

U.S. Civil War 1861-1865: Primary Sources at Silas Branson Library, Waterbury, Connecticut

What kinds of primary source materials about the Civil War are available at the Silas Branson Library?

People from all walks of life recorded their impressions about the Civil War in their diaries, letters, poetry, stories, and songs. Newspapers and magazines covered the war in great detail. Politicians gave speeches about it. Long after the war ended, government agencies at the federal and state level published official reports about the different military campaigns, along with the names of soldiers on both sides who fought in them. Soldiers, doctors, nurses, and civilians published their memoirs, often with photographs and maps. We have all of these kinds of primary sources at the Bronson Library. Some are part of the regular collection and may be checked out. If the prefix "GE" is in the call number, it is part of the Genealogy and Local History Collection, which is housed on the second floor of the Library. Ask at the Reference Desk for assistance in retrieving materials from the Local History Room.

Government Records

The War of the Rebellion: Official records of the Union and Confederate Armies 1861-1865

(compiled during the 1880's and 90's and published through 1902)

S R 355.90

This is the best source to use if you are looking for official reports by military personnel. Each volume covers a particular geographic area or military campaign. This Library has all volumes in all four Series; however/we do not have the General Index, which was one of the last volumes to be published.

The War of the Rebellion is available, full-text, online:

eHistory
<http://ehistory.osu.edu/uscw/librarv/>
or/index.cfm

Cornell University Making of America
http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/browse_monographs/waro.html

It is possible to use both the online and print versions. Use the search interface for the online version to find the volume number; from there, go to the print version.

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion

- Daniels, Josephus

GE 359.75 Ser (volumes 23, 24, 25, 26) published 1914

This source is also available, full-text, online:

Cornell University Making of America
http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/moa_browse.html

Official Army Register of the Volunteer Force of the United States Army GE 973.741 Off (3 volumes) published 1865

The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865

- Barnes, Joseph K.

GE 973.912 published 1870

Chronological list of all military engagements; detailed list of casualties including description of the wound and how it was medically treated; engravings showing various types of wounds.

Roll of Honor

GE 355.78 vol. 1 -27 and supplement (published in the 1860's) Directory of Union soldiers who died in the Civil War, with place of burial. Organized by state and cemetery.

The Congressional Globe and
The Congressional Record

Records the official proceedings of Congress for the entire period of the war. (on microfilm—ask for assistance at the Reference Desk)

The Military and Civil History of Connecticut during the War of 1861-65

- Croffut, W.A.

GE 974.6025

Covers the Connecticut Militia.

Newspapers and Magazines

We have full coverage of the New York Times and Republican-American for the duration of the War on microfilm, (located in East Wing)

A Bohemian Brigade: the Civil War Correspondents - mostly rough, sometimes ready

- Perry, James M.

973.7 Perbo published 2000

Read excerpts from Civil War era newspapers and learn what it was like to cover the war as a newspaper correspondent.

A History of American Magazines

- Mott, Frank Luther

S R 050.67

Volume II covers the period from 1850 to 1865. In Chapter 5, read about the periodicals in which slavery, states' rights, and other issues of the day were debated. Brief excerpts from the originals are included. The author discusses the public's reaction to Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin, which was initially published in serial form.

Sheet Music

Songs of the Civil War -

Silber, Irwin 784 Sonci

(1960)

Regimental Histories

Grand Army Memorial Record

GE 973.76 Hil Album (2 volumes) stored in Technical Services vault
These handwritten albums contain biographical information and photographs of the members of Wadhams Post. 49, Grand Army of the Republic. Gives date and place of birth, date of death, place of burial, and record of Civil War military service for veterans residing in Waterbury, Conn.

History of the First Light Battery Connecticut Volunteers. 1861-1865.

- Beecher, Herbert W.
GE 355.155 vol. 1 and 2 published 1901

The History of the Fifteenth Connecticut Volunteers in the War for the Defense of the Union 1861-1865

- Thorpe, Sheldon B.
GE 973.891 published 1893

The Twentieth Connecticut

- Storrs, John W.
GE 973.851 published 1886

"Our First Year of Army Life": an anniversary address delivered to the First Regiment of Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery ... by the Chaplain of the Regiment
GE 973.74 Our published 1862

The Sixth Regiment its War Record. 1861-5

- Cadwell, Charles W. GE 973.74 Cad published 1875

The Fifth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers

- Marvin, Edwin E. GE 973.7446 Mar published 1889

29th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment (Buffalo Soldiers)
www.29thregiment.com/page8.html

Maps

The Official Atlas of the Civil War

Oversize GE 973.75 published 1958

Historical and Military Map of the Border and Middle States

- Watson, Phelps
GE 973.73 published around the time of the War
The map is badly deteriorated. There is also a booklet that gives brief descriptions of battles and skirmishes.

The West Point Atlas of American Wars 1689-1900

- Esposito, Vincent J., ed.
Atlas R912.98 (1959) See Vol. 1

Poetry

"Words for the Hour": a new anthology of American Civil War poetry

- Barrett, Faith, ed.
811.008 Wor published 2005

Songs after Lincoln

- Horgan, Paul
811.52 Hor (1965)

Books

Connecticut Yankees at Antietam

- Banks, Allen GE 973.733 Ban (2013)

Heroes for All Time: Connecticut Civil War Soldiers Tell Their Stories

- Longley, Dione GE 973.7 Lon (2015)
(also a circulating copy available at Bunker Hill)

My Darling Wife: the letters of Washington George Nugent, Surgeon Army of the Potomac

- Allen, Maria Randall GE 973.7 All published 1994

My Heart Toward Home: letters of a family during the Civil War

- Bacon, Georgeanna Woolsey. and Eliza Woolsey Howland
Edited by Daniel John Hoisington
GE 973.7 Bac new edition published 2001

The Citizen-Soldier, or, Memoirs of a Volunteer

- Beatty, John 973.7 Bea first published 1879

Memories: a record of personal experience and adventure during four years of war

- Beers, Fannie A. 973.7 Bee first published in 1888

Four Years in Rebel Capitals: an inside view of life in the Southern Confederacy, from birth to death

- DeLeon, Thomas Cooper
973.7 DeLeo first published 1890

Army Life in a Black Regiment

- Higginson, Thomas Wentworth
973.7 Hig first published 1869

A Rebel War Clerk's Diary at the Confederate States Capital

- Jones, John B.
973.7 JonRe vol. 2 first published 1866

My Story of the War: a woman's narrative of four years personal experience as nurse in the Union Army, and in relief work at home in hospitals, camps, and at the front, during the War of the Rebellion

- Livermore, Mary A.
GE 973.56 published 1890

Badge of Gallantry: Letters from Civil War Medal of Honor Winners

- Mitchell, Joseph B.

GE 973.78 Mit new edition published 1997

Veterans tell their stories through letters.

The Story of a Cannoneer under Stonewall Jackson

- Moore, Edward A.

973.7 Moo (1907)

Women of the War: their heroism and self-sacrifice

- Moore, Frank

973.7 Mowo new edition published 2004

Daring and Suffering: a history of the great railroad adventure

- Pittenger, William

973.7 Pit first published 1863

Campaigning with Grant

- Porter, Horace

973.7 Por

Richmond During the War: four years of personal observation

- Putnam, Sallie B.

973.7 Put first published 1867

16th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry: Sergeant William H. Relyea

- Relyea, William H.

GE 973.7 Rel (2002)

The Southern Side: or, Andersonville Prison

- Stevenson, R. Randolph

GE 973.848 published 1876

Includes names of the prisoners at several prisons in the South, including Andersonville, map of Andersonville prison, and pictorial engravings.

Connecticut Physicians in the Civil War

Published by Connecticut Civil War Centennial Commission

GE 973.7 Welco

Read excerpts from the letters and journals of doctors at the front.

The War the Women Lived: female voices from the Confederate South

- Sullivan, Walter

975.0309 War published 1995

Campaigns of a Non-Combatant, and His Romaunt Abroad During the War

- Townsend, George Alfred

973.7 Tow first published 1866

One of Jackson's Foot Cavalry

- Worsham, John H.

973.7 Wor (1912)

The Civil War Letters of Joseph Hopkins Twichell: a Chaplain's story

- Messent, Peter, ed.

GE 973.7 Twi (2006)

Colonel Chatfield's Courage or a Share of "Glory"

- Chesson, Frederick W
<http://pages.cthome.net/fwc/GLORY.HTM>

Marching Toward Freedom: Blacks in the Civil War. 1861-1865

- McPherson, James M.
973.7 McPhe (1991) and storage

Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Abolitionist Movement

- Carlson, Julie
813.3 Car (2004)
Series: Looking at literature through primary sources

Life in the North During the Civil War: a source history

- Smith, George Winston
973.7 SmiLi (1966)

The American Civil War: an anthology of essential writings -

Finseth, Ian Frederick (ed.) 810.9 Ameci (2006)

