

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

Bacon, Edward Woolsey, Papers, 1861-1865

Location:

Mss. boxes "B"
Octavo volumes "B"

Size of collection:

1 mss. box (4 folders); 1 octavo volume (145 leaves)

N.U.C.M.C. number:

RLIN id:

Sources of information on collection:

For a biography of Bacon, see Thomas W. Baldwin, *Michael Bacon and His Descendants* (Cambridge: n.p., 1915), p. 327. There are copies of pages from this genealogy filed in the first folder of this collection.

Source of collection:

Gift of John Woolsey, Sara Bacon Davis, and Edward L. Bacon, Jr., 1981

Collection description:

Edward Woolsey Bacon (1843-1887) was born in New Haven, Conn., the son of the Reverend Dr. Leonard Bacon (1802-1881), prominent Congregational minister and opponent to slavery. Edward Bacon left Yale University at the age of seventeen and joined the U.S. Navy as a captain's clerk during the Civil War. By 1864, however, Bacon had switched to the army and served with distinction as a captain with the 29th Connecticut Volunteers, Colored Regiment, Army of the James, and later as major of the 117th U.S. Colored Troops. After the war his troops were assigned to Brownsville, Tex., where he sat with the General Court Martial. Soon, however, Bacon resigned from the army, returned to Yale, and in 1877 became minister of the Second Congregational Church in New London, Conn. Ill-health forced him several times to travel to California, where he died at the age of forty-four. He was married in 1869 to Mary Elizabeth Staples (-), granddaughter of Jonathan Knight (1789-1864), a founder of Yale Medical School.

This collection consists of letters of Edward Woolsey Bacon during his Civil War service, 1861-1865. The box contains several folders of letters (there are two photographs of Bacon in the first folder), and the octavo volume is a letterbook, 1861-1863. The letterbook contains copies of letters written to his father, other family members, and friends while Bacon served on board the "Iroquois," and on Admiral Farragut's flagship, the "Hartford." He described in detail various sea battles as well as Southern cities (e.g., New Orleans) and scenery. Bacon also referred to his leadership of the first troops that

landed in Nashville, Tenn., to supervise the surrender of that city, his political opinions, daily activities, and a naval voyage to the Caribbean in 1861. The volume contains a list of stores sent to a military hospital in New Haven, Conn., a map depicting a naval encounter with the enemy, and several pages of notes on religion and philosophy apparently entered at a later date.

The folders of letters (only a few of which appear also in the letterbook), 1861-1865, were written primarily to Bacon's sister, Katherine Wadsworth Bacon (1848-). They contain descriptions of battles at sea, the trip to Trinidad and Barbados, and, beginning in 1864, Bacon's captaincy in the 29th Connecticut

(cont.)

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Collection description (continued):

Volunteers. He described their outfitting and leadership, battles in which they fought in South Carolina and Virginia, his opinions of the black soldiers, the reactions of Confederate prisoners and deserters to the troops, and the progress of the war in general. His service with the 117th brought him into Richmond, Va., where he was called upon to suppress a mutiny among his troops.

In June 1865, with Bacon's regiment in Brownsville, his letters describe his dislike of the area, army mismanagement, the sending of black troops into Texas "well-hidden from their friends," and his duty with the General Court Martial.

The manuscript box includes a typescript copy of the diary of Edward Woolsey Bacon.

See Contents List.

4 March 1982
revised 16 February 2010

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Edward Woolsey Bacon, Papers, 1861-1865

Contents List

Manuscript Box

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Folder 1 | Correspondence, 1861 December - 1862 August |
| Folder 2 | Correspondence, 1864 February - December |
| Folder 3 | Correspondence, 1865 January - November |
| Folder 4 | Miscellaneous Papers
obituaries, genealogical materials,
typescript of Bacon's diary |

American Antiquarian Society
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT

EDWARD WOOLSEY BACON, PAPERS, 1861-1865
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"U.S.S. 'Iroquois,' Harbor of Port au Spain, Trinidad, October 1 st 1861"	Diary entry	6
"Paramaribo, Surinan River, Dutch Geegan, Wednesday, Oct. 23d 1861"	Diary entry	7
"Paramaribo, Oct. 26 th Saturday evening"	Diary entry	2
"Port of Spain, Trinidad, October 30 th 1861"	Diary entry	1
"St. Thomas, Nov. 28 th , 1861"	Diary entry	4
"St. Thomas, December 9 th "	Diary entry w/copy of letter from H. A. Arrandale to Captain Palmer dated December 3d, 1861	12
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"Bridgetown, Barbados, January 1 st , 1862"	Diary entry	2
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"U.S.S. 'Iroquois,' Off Vicksburg May 28 th 1862]	Diary entry	1
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"U.S.S. 'Iroquois' New Orleans, Aug 9 th , 1862"	Letter from Bacon to "Sir" ["Fleet Postmaster"]	4
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"U.S.S. 'Iroquois,' Pensacola, Fla., August 21 st , 1862"	Letter from Bacon to "Shepherd"	6
"Flag Ship 'Hartford' Pensacola Bay, Sept. 28 1862"	Letter from Bacon to "Geo." [Geo. P. Brinley, Esq., Hartford, Conn.]	9
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"Office of Asst. Com General Subsis. New York, March 12 th , 1863"	Letter to Bacon from "A. B. Eaton Col J A.C.G.S."	3
	Letter from Bacon to "Sir" [Colonel Amos B. Eaton, U.S.A., Asst. Com. Substnce. New York City]	2
"New Haven, Conn., March 14 th 1863"		
"Office of Commissary of Subsistence, No. 4 State Street New York, March 19 th , 1863"	Letter to Bacon from "Dan'l S. Hart Capt. & C.S.V."	2
"Office Commissary of Subsistence, No. 4 State St, New York City, March 24 th , 1863"	Letter to Bacon from "Dan'l S. Hart, Capt. & C.S.V."	2
"New Haven, Conn. March 25 th , 1863"	Letter from Bacon to "Sir" [Captain Daniel S. Hart, Com Sub. Vols. New York City]	2
"Office of Asst. Com. Gen'l Subsis. New York, March 15 th , 1863"	Letter to Bacon from "A. B. Eaton, Col & A.C.G.S."	1
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