



BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC **LIBRARY**
ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

MSS009

**WILLIAM H. CORNWELL GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
BADGES AND CUFF LINKS,
1895-1911, undated: Finding Aid**

BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY
Archives & Special Collections
15 South Street
Bridgewater, Mass. 02324

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Reference Code: MSS009, MBrid, US

Title: William H. Cornwell Grand Army of the Republic badges and cuff links

Date: 1895-1911, undated

Creator(s): William H. Cornwell

Extent: approximately 0.42 linear feet

Languages and Scripts

Materials are in English.

Abstract: Contains six Grand Army of the Republic commemorative badges and a pair of cuff links.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name and Location of Repository: Bridgewater Public Library Archives & Special Collections, 15 South Street, Bridgewater, Mass. 02324

Preferred citation: Item identification. Box #. William H. Cornwell Grand Army of the Republic badges and cuff links (MSS009). Bridgewater Public Library Archives & Special Collections.

Location: Bridgewater Public Library Historical Room

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Physical Access

There are no physical restrictions on this collection.

Technical Access

There are no technical restrictions on this collection.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Archives & Special Collections staff.

Custodial History

Unknown, but based on the original storage envelope, items appear to have been in the custody of the Taunton Public Library at one point.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Unknown

Appraisal, Destruction, and Scheduling

The following materials have been removed from the collection:

- Envelope from the Public Library in Taunton, MA that originally housed the badges and was inscribed with "From William Cornwell Soldier"

Accruals

Accruals are not expected.

Conservation Note

The following conservation and preservation activities have been completed on this collection: Badges and cuff links have been packed with unbuffered tissue.

Processor: This collection was processed by Allyson Sekerke 2022.

Rules & Conventions: This finding aid is DACS-compliant.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

William Henry Cornwell was born on November 12, 1844 to Flushing Cornwell (spelled Cornwall or Conwell in *Vital Records of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850, Volume 1*), a laborer, and Harriet (Brooker) Cornwell. Flushing was reported to be the son of Mansfield and Hannah (an Indigenous woman), and Harriet was reported to be the granddaughter of Caesar Russell, a soldier in the American Revolutionary War.

On December 14, 1863 at the age of 19, William enlisted in the Union Army and mustered January 9, 1864. At the time of enlistment his residence was Bridgewater, MA (also believed to be his birthplace) and his occupation was farmer. He served as a Private in Company A of the 5th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Cavalry (referred to as a “colored” unit at the time of the American Civil War) until May 29, 1865 when he was discharged for disability at Petersburg, VA. He later joined the Taunton, MA chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Sources Used

5th Regiment, Massachusetts Cavalry (Colored). The Civil War. Retrieved June 14, 2022 from <https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-battle-units-detail.htm?battleUnitCode=UMA0005RC00C>

Brockton Enterprise clipping. Bridgewater Historical Collectors scrapbooks, photographs, and other material. Bridgewater Public Library Archives & Special Collections.

Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines in the Civil War (Vol. VI, pp. 494). Norwood, MA.: Norwood Press.

New England Historic Genealogical Society. (1916). *Vital Records of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850, Volume 1*.

William H. Cornwell Grand Army of the Republic badges and cuff links. Bridgewater Public Library Archives & Special Collections.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection includes six Grand Army of the Republic commemorative badges and a pair of cufflinks. Most badges are inscribed with the name William H. Cornwell, and all items are assumed to have been collected and owned by Cornwell.

ARRANGEMENT

Inventory and Box/Folder List

Identifier	Title	Creator	Description	Date	Dimensions	Box
MS009.01	Grand Army of the Republic badge	Unknown	Grand Army of the Republic metal badge with American flag ribbon inscribed with "Grand Army of the Republic 1861 Veteran 1866" on the front and "W. H. Cornwell 39" on the back.	Undated	Approximately 9 x 4 cm.	1
MS009.02	Grand Army of the Republic badge	Unknown	Grand Army of the Republic metal badge with ribbon inscribed "W. H. Cornwell Taunton, Mass Post. 3. Mass. Co. A 5th Mass. V. Cav. 18 61 65"	Undated	Approximately 11 x 5 cm.	1
MS009.03	Grand Army of the Republic badge	Unknown	Metal badge assumed to be a Grand Army of the Republic commemorative badge with "Souvenir" inscribed on the front and the lower part of the badge missing.	Undated	Approximately 4.5 x 4 cm.	1
MS009.04	Grand Army of the Republic badge	Unknown	Grand Army of the Republic commemorative metal badge with American flag metal bow detail inscribed with "Souvenir 29. National Encampment Louisville, KY." on the front and "MNFD BY SCHWAAB S. & S. Wis. Presented to W. H. Cornwell by the Colored People of Louisville Ky 1895" on the back	1895	Approximately 8 x 3.5 cm.	1
MS009.05	Grand Army of the Republic badge	Unknown	Grand Army of the Republic commemorative metal badge with red white and blue "GAR" detail inscribed with "Washington 36th Nat'l Encampment Oct 6-10 1902" on the front and "Official souvenir Schwaab S. & S. Co. Milwaukee" on the back	1902	Approximately 6.5 x 4 cm.	1
MS009.06	Grand Army of the Republic badge	Unknown	Grand Army of the Republic commemorative pictorial badge with red white and blue ribbon detail. Ribbon is printed with "43rd Reunion 7th Mass. Vet. Vol. Assn. Taunton, Mass. June 15 '11" on the left side and "1861-1911 50th Anniversary 7th Mass. Vol. Muster into U.S. Service"	1911	Approximately 14 x 9 cm.	1
MS009.07	Grand Army of the Republic cuff links	Unknown	Pair of cuff links inscribed with "Grand Army of the Republic 1861 Veteran 1866"	Undated	Approximately 1.5 x 1.5 cm. each	1

RELATED MATERIALS

Related Archival Materials at the Bridgewater Public Library

The following materials may also be of interest:

- Lewis L. Simpson and Maria D. Simpson Civil War papers
- Andrew T. Pratt Civil War papers
- John P. Townsend Civil War artifacts

ACCESS POINTS

People:

Cornwell, William H., 1844 November 12 (date of birth)

Subject Source: Local

Organizations:

Grand Army of the Republic. Department of Massachusetts

Subject Source: Library of Congress subject headings

United States. Army. Massachusetts Cavalry Regiment, 5th (1864-1865)

Subject Source: Library of Congress subject headings

Subjects:

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--African Americans

Subject Source: Library of Congress subject headings