

Hull Civil War Collection

Overview of the Collection

Repository: South County History Center 2636 Kingstown Road Kingston, Rhode Island 02881
Tel: 401.783.1328, website: southcountyhistorycenter.org

Title: Hull Civil War Collection

Dates: 1850-1870, bulk 1862-1863

Media: Papers, Photographs, Digital Files

Quantity: 1 Box, .5 linear feet; 1.04 GB

Identification: 1963.015.0014

Language: English

Historical Note

John Knowles Hull (1841-1863) was a sergeant in Company G of the 7th Rhode Island Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. He was born in the village of Tower Hill in South Kingstown, Rhode Island, to Benjamin Hull (1783-1864) and Robey Bowers Knowles (1799-1869). Hull attended the Rhode Island State Normal School in Bristol and worked as a teacher in Portsmouth, Block Island, and South Kingstown. In 1862 Hull enlisted in the Union Army, and his regiment participated in the Battle of Fredericksburg and the Mississippi Campaign. Hull was killed in action on July 13, 1863, in Jackson, Mississippi. He was buried near the site of his mortal wounding, and his personal effects were returned to his family.

Harriet "Hattie" Knowles *Hull* Eldred (1838-1919) was John's older sister. She also attended the State Normal School and worked as a public school teacher. In 1872 she married John Risley Eldred, and they had three children: Mabel DeWitt Eldred, Ralph Dana Eldred, and John Raleigh Eldred.

Scope and Content

The Hull Civil War Collection includes correspondence, digital surrogates, and photographs.

The bulk of the collection consists of letters from John Hull to his sister Harriet during his service in the 7th Rhode Island Infantry Regiment. The letters detail the movements of Hull's regiment, their living conditions, and places and events they saw during service. John's final letter to Harriet was unfinished, and instead it concludes with a note from Sergeant John Webster informing Harriet of John's death. Digital surrogates and transcriptions of the letters are included in the collection, as well as Civil War-era photographs of John and Harriet.

The collection has been organized as follows:

Series I: Correspondence, 1862-1863

Series II: Photographs, 1850-1870

Series III: Digital Surrogates, 2023

Administrative Information

Access: Any qualified person doing personal or scholarly research is permitted to utilize materials in the South County History Center collections.

Preferred Citation: Hull Civil War Collection, South County History Center

Provenance: These materials were donated to the South County History Center by the estate of John Raleigh Eldred in 1963. Eldred was the last living descendant of Harriet Knowles Hull Eldred.

Processed by: Caleb Goodhouse, with generous support of Patrick Donovan, Laurie Friel, David Gates, and Catherine C. Hull.

Copyright for Digital Surrogates: South County History Center

Subject Terms

South Kingstown (R.I.: Town)--History--19th Century; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Battlefields—Virginia--Fredericksburg; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Camp life--Union; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns & battles--Mississippi; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Regimental histories--Rhode Island Infantry--7th; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives

People

Hull, John Knowles (1841-1863)

Hull, Harriet Knowles (1838-1919)

Related Materials

Researchers interested in this collection may also wish to consult the following sources in the South County History Center holdings:

Archival Collections – Patrick Lyons Collection; John Taylor Dixon Collection; Hull Family Collection

Archival and Photograph Collections – Civil War Collection

Object and Photograph Collection – James Carpenter Collection

Reference Library – *The Seventh Regiment Rhode Island Volunteers in the Civil War, 1862-1865* by William P. Hopkins; *History of the Rhode Island Combat Units in the Civil War* by Harold R. Barker; *Rhode Island and the Civil War: Voices from the Ocean State* by Robert Grandchamp; *Rhode Island in the Rebellion* by Edwin Winchester Stone; “Voices from the Civil War” edited by Shirley L. Barrett

Contents Listing

Series I: Correspondence, 1862 – 1863

Box	Folder	Description	Date
1	1	Letters A – E	1862

1	2	Letters F – J	1863
1	3	Letters K – O	1863
1	4	Letters P – U	1863

Series II: Photographs, 1850 – 1870

Object ID	Description	Date
2007.502.0151	Photo of Harriet Knowles Hull	1850 – 1870
2007.502.0156	Miniature of Harriet Knowles Hull	1850 – 1870
1963.015.8088	Glass plate negative made from daguerreotype of John K. Hull	ca. 1895
2011.500.0526	Photograph of John K. Hull	1861

Series III: Digital Surrogates, 2023

Location	Description	Date
SCHC Digital Collections	JPGs of Hull Correspondence	2023
SCHC Digital Collections	PDF of Hull Correspondence Transcription	2023