

Beverly Light Infantry Papers (~1800-1917)

MSS:

Processed by: Brian Audano

Volume: 5 Boxes

Abstract: This is a collection of papers regarding Beverly's Light Infantry and its service throughout the 19th century. Although papers span the entirety of the century, most pertain to the Civil War, and another large portion comes from the 1810's. The BLI (as they will often be referred in this finding aid) were active during the War of 1812 and the Civil War – where they fought in many battles, perhaps the most famous being the Battle of Cold Harbor in 1864. Being a century-long collection, there are many authors and signers on these documents; however, two authors that appear very frequently are Robert Rantoul (who served with the company in the years after the turn of the century) and J.W. Raymond (who commanded the company throughout the Civil War).

Collection Creator: Unknown

Provenance: Donor unknown; many original authors – primarily Robert Rantoul and J.W. Raymond.

Conservation/Processor's Note: Most documents from the Civil War are in good condition, but require careful unfolding; the earliest documents in the collection (those from the first decade of the 19th century especially) are very fragile and require great care. The same is true for many of the small notebooks in the collection – such as the roll books in Series I and the sick books in Series IV.

Copyright: Request for permission to publish material from the collection must be submitted in writing to the Curator of Collections in the Cabot House of Historic Beverly

Preferred Citation: Title of Document, Collection Title, Historic Beverly, 117 Cabot Street, Beverly, MA 01915

Scope and Content Note: This collection consists of many kinds of documents – from roster lists and general orders to financial reports and medical paperwork. They have been divided into series according to subject to make them more accessible; most material is dated, and within each one of these series documents are generally organized chronologically.

Series List:

This collection is arranged into 6 series:

Series I: Recruiting, Enlistment, and Roster Papers

Series II: Orders, Circulars, and Correspondence with Headquarters

Series III: Account Books, Receipts, and Financial Reports

Series IV: Medical Paperwork, Pensions, and Final Statements

Series V: Internal Documents, Personal Accounts, and Event Summaries

Series VI: Ordinance Office Papers and Supply Reports

Container Lists:

Series I: Recruiting, Enlistment, and Roster Papers

Series Arrangement Note: The Contents of Series I are presented in a chronological order which also broadly demarcates different subjects. The only pre-civil war documents about rosters are contained in the first two folders. Folders 3, 4, and 5 follow the BLI's enlistment of volunteers through the beginning of the Civil War, and folder 6 does so for officers. Folders 7-10 deal with muster rolls, and 11, 12, and 13 relate to the promotions of officers.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	1	List of Members 1801-1809	Created ~1848
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	2	Roll Book of BLI	1820
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	3	Enlistment List	1861
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	4	Soldier Enlistment Paperwork	1861 - 1865
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	5	Oaths of Enlistment	1861
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	6	Roster of Commissioned Officers and Field Staff	1861-1864
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	7	Instructions for Muster Rolls (Pamphlet)	1862
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	8	Muster and Descriptive Roll Reports	1863
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	9	Muster and Descriptive Roll Reports	1864, 1865

CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	10	Description Lists of Soldiers; Description of a Deserter	1864-1865
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	11	Letters of Recommendation for Officers	1864, 1865
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	12	Reports of Board of Examination of Officers	1865
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	13	Certificates of Promotion for Commissioned Officers	1865
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	14	Misc. Rosters	1861-1865

Series II: Orders, Circulars, and Correspondence with Headquarters

Series/Arrangement Notes: The first 5 folders of Series II are in Box I and the rest are in Box II. Folders are arranged chronologically – with the exception of box 2, folder 1, which was arranged last among correspondences from 1862, as that is the year it begins.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	15	BLI Correspondence and Regular Orders	1828-1840
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	16	Correspondence with Headquarters	1861
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	17	General Orders, Special Orders, and Circulars	1861, 1862
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	18	Correspondence with Headquarters	1862
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	1	19	Correspondence with Council of Administration	1862, 1863
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	2	1	Correspondence with Executive Department of Massachusetts	1862-1865
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	2	2	Correspondence w/ Headquarters	1863

CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	2	3	General Orders, Special Orders, and Circulars	1863 1863
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	2	4	Correspondence with Headquarters	1864
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	2	5	General Orders, Special Orders, and Circulars	1864, 1865
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	2	6	Correspondence with Headquarters	1865
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	2	7	General Orders Post-war (Vol. I)	1865
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	2	8	General Orders Post-war (Vol. II)	1865

Series III: Account Books, Receipts, and Financial Reports

Series/Arrangement Notes: The first three folders of Series III are in Box 2, and the rest are in Box 3.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	2	9	BLI Account Book No. 2	1816-1818
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	2	10	BLI Account Book No. 3	1818-1821
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	2	11	BLI Account Book No. 4	1822-1826
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	3	1	BLI Account Book	1826-1829
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	3	2	BLI Treasurer's Book	1818-1835
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	3	3	BLI Account Book	1840, 1841
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	3	4	Bills and Receipts	1828-1857
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	3	5	Bills and Receipts	1862-1863
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	3	6	Accounts of Soldiers at Beverly Bank	1861-1864
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	3	7	List of Names and Accounts due to C.T. May	1865?
CHMV Unit 13,	3	8	"Pensions,	1863; 1885

Shelf D	3	8 (continued)	Bounties, and Prize Money” Pamphlet; 2 account books	1863; 1865
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	3	9	Veterans Association Account Book	1892-1895

Series IV: Medical Paperwork, Pensions, and Final Statements

Series/Arrangement Notes: All of Series IV is contained within Box 3. Folders are arranged chronologically by starting date.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	3	10	Correspondence Regarding Widows’ Pensions	1815-1820
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	3	11	List of Members of Co. G who Died or were Discharged	1862
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	3	12	Quarterly Return of Deceased Soldiers Report	1862-1865
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	3	13	Sick Books for Co. G	~1863
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	3	14	Morning and Hospital Reports	1863-1865
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	3	15	Hospital Notifications and Paperwork	1863 - 1865
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	3	16	Inventories of Effects and Final Statements	1864
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	3	17	Affidavits for Soldiers and Widows	1880s, 1890s

Series V: Personal Accounts, Event Summaries, and Internal Documents

Series/Arrangement Notes: All of Series V is contained within Box 4. The series begins with 6 loose books wrapped in foam; these vary in date by more than a century and are too large (or too delicate) to be placed in a folder. After these loose books, folders 1 – 11 are arranged

chronologically; although folder 4 is a typed copy of a transcript, it was originally transcribed at a much earlier date and relates to a battle in the war of 1812. The final two folders of the series are of blank, undated documents and envelopes.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	Loose (Foam Wrapping)	“Daily Pocket Remembrancer for 1864”?	1864
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	Loose (Foam Wrapping)	“Council Book Co. G”	August 31, 1862 – April 12, 1864
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	Loose (Foam Wrapping)	“Constitution and Records of the BLI Commencing 1856”	1856-1917
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	Loose (Foam Wrapping)	“Records of the Standing Committee of the BLI 1866”	December 3, 1865 – August 18, 1870
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	Loose (Foam Wrapping)	“Records of the Standing Committee of BLI”	January 1, 1858 – December 1, 1866
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	Loose (Foam Wrapping)	“BLI Company Book”	1814 - 1836
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	1	“Constitution, Rules, and Regulations of the BLI”	1800; 1814 (Printed Copy)
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	2	BLI Marching Orders	~1800
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	3	Journal of Proceedings	1800 - 1804
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	4	Transcript of Account of Battle in War of 1812	Transcribed 1898?
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	5	Proceedings of Beverly Artillery Association	1814
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	6	Petition to Abolish Military Drills	1851
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	7	Speech from 41st Anniversary Reunion	1855

CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	8	Narratives of Regiment Activities	1863, 1864
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	9	Yearly Regimental Report	1864
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	10	Newspaper Clippings on the History of the BLI	1880s
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	11	BLI Event Programs	1869, 1895
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	12	Misc. Blank Forms	Undated
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	4	13	Misc. Envelopes	Undated

Series VI: Ordinance Office Papers and Supply Reports

Series/Arrangement Notes: All of Series VI is contained within Box 5. The folders are arranged chronologically.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	5	1	Ordinance Office Paperwork	1861, 1862
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	5	2	Ordinance Office Paperwork	1863
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	5	3	Ordinance Office Special Requests	1863
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	5	4	Clothing Inventory Reports	1863
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	5	5	Ordinance Office Paperwork	January – June 1864
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	5	6	Ordinance Office Paperwork	July – December 1864
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	5	7	Ordinance Office Paperwork	1865
CHMV Unit 13, Shelf D	5	8	Clothing Inventory Reports	1864, 1865