

Coe, Miles Washington Papers

Miles Washington Coe Papers

1859-1920



Title Statement

Coe, Miles Washington Papers Miles Washington Coe Papers, 1859-1920 Ms.1996.009

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1996.009

Unit Date

1859-1920

Unit Date

1862-1865

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

Papers (photocopies only) of Miles Washington Coe, a private in Company C, 42nd Indiana Infantry during the American Civil War, including wartime correspondence and documents relating to Coe's military pension.

Creator

Coe, Miles Washington, 1834-1907

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Washington Coe Papers were donated to Special Collections and University Libraries in 1996.

Processing Information

The processing and description of the Washington Coe Papers commenced and was completed in October, 2023.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Miles Washington Coe Papers, Ms1996-009, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical / Historical

Miles Washington Coe, son of Miles and Eunice Fairbanks Coe, was born in Newark (Caledonia County), Vermont, on June 27, 1834. He moved with his parents while still an infant to Ohio, then to Indiana. He married Mary Martha Webb (1839-1925) in Gilead, Michigan, on July 4, 1859; the couple would have five children (Francis Marion, Nellie, Andrew Jackson, Hattie, and Bertha May). The 1860 federal census shows the Coes living and farming in Steuben County, Indiana. On September 28, 1864, Coe enlisted in Company C, 42nd Indiana Infantry. He mustered out with his regiment at Louisville, Kentucky, on June 18, 1865. According to the federal census, the Coes had moved by 1870 to Perry (Noble County), Indiana, where Miles Coe worked as a carpenter. By 1905, Coe was living in the Michigan Soldiers' Home in Kent County, Michigan. Miles Washington Coe died in Big Rapids (Mecosta County), Michigan, on June 2, 1907, and was buried in the city's Highland View Cemetery.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains the papers (photocopies only) of Miles Washington Coe, a private in Company C, 42nd Indiana Infantry during the American Civil War. The collection consists largely of 19 wartime letters from Coe to his family, as well as eight postwar letters, six written from the Michigan Soldier's Home. Coe's war letters commence with a letter written at Indianapolis on November 4, 1864. In this and subsequent letters written from Chattanooga; Cleveland [Tennessee]; Alexandria, Virginia; Wilmington and Goldsboro, North Carolina (and from aboard the steamers Cuba and Dermont), Coe discusses his regiment's movements, prospects for furloughs, his health (including a bout of jaundice); shares his views of the war; describes his surroundings, quarters, and food; and conveys news of mutual acquaintances. Coe's wartime correspondence ends with a letter written in a camp near Washington on June 3, 1865. Most of Coe's brief postwar letters are written from the Michigan Soldiers' Home and focus on his health and his desire to come home. A letter from the home's commandant, George H. Turner, informs Mary Coe that he considers her husband "not competent to travel alone and ... feeble in his mind." The correspondence also includes three wartime letters from relatives S. A. Covell and Chester Coe. Also included in the collection is a copy of Miles and Mary Webb Coe's marriage certificate, Coe's military discharge certificate, and papers relating to his Civil War pension.

Keywords

Civil War

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Coe, Miles Washington, 1834-1907

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Description of Subordinate Components

Papers

Unit Date 1869-1920

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