Collection Summary

Title: Charles Augustus Hill
Span Dates: 1863-1902
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1863-1865)
ID No.: MSS86307
Creator: Hill, Charles Augustus, 1833-1902
Extent: 240 items
Extent: 1 container
Extent: 0.2 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 U.S. 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)

Subjects
African American soldiers--History--19th century.
Fort Pillow, Battle of, Tenn., 1864.
Massacres--Tennessee.
Military hospitals--Virginia--Hampton.
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)

Places
Elizabeth City (N.C.)--History.
Illinois--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
North Carolina--History--1865-.
Petersburg (Va.)--History--Siege, 1864-1865.
Southern States--History--1865-1877.
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.

Provenance

The Charles Augustus Hill papers were purchased by the Library of Congress in 2019.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Charles Augustus Hill is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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. 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. 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>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>Promoted to captain Acting superintendent, United States Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Elizabeth City, N.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mustered out of the Union army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Prosecuting attorney, Will and Grundy counties, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888</td>
<td>Member, United States House of Representatives for Illinois; defeated for reelection in 1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897-1900</td>
<td>Assistant attorney general, Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902, May 29</td>
<td>Died, Joliet, Ill.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles Augustus Hill (1833-1902) span the years 1863-1902 and include correspondence, transcripts of the correspondence, and miscellaneous material chiefly documenting his service as a Union army officer in the 1st Colored Infantry Regiment, United States Army. The papers consists 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 African American 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. The information in 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 Hill 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.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
## 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. (13 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Family letters, 1898, Aug.-1902, Mar., undated (2 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Miscellany, 1865, 1971, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>