

## 16<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry Regiment Records (1861-1863)

Mss Coll. No. 133

.75 linear feet

### History

The 16<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry regiment consisted of 1247 men from three counties in Northern New York State. These included companies A, B, F, G, H, and K from St. Lawrence County, C, D, and E from Clinton County, and I from Franklin County. On May 10, 1861, Thomas A. Davies was assigned as the colonel of the 16<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry. Davies was chosen because he had a military education, being a graduate of West Point and was a native of St. Lawrence County. The 16<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry regiment would serve two years in the United States Army and was mustered in on May 15, 1861, in Albany, NY.

Thomas A. Davies served as colonel of the 16<sup>th</sup> from May 15, 1861, to March 7, 1862, when he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and went on to command the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> divisions of the west Tennessee army. Following Davies, Joseph Howland was promoted to commanding colonel of the 16<sup>th</sup> and served as colonel until September 28, 1862, when he resigned because of wounds received in the battle of Gaines's Mill. He was later promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. The final colonel to command the 16<sup>th</sup> was Joel J. Seaver who commanded from September 29, 1862–May 22, 1863, when he was mustered out. The majority of the 16<sup>th</sup> infantry was mustered out on May 14, 1863. One hundred and twenty-six members of the regiment were assigned to the 121<sup>st</sup> New York Regiment to complete their service.

### Major Battles Involving the 16<sup>th</sup>

- Bull Run, July 21, 1861, Commanded by Davies
- West Point, May 7, 1862, Commanded by Howland
- Gaines's Mill, June 27, 1862, Commanded by Howland
- Glendale, June 30, 1862, Commanded by Howland
- Crampton's Pass, Sept. 14, 1862, Commanded by Howland
- Antietam, Sept. 17, 1862, Commanded by Howland
- Salem Church, May 3, 1863, Commanded by Seaver

### Scope and Content

This collection consists of two series. **Series one** contains letters, orders, and reports dating from April 3, 1862 to December 31, 1867 mostly written by the members of the 16<sup>th</sup> New York State Infantry regiment. The majority of the letters in this series are addressed to one of the three men who served as colonel to the 16<sup>th</sup>, Davies, Howland, or Seaver. Out of the letters addressed to these former colonels most are to Howland. Davies, Howland, and Seaver have written some of the letters in response to requests that they have received from former members of the 16<sup>th</sup> wanting advice about a certain situation that has arisen or updating the colonel on what has been occurring within the ranks of the infantry. The rest of the letters are addressed to other members of the army such as majors or captains, and a few are addressed to Col. Howland's wife. This series also contains two letters written by other soldiers from different regiments and some newspaper clippings.

**Series Two** contains records and forms dating from September 1861 through May Tenth 1863 (The 16<sup>th</sup> NY regiment was mustered-out May 14<sup>th</sup> 1863) along with records with no dates. Some of these documents are of "A" company of the 16<sup>th</sup>

Regiment while others list no affiliation; no other company or regiment are mentioned. Included in this series are Muster Rolls, Muster-Out Rolls, Clothing Reports, Ordinance Reports, Quartermasters reports, etc. In addition, this series contains four blank forms.

**Series Three** contains two cased photographs of unidentified Union soldiers from unknown units. One image is an ambrotype, the other is a daguerreotype.

**Provenance:**

- Series 1: Gift of Mary Smallman, January 2002.
- **Series 2:** Purchased from Tim Strong, November, 2004.
- Series 3: Purchased from Tom Jenison, Fall, 2004
- \* letter in folder 6a purchased from Buckingham Books, Oct. 2019

**For more information on the 16<sup>th</sup> NYSV**

Curtis, Newton M. *From Bull Run to Chancellorsville; the story of the Sixteenth New York Infantry...*  
New York, London, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1906. **E523 .C87 1906**

**Series 1**  
**Letters and reports of 16th New York Infantry Regiment**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>From/To</b>	<b>Description of Document</b>
1	1862	April 3	Brig. Gen Thomas to Col. Joseph Howland	Report
2	1862	May 7	Unknown to unknown	List of killed and injured
3	1862	May 8	Lt. Simon Vedder to Col. Joseph Howland	Report of troop movement
4	1862	May 8	Col. Joseph Howland to Gen. James Newton	Report of battle
5	1862	May	Georgianna Woosley to Col. Joseph Howland	Report of wounded
6	1862	May 23	Dr. James Robertson to Mrs. Curtis	Letter concerning wounded husband
6a*	1862	May 28	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. P, Moore to Lt. R. P. Wilson	Scouting report near Mechanicsville
7	1862	June 27	Van Ness to J.K. Seaver	Report of Battle of Gaines Hill, Company J
8	1862	June 27	Seaver to unknown	List of wounded and killed in Company B
9	1862	June 27	Unknown to unknown	List of killed, wounded and missing, Co. E
10	1862	June 27	Sergeant James M. Hamilton to unknown	Report of Company H
11	1862	June 27	Lieutenant H.G. Sanford to Major Seaver	Report of Company F-killed and wounded
12	1862	June 28	Maj. Joel Seaver to Robert P. Wilson	Reports to HQ of Company A-K
13	1862	June 28	Lieutenant R. Corliss to Major Seaver	Report of Comp. C with killed and wounded
14	1862	July 4	Captain F.C. Tapley to unknown	Report of Company B
15	1862	July 4	Lieutenant Charles Bently to Major Seaver	Report of Company E
16	1862	July 4	Capt. William Wood to Col. Joseph Howland	Report of Company K
17	1862	July 5	Major Seaver to Col. Howland	Report of Regiment
18	1862	July 5	D.A. Nevin to unknown	Report of Company A
19	1862	July 5	S.C. Vedder to Major Seaver	Report of Company G
20	1862	July 5	A. M. Barney to Major Seaver	Report of Co. D with killed and wounded
21	1862	July 7	Col. J. J Bartlett to Capt. H. C. Rogers	Full report of Battle of Gaines Hill
22	1862	July 9	Unknown to R. Hopkins	Friendly letter

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>From/To</b>	<b>Description of Document</b>
23	1862	July 9	W. R. Hopkins to Col. Howland	Friendly letter
23a	1862	July 9	B. E. Moore to Mrs. Howland	Grateful for care of her wounded son
24	1862	July 12	C. W. Wosley to Col. Howland	Spirits are high among the troops
25	1862	July 18	H. S. Marsh to Mrs. Howland	Responding to condolence letter
26	1862	July 18	Dr. M. Crandall to Col. Howland	Updating condition of wounded officers
27	1862	July 20	Peter Van Ness to Col. Howland	Get-well letter
28	1862	July 29	D. A. Nevins to Col. Howland	Letter asking for reinstatement
29	1862	July 30	S. L. Mead to Col. Howland	Seeking an appointment for his son
30	1862	August 26	Andrew M. Miller to Mrs. Howland	Letter about \$35 in expenses
31	1862	August 26	Frank Palmer to Col. Howland	Letter about Howland's horse
32	1862	August 28	Col. Howland to General Franklin	Asking for appointment of Bartlett to Lieutenant Colonel
33	1862	September 9	Frank Palmer to Col. Howland	Informing Howland of position of camp
34	1862	September 14	Unknown to unknown	Killed and wounded at Crampton's Gap
35	1862	September 14	Unknown to unknown	Killed and wounded at Crampton's Gap
36	1862	September 14	Unknown to unknown	Killed and wounded at Crampton's Gap
36a	1862	September 14	JJ Bartlett to Major [?]	Report on battle of Crampton's Gap
37	1862	October 7	Frank Palmer to Col. Howland	Description of conditions at camp
38	1862	October 17	Pliny Moore to Colonel Howland	Accounting report and conditions at camp
39	1862	October 24	J. K. Seaver to Col. Howland	Letter concerning personnel matters
40	1862	October 26	J.A. Rawlins on behalf of General Ulysses S. Grant	General orders number 2
41	1862	October 27	Col. Howland to J. K. Seaver	Action concerning Seaver's brother
42	1862	October 27	Brigadier Gen. Thomas Davies on behalf of Gen. Grant	General orders No. 1 from Gen. Grant
43	1862	October 29	Thomas Davies to Col. Howland	Recap of recent battle
44	1862	November 20	Andrew M. Millar to Mrs. Howland	Discusses the death of his wife
45	1862	December 21	Dr. M. Crandall to Col. Howland	Urges promotion of Mr. Wilson
46	1862	December 24	Frank Palmer to Col. Howland	Report of condition of 16 <sup>th</sup> Regiment
47	1863	January 3	Dr. M. Crandall to Col. Howland	Acknowledges letter in reference to Wilson. Thanks Howland for supplies
48	1863	January 3	M. Wilson to Col. Howland	Gives status of camp life, thanks for supplies

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>From/To</b>	<b>Description of Document</b>
49	1863	March 3	Henry Stafford to Col. Howland	Asks Howland for help resettling
49a	1863	April 25	W. B. Crandall, Pliny Moor, R.P. Wilson to Col. Howland	Letter presenting a testimonial sword to Howland and a bible to Mrs. Howland
50	1863	May 8	Col. Howland to W. B. Crandall, Pliny Moore, Captain R. P. Wilson	Thank you letter for gift of bible and sword
51	1863	May 9	Col. W. R Hopkins to Mrs. Howland	Letter criticizing behavior of officers
51a	1863	May 10	M. T. McMahon to 16 <sup>th</sup> NY Volunteers	Muster out notice
52	1863	May 11	Lieutenant A.K. Parsons to Col. Howland	Report of battle April 28-May 5
53	1863	June 4	E.D. Morgan to Col. Howland	Invitation to attend Soldiers Home Trustees meeting
54	1863	August 8	Frank Palmer to Col. Howland	Recommendations for promotions
55	1863	September 15	Miss Jane Woolsey to Col. Howland	Asking discharge for Smith Fordham
56	1863	September 28	V. W. Wilson to Col. Howland	Letter concerning testimonial gift for General Bartlett
57	1863	October 1	Pliny Moore to Col. Howland	Friendly letter after resuming civilian life
58	1863	October 7	R.P. Wilson to Col. Howland	Concerning General Bartlett's gift
59	1863	October 23	S. C. Jones to Col. Howland	Concerning plans for Howland's resignation as Colonel
60	1863	October 23	J.C. Gilmore to Col. Howland	Letter accompanying photo sent by Gilmore
61	1863	October 28	R. P. Wilson to Col. Howland	Letter enclosing check for Gen. Bartlett's gift
62	1863	November 21	John O. Gilmore to Col. Howland	Letter conditionally accepting position of Colonel of 145 Regiment
63	1863	December 1	Pliny Moore to Col. Howland	Funeral arrangements for John L. Stetson
64	1863	December 7	R. P. Wilson to Col. Howland	Explains Wilson is wounded and on leave. Also discusses Bartlett gift
65	1863	December 9	R. P. Wilson to Col. Howland	Plans for a book on the 16 <sup>th</sup> Regiment
66	1863	December 12	E. Lipton to Col. Howland	Watch (gift) for Gen. Bartlett
67	1863	December 16	John O. Gilmore to Col. Howland	Letter turning down position of Colonel
68	1863	December 18	Henry J. Carlton to Col. Howland	Writing on behalf of Private David Vincent

Folder	Year	Date	From/To	Description of Document
69	1863	December 28	Henry J. Carlton to Col. Howland	More statements on behalf of David Vincent
70	1865	June 26	J.D. Judson to Joseph Howland, Esquire	Note from Judson Bank concerning \$232 credit
71	1866	January 29	S.C. Vedder to Col. Joseph Howland	Asks for help getting an army job
72	1866	February 1	E. Latimer to Col. Howland	Asking for help obtaining military training for his nephew
73	1866	March 14	J. J. Seaver to Col. Howland	Discusses balance of regimental fund
74	1866	March 16	E. Latimer to Col. Howland	Asks for Howland's help in getting nephew into military training
75	1867	April 30	J. Gilmore to Col. Howland	Asks Howland's help in procuring a military promotion
76	1867	November 15	S. C. Vedder to Col. Howland	Seeking promotion to major
77	1867	December 31	J. Gilmore to Col. Howland	Asks for Howland to write to Senator Morgan

**Additional Material:** Two newspaper clippings and a piece of paper with the names of several battles written on it.

## Series 2 Records and Forms for Company A

All in Double oversize file drawer cabinet, Drawer #15 in ODY Room 149)

- Blank forms for Discharge Pay, Disability Discharge certificate, Return Report form, Discharge certificate
- Two Quartermaster's reports, dated May 10, 1863
- Ordinance disposal report dated March 16, 1863
- Converted Quartermaster's report form used as an Ordinance report for Company A, dated April 1863
- Ordinance report dated March 31-April 9, 1863
- Ordinance Return report dated April 20-May 20, 1863
- Clothing issued report dated December 30, 1861-July 15, 1862
- Clothing accounted for report, dated October 1862
- Price list for clothing and garrison equipment, undated
- Clothing issued reports, dated October-December, and January 20-February 5, year not given
- Muster roll for Company A dated September-October 1861 from a converted muster-out roll
- Muster roll dated April 30-June 30 1862
- Muster roll dated April 10, 1863
- Muster-out roll dated January 1-February 28, 1862

### **Series 3**

Contains two cased photographs of unidentified Union soldiers from unknown units. One image is an ambrotype, the other is a daguerreotype.