Guide to the Caleb T. Bowen Papers

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Caleb T. Bowen Papers

Dates: ca. 1853-1906

Bulk Dates: 1861-1865

Collection Number: Wyles Mss 44

Creator: Bowen, Caleb T.

Extent: .3 linear feet (1 half-size document box and 1 map folder)

Repository: University of California, Santa Barbara. Library. Department of Special Collections

Physical Location: Del Sur and Map Cabinet 1/3

Abstract: Primarily correspondence of a Civil War Union soldier, 4th Rhode Island Infantry, Co. H. .2 linear feet (1 box).

Language: English.

Access Restrictions

None.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Caleb T. Bowen Papers. Wyles Mss 44. Department of Special Collections, Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Acquisition Information

Purchase, 1974.
Biography
Caleb Tillinghast Bowen was born on June 18, 1832 in West Woodstock, Connecticut. He married Lydia Waterman Knight in 1856, and they settled in Wickford, Rhode Island, where their son Edward was born two and a half years later. With the outbreak of the Civil War, Caleb Bowen joined the Rhode Island 4th Regiment, where he would attain the rank of captain. Captured twice by Confederate troops, Bowen nevertheless survived the war, being finally mustered out of service on July 13, 1865. The Bowens then began moving westward. They were living in Wisconsin when Lydia died in 1888. Caleb Bowen then died in Portland, Oregon on December 9, 1906.

Scope and Content of Collection
The collection primarily contains Civil War era correspondence and documents of Caleb T. Bowen, a Civil War Union captain, Rhode Island Infantry, 4th Regiment (Vols), Co. H. The correspondence is mainly to and from Bowen's wife in Wickford, Rhode Island. The documents include abstracts of materials expended and consumed, discharges, guard details, invoices, medical releases, muster-in rolls, pay vouchers, promotions and appointments, quarterly returns of ordnance and ordnance stores, and requisitions. There also is a blueprint copy of a Bowen family tree, the latest entry being 1906.

Series 1. Correspondence
Additional Note
Mainly to/from Bowen's wife

Box 1: 1 1861 (includes hand-colored engraving of Camp Casey
Box 1: 2 1862
Box 1: 3 1863-1865, n.d.

Series 2. Documents

Box 1: 4 1853
Box 1: 5 ca. 1861-1865
Box 1: 6 1861
Box 1: 7 1862
Box 1: 8 1863
Box 1: 9 1864
Box 1: 10 1865
Box 1: 11 1866-1869
Box 1: 12 Undated (includes numerous envelopes)
Map Cabinet 1: 3 Oversize [Map Cabinet] - documents and family tree, ca. 1860s-1906
"Bowen's of Rehoboth Mass.," extensive Bowen family tree
Letter from H.J. Spooner, Oct. 1862
Muster Roll for Capt. Caleb J. Bowen, July 1863
"Quarterly Return of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores," Capt. C.J. Bowen, Sept. 1863
"Quarterly Return of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores," Capt. C.J. Bowen, June 1864
"Descriptive List of Deserters" - two pages, not filled out
List of clothing given to soldiers, signed by each, Jan. 1864