

Accession No. 1977.006  
one manuscript box  
Size: 0.5 Linear Feet  
4C /6.1.E  
NYKI590-940-0494

Frank J. Bramhall, compiler  
Brooklyn, N.Y. Civil War History Collection

Brooklyn Historical Society  
Othmer Library  
128 Pierrepont Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Tel. 718.222.4111 FAX 718.222.3794

[library@brooklynhistory.org](mailto:library@brooklynhistory.org)  
[www.brooklynhistory.org](http://www.brooklynhistory.org)

Deena M. Schwimmer  
November, 2005  
Supervisor: Marilyn H. Pettit; Leilani Dawson  
November, 2005

## Introduction

This collection contains materials relating to Brooklyn's military and public contributions to the Union cause during the United States Civil War that were compiled in preparation for publication of a work documenting these efforts.

## Historical Note

Following the end of the United States Civil War, the War Fund Committee of the City of Brooklyn and County of Kings began to document the numerous aspects of local participation during the U.S. Civil War, 1861-1865. To this end, it undertook to publish a comprehensive account of these efforts, to be entitled Kings County in the War. This work planned to include the official record of each military unit from Kings County, the operations and activities of local commissions and aid societies, and reports of soldiers and others with first-hand accounts of battles, camp life, and prison.

The Committee selected Frank J. Bramhall, Superintendent of the Naval Division of the Bureau of Military Record, an author and historian of the Civil War, to compile the work, and publicized the project in various newspapers and through mailings. Bramhall distributed numerous forms and questionnaires to servicemen and other individuals in order to obtain personal accounts and official military reports of their participation in the war. He also gathered newspaper clippings containing information regarding Brooklyn's military units and war-related activities.

Bramhall (1846-1907) is listed as author of several books in the collections of the Library of Congress, including an 1863 book or pamphlet entitled "Military Souvenir," published 1863 but not included in the BHS collections. The Brooklyn compendium may have been published locally or not at all.

## Scope and Content

The bulk of this collection consists of information on various Kings County Civil War military units and servicemen. The military unit records include completed questionnaires, numerous official military reports, muster rolls, as well as many hand-written histories of specific units. Information on individual servicemen is contained in completed questionnaires, many handwritten accounts of their war-time experiences, and family correspondence. Numerous clippings, primarily from the Brooklyn Daily Union, containing information on individuals or units from Kings County and provide supplementary accounts of local participation in the war.

Eighteen specific Kings County army units are documented in the collection (**Folders 1-18**). Of particular interest in this material is a detailed account by William James Morris of his experiences as a prisoner in Andersonville (**Folder 4**), a 94-page history of the 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the New York State Militia (**Folder 6**), and a printed funeral sermon in memory of Robert Sedgwick Edwards, killed at Fort Wagner, S.C (**Folder 8**). The collection also contains some records of local involvement in the United States Navy (**Folder 20**).

Kings County's non-military involvement in the war consists of materials of various local commissions, aid societies and events. These include a handwritten history of the Brooklyn & Long Island Branch of the United States Christian Commission (**Folder 21**), clippings from the Brooklyn & Long Island Sanitary Fair (**Folder 22**), and statistics regarding recruitment from Brooklyn (**Folder 25**). Information on activities in Greenpoint during the Civil War (**Folder 23**), and printed material and clippings for various relief efforts for veteran soldiers and their families (**Folder 26**) are also included.

**Folder 28** contains various handwritten accounts submitted to proposed compiler Frank J. Bramhall as well as some of Bramhall's notes and correspondence regarding the project. Of particular interest among these materials is an account of a Brooklyn militia unit's participation in quelling the draft riots that were widespread in New York City during July, 1863. Other noteworthy accounts of involvement in the war include those of Ada W. Smith, a Kings County woman who served as an army nurse (**Folder 24**), and of Richard Thompson, a

Brooklyn man who was in Charleston, S.C. during the early part of the war and attempted to transmit reports to the North on Confederate activities from his position there. (**Folder 27**).

The collection also includes various Civil War clippings collected by Bramhall and copies of printed questionnaires and forms created to execute this project (**Folder 29**).

### **Processing Note**

This collection was originally titled “Brooklyn Regiments in the Civil War.” During reprocessing (November, 2005), it became clear that the collection contains information on Brooklyn’s public as well as military participation in the war, for which reason the name of the collection was changed. Dr. Pettit edited the prose sections in May, 2006.

### **Separated Material**

Two photographs of servicemen have been removed to the image collection with photocopies retained in the original folders.

### **Related Material**

*Archives:*

1977.099 – Brooklyn, N.Y. U.S. Civil War Relief Associations

1977.313 – Civil War Civilian Relief

1977.200 – Various Materials Related to the Civil War

### **Arrangement Note**

The collection is arranged as a single series of 29 folders, The first 20 folders consist of materials on Brooklyn’s military participation in the Civil War, and are arranged ascending numerically by unit number. The last 9 folders consist of materials on Brooklyn’s non-military participation, and are arranged alphabetically by subject.

### **Container List**

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder Title</u></b>	<b><u>Dates</u></b>
1	1 5 <sup>th</sup> New York Independent Battery	1865-1866
	2 5 <sup>th</sup> Regiment New York Volunteer Heavy Artillery	[1866]
	3 5 <sup>th</sup> Regiment New York Volunteers	[1866]
	4 6 <sup>th</sup> New York Cavalry	1865
	5 7 <sup>th</sup> NYSM and 103 <sup>rd</sup> NY Volunteers	1862-1865
	6 14 <sup>th</sup> NYSM	undated
	7 31 <sup>st</sup> NY Volunteer Infantry	1862-1863
	8 48 <sup>th</sup> NY Volunteer Infantry	undated, 1864
	9 56 <sup>th</sup> NYSM	undated, 1864-1866
	10 67 <sup>th</sup> NY Volunteer Infantry	undated, 1864-1866

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder Title</u></b>	<b><u>Dates</u></b>
1	11 87 <sup>th</sup> NY Volunteer Infantry	undated, 1862, 1865
	12 90 <sup>th</sup> NY Volunteer Infantry	undated, 1865-1866
	13 100 <sup>th</sup> NY Volunteer Infantry	1864
	14 131 <sup>st</sup> NY Volunteers	undated, 1866
	15 139 <sup>th</sup> NY Volunteer Infantry	undated, 1866
	16 159 <sup>th</sup> NY Volunteer Infantry	undated, 1863-1866
	17 173 <sup>rd</sup> NY Volunteer Infantry	undated, 1865-1868
	18 176 <sup>th</sup> NY Volunteer Infantry	undated, 1865
	19 Miscellaneous Regiments	undated, 1864-1866
	20 U.S. Navy	undated, 1861-1865
	21 Brooklyn and Long Island Christian Commission	1863-1864
	22 Brooklyn and Long Island Sanitary Fair, Clippings	1864
	23 Greenpoint during the Civil War	undated, 1861-1863
	24 Ada W. Smith – Account of Service as Nurse	undated, 1866
	25 Recruiting in Brooklyn	1864-1866
	26 Relief for Soldiers & Families	1864-1865
	27 Richard Thompson – Accounts from Charleston, S.C.	
	28 Miscellaneous Notes & Correspondence	undated, 1865-1866
	29 Miscellaneous Clippings & Printed Material	undated, 1864-1867

**Added Entries for MARC 21 record**

Personal Added Entries:

600 10 \$aBramhall, Frank James, \$d1846-1907

600 14 \$aThompson, Richard

600 14 \$aSmith, Ada W.

Corporate Added Entries:

610 \$aBrooklyn and Long Island Fair in Aid of the United States Sanitary Commission \$d (1864)