

ALLEN M. HILLER SPECIAL COLLECTION

Location..... Box # 536
Creator..... (Linda Moore and Hans Noyes)
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Repository:

Hillsdale College Mossey Library
33 East College Street
Hillsdale MI 49242
(517)-607-2701
<https://lib.hillsdale.edu/home>
lmoore@hillsdale.edu

Introduction:

This collection includes a number of letters, pictures, and documents involving the life of Allen Maxcy Hiller (1846 - 1935) who was a Union soldier during the Civil War. You will find multiple correspondences between him and his parents Abigail and Johnathan Hiller throughout his military deployment starting in 1864 with the 199th Company PA Volunteer Infantry. You will find reports from his education at Hortons Family Grammar School, records from his time at Pennsylvania Military Academy (now called Widener University), receipts for returned war equipment, transportation invoices from railroad companies, maps, essays, poems, and his personal Bible. You will also find a few documents with no direct connection to the Hiller family. It was donated to Hillsdale College by Carla Martinez.

Part 1 *letters to his mother and other family members (folders #1 – 73)*

In this section, you will find letters written by Allen M. Hiller to his mother Abigail between 1860 – 1870, which include his time at grammar school, participation in the Union military campaign, and post war life. It represents the biggest portion of the collection with 70 total dated and undated letters. His letters address multiple subjects but focus on what concerned his daily life (interactions with friends, developments of the war, local news, personal questions, etc...). At the end of this section, you will find a number of undated or partially dated letters to his mother, which cannot be organized chronologically. Following the letters to his mother, you will find those specifically addressed to his father Johnathan. This section also includes one letter of Allen Hiller to a certain Dr. White.

Part 2 *equipage return documents (folders #74 – 83)*

In this section, you will find all the available military equipment return records for Allen M. Hiller. Not all documents have the same title, however each one contains information in a standard format detailing what he had returned to the Union army (namely the 199th Company PA. Volunteer Infantry) from December 1864 to March 1865 immediately following the war.

Part 3 *official military identifications (folders #84 – 89)*

In this section you will find several official military documents relating to Allen M. Hiller including: his Department Encampment Membership Card, Military Identification Card, *three* military **rosters** from both the Companions of the Pennsylvania Commandery (published 1935) and Department of Massachusetts GAR (published 1938-39), and a record of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion (instituted October 1885). All these documents demonstrate his participation in the war effort.

Part 4 *railroad invoices (folders #90 – 96)*

In this section you will find items related to Allen M. Hiller's railroad travels from 1884 – 1895. From the available records, we understand that he frequently used either the Virginia & Truckee Railroad or Carson & Colorado Railroad...however his specific routes or purposes for travelling have not yet been identified. You will also find a Kansas-Pacific Railway map and a tourist map of the Boston and Main Railroad.

Part 5 schooling reports/records (folders #97 – 104)

In this section, you will find the grade reports (divided by subject) and expense receipts of Allen M. Hiller while attending Pennsylvania Military Academy from 1863 – 1864. The documents reveal a lot about his intellectual talents and popular expenditures. You will also discover a collection of pictures of Allen Hiller, his classmates, and instructor. This section also includes a letter of Professor Cyrus Northope to Johnathan Hiller regarding his son Charles' (brother to Allen) behavior while attending Yale College.

Part 6 personal objects (folders #105 – 111)

In this section, you will find original poems of Allen M. Hiller and an essay titled "The American Union". In addition, you will find two portraits (one from 1935 by Grace E. Daggett) and the personal 1852 pocket edition Bible of Allen M. Hiller.

Part 7 letters to Abigail Hiller (folders #112 – 126)

In this section, you will find letters addressed to Abigail Hiller between 1829 - 1861 from those other than her son, including: Katie S. Hiller (her daughter), Mrs. Midway, Ms. Rebecca, R.J. Brewster., I. Chappelle, Mrs. E de Forest, D. M. Miles, Asa Owen, H. N. Groves, and S. Horton (of Horton's Grammar School).

Part 8 miscellaneous documents (folders #127 – 133)

Here you will find documents with no direct connection to the Hiller family, including: a poem titled "Our Boys in Blue" by Orion T. Mason, assorted poetry (authors unknown), empty envelopes, a letter from Samuel H. to William B. regarding the Albany Railroad Company stockholders on August 14th 1899, a letter from J. C. Briscue to Jim, and a letter of Nella Y. Rellih. Included is a single confederate bank note and several 19th century United States coins. Those items have been digitized and are available online in the Mossey Library General Coin Collection database (see librarian for details).

NOTE: some of these documents were difficult to transcribe so the names may not be the correct spelling but were interpreted to the best of our ability.

