Collection Summary

Title: Charles Augustus Hill Papers
Inclusive Dates: 1862-1971
Bulk Dates: 1862-1865
ID No.: MSS86307
Creator: Hill, Charles Augustus, 1833-1902
Extent: 300 items
Extent: 2 containers
Extent: 0.6 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2019086307
Summary: Union army officer, lawyer, and United States representative from Illinois. Correspondence and miscellany relating primarily to Hill's military service and family.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Hill family.
Hill, Charles Augustus, 1833-1902.
Hill, Lydia, 1839-1912--Correspondence.

Organizations
Chesapeake Hospital (Hampton, Va.)
United States. Army--African American troops.
United States. Army--Military life.
United States. Army. Colored Infantry Regiment, 1st (1863-1865)
United States. Army. Illinois Cavalry Regiment, 8th (1861-1865)

Subjects
African American soldiers--History--19th century.
Antietam, Battle of, Md., 1862.
Fort Pillow, Battle of, Tenn., 1864.
Massacres--Tennessee.
Military hospitals--Virginia--Hampton.
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)
Wilson's Wharf, Battle of, Va., 1864.

Places
Elizabeth City (N.C.)--History.
Fort Fisher (N.C. : Fort)--Capture, 1865.
Illinois--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Maryland--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
North Carolina--History--1865-1865.
Petersburg (Va.)--History--Siege, 1864-1865.
Southern States--History--1865-1877.
Southern States--Politics and government--1865-1950
Tennessee--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Hospitals.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Participation, African American.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

**Occupations**
Army officers.
Lawyers.
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Illinois.

**Acquisition Information**
The papers of Charles Augustus Hill were purchased by the Library of Congress in January 2019. The Library purchased additional material in October 2019.

**Processing History**
The papers of Charles Augustus Hill were arranged and described by Jake Bozza in 2019. An addition was processed and the finding aid revised in 2022 by Jake Bozza.

**Copyright Status**
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Charles Augustus Hill is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

**Access and Restrictions**
The papers of Charles Augustus Hill are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

**Preferred Citation**
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Charles Augustus Hill Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Biographical Note**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1833, Aug. 23</td>
<td>Born, Truxton, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853-1854</td>
<td>School instructor, Erie County, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1854</td>
<td>Relocated to Will County, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School instructor, Crete, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1856</td>
<td>Attended Bell's Commercial College, Chicago, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>Admitted to the Indianapolis, Ind., bar before returning to Will County, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Married Lydia Melissa Wood (died 1912)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>Enlisted as a private in Company F, 8th Illinois Cavalry Regiment, United States Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>Promoted to first lieutenant; transferred to Company C, 1st Colored Infantry Regiment, United States Army</td>
</tr>
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</table>
1865  Promoted to captain
      Acting superintendent, United States Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Elizabeth City, N.C.
      Mustered out of the Union army
1868  Prosecuting attorney, Will and Grundy counties, Ill.
1888  Member, United States House of Representatives for Illinois; defeated for reelection in 1890
1897-1900  Assistant attorney general, Illinois
1902, May 29  Died, Joliet, Ill.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles Augustus Hill (1833-1902) span the years 1863-1971, with the bulk of the material dating between 1862 and 1865. The papers include correspondence, transcripts of the correspondence, and miscellaneous material chiefly documenting Hill's service as a Union army officer in the 1st Colored Infantry Regiment, United States Army. The papers consist primarily of letters written by Hill to his wife Lydia Hill during the Civil War. The subjects covered in Hill’s letters include major battles in which his regiment participated during its two years of service, including the assault on Petersburg, Virginia, in June 1864. A letter written in May 1864 refers to the retribution taken by Black troops after the Fort Pillow Massacre, Tennessee, in April 1864. Hill often provides his view of the Black troops serving under him and their treatment throughout the war. Other letters describe camp life in the Union army and his time spent as a patient in Chesapeake Hospital, Hampton, Virginia, from July to November 1864. Hill’s letters written between July and September 1865 describe his role as acting superintendent for the United States Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. These letters provide insight into the political tension in the South immediately following the Civil War, as well as a glimpse into Hill’s view of the early Reconstruction era. The papers also include family correspondence consisting mostly of letters written by Hill to his family while serving as assistant attorney general of Illinois in 1898.

The 2022 Addition, 1862-1863, complements the initial portion of the collection and includes additional correspondence and related transcripts from Hill to his wife Lydia relating his experience during the Civil War and his role as acting superintendent for the United States Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. The subjects covered in Hill’s letters depict major battles such as the Battle of Antietam (September 1862), the Battle of Wilson's Wharf (May 1864), and the capture of Fort Fisher, North Carolina (January 1865). Military maps and histories included in later publications are attached to several of Hill's letters and add context to the military engagements described in them. These include a June 1863 battle map of Brandy Station, Virginia, from Fairfax Downey's Clash of Cavalry (1959), as well as two entries from John Barrett's The Civil War in North Carolina (1963).

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein, with the addition listed last.
### Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Civil War letters, 1863, Sept.-1865, Sept.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>13 folders</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Family letters, 1898, Aug.-1902, Mar., undated</td>
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<td>2 folders</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Miscellany, 1865, 1971, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>2022 Addition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Civil War letters and related material, 1862, Sept.-1865, Aug., 1959, 1963</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3 folders</td>
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