

Record Group: Department of Defense
Subgroup: Adjutant General's Office (Civil War)
Series: Regimental Records, 1861-ca.1920
Accession #: 1968.002
Series #: SDEA4019
Guide Date: 7/2009 (LDW); rev. 10/2015 (JB & EC)
Volume: 66 c.f. [92 boxes; 6 OV boxes; 5 map drawers]

Institutional History

During the course of the Civil War (1861-1865), New Jersey raised 40 regiments and 5 artillery batteries to meet its assessment for soldiers established by the Lincoln administration. Three of the regiments were cavalry units (the 16th, 32nd, and 36th), and the other 37 regiments were infantry. The majority of the soldiers were volunteers, though, beginning in 1863, many were draftees or substitutes for draftees. Volunteers were offered bounties as incentives to enlist, including a state pay bounty authorized by the New Jersey legislature on May 11, 1861.

New Jersey's first four regiments were raised in May 1861. They were classified as militia, rather than as volunteers, and served a 3-month term. These four militia regiments have also been referred to as New Jersey's Militia Brigade. Although they were the first raised, these four regiments were later designated as the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th Regiments, which is how they are classified in this series.

In addition to the 17th-20th Regiments, the 1st through 10th Regiments, the 16th (cavalry) Regiment, and Batteries A and B were formed in 1861, each for 3 year terms. The 11th through 15th Regiments (3 year terms) and 21st through 31st Regiments (9 month terms) were formed in 1862. The 32nd (cavalry) Regiment, the 33rd and 34th Regiments, and Batteries C, D and E were formed in 1863 for 3 year terms. In 1864, the 35th Regiment and the 36th (cavalry) Regiment were formed for 3 year terms, the 37th Regiment for 100 days, and the 38th and 39th Regiment for 1 year terms. The 40th Regiment was formed over the course of late 1864 to March 1865 for a one year term. Some soldiers drafted in 1864-1865 were used to form new regiments; others were assigned to the depleted ranks of the still active 3 year term regiments formed earlier in the war.

Most of the New Jersey regiments saw action principally in Virginia. Most of the 3 year regiments formed in 1861 and 1862 also fought at Gettysburg. The 9th Regiment fought in North Carolina. Several of the regiments (the 13th, 27th, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, and 35th) were involved in campaigns in Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Alabama.

(Principal sources: Bilgy, Joseph G. and William C. Goble, *"Remember You Are Jersey men!" A Military History of New Jersey's Troops in the Civil War*. Hightstown, NJ: Longstreet House, 1998; Martin, David G., *The Raising of New Jersey's Civil War Troops*. Hightstown, NJ: Longstreet House, 1993.)

Administrative History

Regimental records appear to have come to the adjutant general's office in two principal ways. During the course of the war, various regimental matters, often related to the commissioning or promotion of officers, were sent to the attention of the adjutant general's office, most typically from the commanding officers or by the state governor. For many years after the war, the adjutant general's office was active in seeking out information from the War Department, other states' adjutant generals, former soldiers, and others regarding military engagements, chains of command, service records, and other matters bearing on the history of New Jersey's Civil War regiments and soldiers. During this information-gathering process, many documents held by the regiments' former officers were collected.

In the late 1930s, many of the Civil War records from the adjutant general's office were compiled and placed in binders as part of a Works Progress Administration of New Jersey project (Project #5903-0). The content of the binders containing the wartime and post-war documents concerning the regiments constitute the Regimental Records series (binders numbered 329, 331-345, 348-479, 479A-C, 480-483, 483A-C, 484-518, 518A, 519-586, 586A, 587-592).

In 2009, the records of the 12th Regiment of New Jersey Volunteer Infantry were processed by Project Archivist Larry D. Weimer in partnership with the New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association, funded by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. Between 2013 and 2014, the remaining regimental records were processed and inventoried by Reference/Processing Assistant, Jon Bozard as part of a long-term Archives project. While both projects included disbinding the WPA folders, the records of the 12th were processed to a greater degree with oversized material unfolded and re-housed. Due to time and space constraints, that was not possible for the rest of the collection. A separate guide to the 12th which was produced as part of the grant funded project follows the **Content Note** below. That guide provides an institutional history of the 12th as well as a detailed overview of those records. The **Institutional** and **Administrative History** above as well as the **Content Note** below were also products of the grant project.

Content Note

Regimental Records include a variety of document types related to New Jersey's Civil War regiments and the individual soldiers that served in them. Approximately one-half of the series consists of various types of muster rolls, including muster-in, muster-out, muster and descriptive rolls, and state pay bounty rolls. The muster-out rolls often include references to deaths, desertions, soldiers taken prisoner, wounded, and other personal notes. Muster and descriptive rolls include occupation, birthplace, and physical characteristics of soldiers. State pay bounty rolls are a record of soldiers, their county and town of residence, marital status, and name of wife or dependent mother.

The presence and extent of document types other than rolls varies by regiment in the series. Nevertheless, several document types are commonly found in more than one regiment. Some of these documents include information about the company as a whole and include:

- rolls of money received and payments made by Jonathan Cook and other state agents in connection with soldiers directing pay to family members in New Jersey and elsewhere,
- Monthly Returns, Morning Reports, and Daily Reports from company commanders with statistical and other information regarding their companies' troop strength, the status of individual soldiers absent from the company (casualties, detached, taken prisoner, etc.), and commentary on notable matters, and
- returns and related reports and correspondence concerning the acquisition, distribution, and use of ordnance and quartermaster stores.

Document types centered on individual soldiers are common in the series, though again the extent of these varies by regiment. These documents include, among others:

- volunteer enlistment certificates (which include occupation, birthplace, age, and physical characteristics of soldiers),
- commission certificates,
- discharge papers,
- Inventories of Effects of Deceased Soldiers,
- Final Statements, and
- Descriptive Lists and Accounts of Pay and Clothing (used to document a soldier's account while he was in a hospital or otherwise detached from his company).

There are a variety of lists, other than the rolls and other standard forms, from the war years and the post-war years. These ad hoc lists include, among others, soldiers wounded and killed, deserters, military engagements, and information acquired (likely by Adjutant General Stryker) from the War Department concerning individual soldiers. Many of the lists appear to be summaries, extracts, or other reformulations of information found on muster rolls and other regimental reports.

There are orders of various types in the series, including general orders, special orders, regimental orders, and circulars.

A substantial amount of correspondence is in the series. Correspondence from the war years principally concerns commissions, promotions, officer elections, and other appointments directed to Governors Olden and Parker and Adjutant General Stockton. Post-war correspondence principally concerns information relayed to the adjutant general's office regarding the service record of individual soldiers, military engagements, regiment organization, and other matters intended to document the regimental record. Some correspondence and other materials document the post-war experiences of some soldiers.

Extended descriptions of battles and military movements can be found in the correspondence and other reports, though there are not a large number of these. Briefer references in correspondence to the experiences of individual soldiers are common.

While there is much commonality across the regiments as to the types of documents found in the records of each, there are also substantial differences in the extent to which the regiments hold any particular document type. Many regiments also include document types or documentation of subjects unique to a particular regiment, such as post-war accounts of regimental reunions or memorials. The sub-series descriptions are intended to highlight the notable characteristics of the content of each regiment's records.

The WPA's process left traces on many of the documents. These traces include stamped numbers, punch holes, items glued together, and patches of paper backing glued to the documents. It is also possible that some annotations and checkmarks on the documents may have been made by the WPA workers.

Sub-series: 12th Regiment Records, 1862-1910
Guide Date: 7/2009 (LDW); rev. 6/2010 (EC)
Volume: 23 c.f. [2 partial boxes, 2 full boxes, 6 OV boxes and 5 map drawers]

Regimental History of the 12th

The 12th Regiment of New Jersey Volunteer Infantry was one of the five regiments formed in the state in response to President Lincoln's call for troops in July 1862. The 12th Regiment drew its initial recruits from the southern counties of New Jersey, including Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem, and, to a much lesser extent, Mercer and Middlesex. The regiment trained at Camp Stockton in Woodbury, Gloucester County, the only regiment to do so. Comprised of 10 companies (designated A through I, and K), the regiment's initial 992 men were mustered into service on September 4, 1862. The regiment had a three year term of service and was mustered-out on June 17, 1865.

The 12th Regiment was assigned to the II Corps, Army of the Potomac. The regiment's battle engagements occurred principally in Virginia, including at Chancellorsville and Spotsylvania. The regiment was positioned on Cemetery Ridge at Gettysburg and played a significant role during that battle by driving Confederates from the Bliss farm. The 12th Regiment suffered heavy casualties over the course of the war, resulting in many draftees, substitutes, and others entering its ranks; a total of approximately 1,850 men were members of the 12th Regiment, including transfers in 1865 from the 11th Regiment. Approximately 260 men were killed.

(Principal sources: Bilby, Joseph G. and William C. Goble, "*Remember You Are Jerseymen!*": *A Military History of New Jersey's Troops in the Civil War*. Hightstown, NJ: Longstreet House, 1998; Haines, William P., *History of the Men of Co. F, with Description of the Marches and Battles of the 12th New Jersey Vols*. Mickleton, NJ, 1897 (reprint, Woodbury, NJ: Gloucester County Historical Society, 1998); Longacre, Edward G., *To Gettysburg and Beyond: The Twelfth New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, II Corps, Army of the Potomac, 1862-1865*. Hightstown, NJ: Longstreet House, 1988.)

Content Note

The 12th Regiment Records sub-series is arranged by document type and includes the following:

Correspondence: Arranged chronologically. Among the notable correspondence is Colonel Johnson to Governor Olden on the status of the regiment (1862); the father of the Stratton brothers to Governor Parker noting the amputation of one son's leg due to wounds taken at Chancellorsville and urging the promotion of a second son to a vacant lieutenant position (1863); W.F. Moore to Adjutant General Stryker recounting his experience at Spotsylvania as a wounded prisoner of war and escapee (1882); and George W. Swing to Adjutant General Sadler transmitting Company K's records and commenting on events at Gettysburg (1910).

Orders: General orders are followed by special orders and circulars. The bulk are concerned with assignments of individual soldiers, including transfers to and from other military units, discharges, changes to service records, and the like.

Miscellaneous: Much of this category includes post-war material, including documents related to the congressional revocation of the dishonorable discharge of George Whittaker, newspaper accounts of regimental reunions, and biographical sketches of some soldiers. This category includes a typescript of an 1863 report from Colonel Robert Hill concerning Gettysburg.

Lists: Among these ad hoc lists are those of initial enlistees sorted by county, of casualties by military engagement, and of Company K soldiers, referring to them as the "Cumberland Blues."

Ordnance Reports: The sub-series includes many ordnance returns and their related reports, especially for Company H. Few of the documents associate specific arms with individual soldiers, but they do provide information on the acquisition and use of ordnance at the company level.

Quartermaster Stores: The sub-series includes many quartermaster returns and their related reports, especially for Company H. In addition to company level information on stores received and used, there are many clothing receipt rolls that specify by individual soldier the distribution of stores.

Descriptive Lists: The sub-series includes the various forms used to request or transmit descriptive information about soldiers detached from their company. Each Descriptive List is specific to an individual soldier.

Various Document Types: When placing documents in binders, the WPA workers glued many together. To the extent documents glued together were of the same type, they can be found arranged in one of the above categories. In some instances, however, the items within these packages of documents do not all relate. In these instances, the material was kept together in a folder listing all the types of documents glued together. The various document types include orders, ordnance reports, quartermaster reports, and descriptive lists, among others.

Roll of Money Received by State Agent Jonathan Cook: Arranged in chronological order. All companies are represented in this document type.

Monthly Returns: Arranged by company. Seven of the ten companies are represented by at least two returns. Company K is exceptional in that it has a complete set of returns (September 1862-June 1865). Most of Company H's returns are also in the sub-series.

Morning Reports: Arranged chronologically. There are few of these in the sub-series. They include regimental level statistics from Camp Stockton (August 1862) and the 1865 reports of Company I. The latter includes critical commentary by Captain Charles Brown on the company's muster-out process.

Forms concerning individual soldiers: Arranged by form. There are a large number of volunteer enlistment certificates, which are arranged alphabetically by soldier within company. The sub-series also holds a small number of other forms, including discharge papers, furlough approvals, one transmittal of a Treasury Department payment certificate, and one commission certificate.

Muster-in Rolls: The bulk of the muster-in rolls in this sub-series relate to the mustering of individual soldiers, especially in relation to the promotion of officers. Accordingly, most of the muster-in rolls refer to only one soldier. Muster-in rolls of individual officers include brief references to the circumstances of the officer's advancement, principally the name of the officer replaced. Muster-in rolls are arranged alphabetically by soldier name, followed by those rolls with various names and those for full companies.

Muster Rolls and Muster and Descriptive Rolls: These two document types both include enrollment, muster-in, and pay account information for the soldiers of a company. The muster and descriptive rolls also have clothing account information and identifying information about soldiers. Identifying information includes occupation, hair color, eye color, complexion, height, and place of birth. For the 12th Regiment, all companies are represented by at least one muster roll, but there are many gaps. Two companies, H and K, have substantial runs of muster rolls. Not all companies are represented by muster and descriptive rolls. These rolls are arranged in company order, followed by those for field and staff and transfers.

Muster-out Rolls: The bulk of the muster-out rolls relates to individual soldiers who were mustered-out apart from their company because they were in a hospital or otherwise detached. Nevertheless, five of the 12th Regiment's ten companies are represented by a company-wide muster-out roll. Company muster-out rolls often include references to soldiers who died, deserted, were taken prisoner of war, etc. All muster-out rolls typically refer to clothing and pay account information. Muster-out rolls are arranged with individuals and other detachments followed by the company rolls.

State Bounty Roll: In compliance with a May 11, 1861 act of the New Jersey Legislature concerning payments of bounties for volunteers, rolls were prepared to record soldier name, their county and town of residence, marital status, and name of wife or dependent mother. For the 12th Regiment, all companies are represented by this roll, prepared at the regiment's mustering in 1862. The rolls are arranged by company.

Item count is based on all original documents in a folder. In the many instances in which multiple documents are glued together, each document is counted as an item. Paper slips with information and the remainders of envelopes, which are often glued loosely to other documents, are counted as items. Documents of more than one page are counted as one item.

Oversize documents are housed separately from the rest of the sub-series. Their places in the arrangement of the sub-series are marked with placeholders in the containers and content list.

Restrictions

The physical condition of a small number of items in the sub-series is such that they cannot be unfolded or otherwise opened. These items are restricted from researcher use, pending conservation treatment. The container list indicates these restricted items.

Acknowledgements

The 12th Regiment Records were processed in partnership with the New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association, funded by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Box List - 12th Regiment

Container	Contents
36 [part]	Correspondence, 1862 - Special Orders, 1864
37	Special Orders, 1865 - Discharges (Co. I)
38	Volunteer Enlistment, 1862 (Co. A) [A-D] - Volunteer Enlistment, 1862 (Co. I) [E-G]
39 [part]	Volunteer Enlistment, 1862 (Co. I) [H-I] - (Co. K) [T-W];
OV-1	Information from War Dept. [ca. 1880s] - Quartermaster Stores
OV-2	Quartermaster Stores (1863-1865) - Francis Donaldson Commission (1865)
OV-3	Allotment Rolls (Co. A - Co. K; Field and Staff) (ca. May 1863-Mar. 1865)
OV-4	Monthly Returns (Co. B - Co. I; and Blank form) (ca. 1863-1865)
OV-6	Muster In Rolls (Alphabetical, ca. 1862-1865); Muster In Roll (Co. B, 1862)
Map Drawer 1	Descriptive Lists (Co. F) - Extracts from Muster & Descriptive Rolls

- Map Drawer 2 Muster Rolls (Co. A - Co. G) (ca. 1863-1865)
- Map Drawer 3 Muster Rolls (Co. H - Co. K; Field and Staff; Transfers from 11th Reg.)
(ca. 1862-1865)
- Map Drawer 4 Muster Out Rolls (Co. A - Co. K; Detachments; Field and Staff) (1865)
- Map Drawer 5 Muster Out Rolls (Co. D - Co. F) (1865); Company Rolls (Co. A - Co. K)
(1862)