

Collection #
SC 3561

**WILLIAM C. SHAW
LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1861–1895**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript folders

COLLECTION DATES: 1861–1895

PROVENANCE: Brian and Maria Green, Inc., Kernersville, North Carolina, January, 2019

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2019.0020

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Cookman Shaw (1844–1922) was born in New Albany, Floyd County, Indiana. He later moved to Russellville, Kentucky, where he worked as a telegraph operator. When the Civil War began in 1861, Shaw returned to New Albany in September and enlisted in Company B of the 38th Indiana Regiment as a sergeant. In September 1864, he was promoted to 2nd lieutenant. This was followed by a rapid promotion to 1st lieutenant, and captain one month later. He was promoted to major in June 1865 and mustered out one month later.

After the war, Shaw returned to New Albany, where he worked in retail in hats and caps. He later moved to Tippecanoe County where he married Emma E. Clemmens in January 1868. They had one daughter. In 1877, the family moved to Chicago, Illinois, where his occupation was listed as a handwriting expert. Throughout his later life, he was active in the GAR. Shaw remained in Chicago until his death in 1922.

Sources:

Ancestry, Library Edition, accessed 23 January 2019

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The meat of the collection consists of eleven letters written to his parents and family while serving with the 38th Indiana Regiment, October 1861–March 1865. He writes from Camp Nevin, Kentucky; Camp Andy Johnson, Tennessee; and Atlanta, Jonesboro, and Savannah, Georgia. Among the topics are initially being assigned as a telegraph operator before being sent to the regular regiment; a description of the horror of his first battle (presumably Perryville) from Edgefield Junction, Tennessee, in November 1862; a description of engagement at Hoover’s Gap (June 1863); marching from Atlanta to Savannah, in December 1864; and engaging heavy Confederate resistance on the march to Goldsboro, North Carolina, in March 1865.

Also included in the collection is a ten-page letter to a Mr. Kelso in Augusta, Georgia, 26 March 1874, describing his visit to Jonesboro Battlefield and Andersonville Prison on 11 March 1874, and five-page speech regarding the death of Walter Q. Gresham, 1895.

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Writings, 1871; 1895

CONTAINER

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