

16th New York Infantry Regiment Records
MSS Collection #133

Scope & Content

The 16th 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. Thomas A. Davies served as colonel of the 16th from May 15, 1861, to March 7, 1862, when he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and went on to command the 1st and 2nd divisions of the west Tennessee army. Following Davies, Joseph Howland was promoted to commanding colonel of the 16th 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 16th was Joel J. Seaver who commanded from September 29, 1862–May 22, 1863, when he was mustered out. The majority of the 16th infantry was mustered out on May 14, 1863. One hundred and twenty-six members of the regiment were assigned to the 121st New York Regiment to complete their service.

Major Battles Involving the 16th

- 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

Dates

1861-1867

Availability

The collection is open for research.

Biographical Note

On May 10, 1861, Thomas A. Davies was assigned as the colonel of the 16th 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 16th New York Infantry regiment would serve two years in the United States Army and was mustered in on May 15, 1861, in Albany, NY.

Extent

2 boxes, one drawer; .65 linear feet

Language of the Materials

English

Arrangement

Box 1

- Series 1. Correspondence.
- Series 2. Clippings.

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

- Series 3. Records and Forms for Company A.

Box 2

- Series 4. Photographs.

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

Processing Information

Processed by the St. Lawrence University Libraries Special Collections staff.

Repository Details

Part of the St. Lawrence University Libraries manuscript collection.

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Collection Organization

Series 1 contains letters, orders, and reports dating from April 3, 1862 to December 31, 1867 mostly written by the members of the 16th New York State Infantry regiment. Most of the letters in this series are addressed to one of the three men who served as colonel: Davies, Howland, or Seaver, the most addressed to Howland. There are also letters sent from each of the three Colonels. 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, some newspaper clippings, and roster of soldiers copied from *History of St. Lawrence County, New York* (call number: F127.S2 D9).

Series 2 contains clippings and information about the 16th NY Regiment.

Series 3 contains records and forms dating from September 1861 through May Tenth 1863 (The 16th NY regiment was mustered-out May 14th 1863) along with records with no dates. Some of these documents are of "A" company of the 16th 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 4 contains two cased photographs of unidentified Union soldiers from unknown units. One image is an ambrotype, the other is a daguerreotype. There is also a photo of an unidentified Union soldier believed to be in the 148th regiment, as shown on a ribbon that came with the photo.

For more information on the 16th NYSV

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

Related Collections

Call Number	Title
Mss. Coll. No. 002	Beach Papers

Mss. Coll. No. 006	Pryce Lewis Collection
Mss. Coll. No. 056	Goodrich Papers
Mss. Coll. No. 064	Conkey - Bannister - Page Family Papers
Mss. Coll. No. 066	George O. Newbury Letters
Mss. Coll. No. 082	William H. Carr Diary
Mss. Coll. No. 083	William H. Davies Collection
Mss. Coll. No. 084	Orson Leroy Reynolds Collection
Mss. Coll. No. 085	Civil War Diary
Mss. Coll. No. 093	Wetherell Family Papers
Mss. Coll. No. 095	Robert Gilmore Papers
Mss. Coll. No. 125	Graves Family Correspondence
Mss. Coll. No. 126	Sunderland Family Correspondence
Mss. Coll. No. 129	Knapp Family Correspondence
Mss. Coll. No. 137	George S. Parsons Correspondence
Mss. Coll. No. 138	Columbus Huntly Correspondence
Mss. Coll. No. 139	Crossman Family Papers
Mss. Coll. No. 174	Henry D. Payne Memoir
Mss. Coll. No. 191	Lewis Murray Civil War Memoir