

Collection #
M 0436
F 1683

**THORNTON CLARK
PAPERS, 1862–1864, 2006**

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Processed by

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2 December 1994

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27 August 2002

Visuals added June 2018

by Dorothy A. Nicholson

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 manuscript box, 1 reel of microfilm 1 folder of color photographs
COLLECTION DATES:	1862–1864, 2006
PROVENANCE:	California Book Auction, 220 San Bruno Avenue, San Francisco CA 94103, 1995 Daryl Lovell, Dale, Indiana, 2006
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1995.0011, 2006.0451
NOTES:	

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Thornton Clark (d. 1864) came from Dale, Spencer County, Indiana, when he enlisted in Company B of the 42nd Regiment on 23 September 1862. He was captured a year later, and was imprisoned at Andersonville Prison in Georgia, where he reportedly died on 10 October 1864. His wife Nancy applied for and received a pension as a widow (application no. 113,843, certificate no. 81.625, filed 26 October 1865). However, W. H. H. Terrell's Adjutant General's report shows that Clark (spelled as Clarke) was mustered out on 12 July 1865.

The 42nd Indiana Volunteer Regiment was organized at Evansville in October 1861. It was first sent to Kentucky; then to Huntsville, Alabama; then back to Kentucky. It fought at Murfreesboro and Stone River; then at Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, and Mission Ridge. Re-enlisted in January 1864, the regiment joined Sherman near Chattanooga, took part in the campaign before Atlanta, pursued Hood into Alabama, and ended the war pursuing Johnston through North Carolina.

Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) William C. Jackson Post #332 of Dale, Indiana was organized in 1884, with C.W. Medcalf as the first commander. The post was named for Corporal William C. Jackson of the 42nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry, Co. B, who was killed at Perryville, Kentucky, on 8 October 1862 while raising the flag of the regiment in front of the enemy. The post disbanded on 20 January 1925 because of dwindling membership. The last surviving member was George W. Wilsman who died on 16 August 1940.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

National Park Service, Andersonville National Historic Site. *Andersonville Prisoner of War Database*. Orem, UT: Ancestry, Inc., 1999. www.ancestry.com (viewed 3 July 2002); National Park Service, Andersonville National Historic Site. Anderson Prisoner Profile: <http://www.maconcountyga.org/> (viewed 5 July 2002)

National Archives and Records Administration. *Civil War Pension Index*. [database online] Provo, UT: Ancestry.com, 2000. Data indexed and imaged from National Archives and Records Administration. *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934*. T288, 544 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration. www.ancestry.com (viewed 3 July 2002)

Adjutant General's Office. *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana*. Volume 5, p. 307. Indianapolis: A. H. Connor [etc.] State Printer, 1865–69. General and Reference Collection: E506.2.I39 T4 1865

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains Civil War letters dated 1862–1864, all from Private Thornton Clark to his wife Nancy; family notes on the letters; and photocopies of the letters. It is arranged chronologically.

Thornton Clark, author of the letters, was a phonetic speller: "rebbe," "attact," "shugar," "ridgement." He was deeply religious, writing his wife to make sure the children attend Sunday school, and attributing thunderstorms to the wrath of the Lord against the company commander. He was sick a good deal, and missed the battle of Murfreesboro on that account. He was continually hopeful that the war would soon end. He wrote regularly until 15 September 1863. There is one short letter from Andersonville Prison dated 16 June 1864.

The collection was microfilmed in July 2002 as F 1683.

The two copy photographs and a brief history of G.A.R. Post No. 332 of Dale, Indiana, were added in 2018. There is a portrait of Thornton Clark in his uniform taken ca. 1862. The second photograph shows some G.A.R. members from Dale, Indiana. It was taken on 30 May 1911 before the Civil War veterans marched to the cemetery to scatter flowers.

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CONTENTS

Sept.–Oct. 1862

Nov. 1862

Dec. 1862

Jan.–Mar. 1863

Apr.–June 1863

July–Sept. 1863

1864

Summary sheets by a family member

Thornton Clark

[copy of cased image portrait in his uniform]

Members of G.A.R. William C. Jackson Post No. 332
Front Row, L to R: Alexander Mills, William Wood,
Michael Heichelbech, Elijah Whitten, Wesley Brown,
Ed Stone, John Schaaf
Back Row, L to R: Ham Cooper, John Ellis, Dan
Thompson, James Medcalf, James Whitten
May 30, 1911

History of G.A.R. William C. Jackson Post No. 332 of
Dale, Indiana
compiled by Tim Beckman, Indianapolis, Indiana

Microfilm of collection

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Color Photographs:
Folder 1

Color Photographs:
Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 9

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