

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Nichols Family
Collection

1999.31

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

series		page	box
	Collection Information	3	
	Biographical Information	4	
	Scope and Content	5	
	Series Description	6	
1	Family history/genealogy	7	1
2	Photographs	8	1

Collection Information

Abstract: The Nichols Family Collection includes a typescript with historical and genealogical information of the family, as well as personal reminiscences by family members serving with the 15th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil War. The collection also includes carte de visites of men in the 8th and 15th Regiments, M.V.I.

Finding Aids: Written Finding Aid available in the Repository. Item level control.

Preferred Citation: Archives of the Worcester Historical Museum, 30 Elm Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance: Gift from James Loomis Nichols, Glens Falls, New York, February 1999.

Access: The Finding Aid is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcsh, aat, tgm, rbgenr, etc.)

Nichols, Elisha, 1754-1792.
Nichols, Elijah, 1808-1868.
Nichols, John Randolph, 1843-1921.
Nichols, Isaac, 1902-
Nichols, James Loomis.

United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Personal reminiscences.

Cartes-de-visite.
Albumen prints.
Tintypes.

Biographical Information

Nichols family was present in this country as early as 1754, when Elisha Nichols was born in Vermont. Family members were active in political affairs, with father and son Jedediah and Elijah Nichols instrumental in establishing the government in the new state of Vermont. Family members served in military actions from the time of the Revolution, with Elisha Nichols active with the militia in 1782, Dewey Nichols in the War of 1812. John Randolph Nichols and his father, Elijah Dewey Nichols, both enlisted in Company F, 15th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. John Nichols was taken prisoner by the Confederate Army in the Battle of Balls Bluff. He wrote a journal of his experiences as a prisoner which comprises part of the collection. Both father and son survived the Civil War. Isaac Nichols, son of John Randolph Nichols, composed the family history which makes up a part of this collection.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of a typescript containing genealogical and historical information about the Nichols family from the 1700s through the Civil War years, with personal reminiscences of Nichols family veterans of the Civil War. The collection also includes ten cartes de visite of men in the 8th and 15th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, including a halftone photomechanical print of John Randolph Nichols in Civil War uniform, cut to carte de visite size. John Nichols was father of Isaac Nichols, author of the typescript.

The typescript provides an overview of the Nichols family, but is primarily comprised of reminiscences of Civil War veterans John and Elijah Nichols, father and son, both of whom served in the war. It provides descriptions of life in Confederate prisoner of war camps, as well as the routine of the army during the period.

Series Description

Series 1: Family history/genealogy. The series consists of a single item, typescript of family history and genealogy, and personal reminiscences of Civil War military service.

Series 2: Photographs. Cartes de visite of members of the 8th and 15th Regiments, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, taken about 1864. The photographs include four small tintypes on cards, albumen prints, and one halftone print, presumably a copy from an earlier photograph.

Nichols Family Collection
1999.31
Series 1, History/Genealogy

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1999.31.1.1	Typescript. Notes on Nichols family history and genealogy, with personal reminiscences of Civil War military service and life in prisoner of war camps by Elijah Nichols and John Randolph Nichols. Compiled by Isaac Nichols. 22 p.

Nichols Family Collection
1999.31
Series 2, Photographs

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	2	1999.31.2.1	Corporal John Sullivan, Co. H, 8 th Massachusetts Volunteers, from Enfield, Massachusetts : Tintype (0.75x1.0 in.) in carte-de-visite, ca.. 1864 / Cole & Lathrop, Baltimore, Md. "New Carte de Visite Ferrotypes"
1	2	1999.31.2.2	Corporal Charles H. West, Co. H, 8 th Massachusetts Volunteers, from South Hadley Falls, Massachusetts : Tintype (0.75x1.0 in.) in carte-de-visite, ca.. 1864 / Cole & Lathrop, Baltimore, Md. "New Carte de Visite Ferrotypes"
1	2	1999.31.2.3	Corporal Charles H. Church, Co. H, 8 th Massachusetts Volunteers, from South Hadley Falls, Massachusetts : Tintype (0.75x1.0) in carte-de-visite, ca. 1864 / Cole & Lathrop, Baltimore, Md. "New Carte de Visite Ferrotypes"
1	2	1999.31.2.4	Sergeant Charles H. Howard, Co. H, 8 th Massachusetts Volunteers, from Wardsboro, Vermont : Tintype (0.75x1.0 in.) in Carte-de-Visite, ca. 1864 / Cole & Lathrop, Baltimore, Md. "New Carte de Visite Ferrotypes"
1	2	1999.31.2.5	George Watson, Co. B, 15 th Massachusetts Volunteers : Albumen print carte-de-visite, ca. 1864 / R.A. Lord, Chatham Street, New York.
1	2	1999.31.2.6	Edwin A. Rice, Co. F, 15 th Massachusetts Volunteers : Albumen print carte-de-visite, ca. 1864 / R.A. Lord, Chatham Street, New York.
1	2	1999.31.2.7	John H. Prichard, Co. B, 15 th Massachusetts Volunteers : Albumen print carte-de-visite, ca. 1864 / R.A. Lord, Chatham Street, New York.

Series 2, continued

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| 1 | 2 | 1999.31.2.8 | Albert A. Pelton, Co. A, 15 th Massachusetts
Volunteers : Albumen print carte-de-visite, ca. 1864
/ R.A. Lord, Chatham Street, New York. |
| 1 | 2 | 1999.31.2.9 | George Wood, Co. A, 15 th Massachusetts
Volunteers : Albumen print carte-de-visite, ca. 1864
/ R.A. Lord, Chatham Street, New York. |
| 1 | 2 | 1999.31.2.10 | John R. Nichols, Co. F, 15 th Massachusetts
Volunteers : Tinted halftone photomechanical print,
from ca. 1864 photographic print, cut to carte-de-
visite dimensions. |
| 1 | 3 | 1999.31.2.11 | Album leaves for cartes-de-visite (4x5 in.), some
with manuscript notes. 7
items. |