had taken at the time and letters he had written. The first chapter, entitled "We Have Visitors From the Southland", pages 85-87, and pages 103-113 are missing from the manuscript.

Upson's reminiscences begin with the outbreak of the war and discuss the reactions of his family members and neighbors, whose feelings ranged from distress to patriotic blustering. The Upson family seems to have had relations living in the South that joined the Confederate Army. Upson struggled at the outbreak of the war, because he desperately wanted to join up, but was underage and needed his father's permission. When he did enlist in 1862, his father was quite upset and frightened, but ultimately gave Upson his blessing. Upson writes in detail about the conditions of camp life, which many times involved shortages of food and especially of clean water. In addition, Upson discusses the losses suffered in his Company, mostly from disease, and discusses his involvement as a scout and in battle. In addition, as Upson was only sixteen when he began serving in the Union Army, his reminiscences also have an element of a coming of age story, as he had not experienced much of the world outside of his small town prior to joining the Army.

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 2966).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.