

Thompson Collection

Accession number: 1955.001

Location: Archive 2 (The Lake) Shelf 42D06 and Collections Flat Drawer 32D09

Extent: 4 document boxes, 3 small flat photo boxes, 1 medium flat box and 1 flat file drawer

Arranged and described by: Beverly Boyko, Collections Manager and
Julie M. Moncada, Volunteer Archivist

Background

The collection was donated by Eleanor Pamela Thompson. Miss Eleanore's grandfather served as a Confederate General, her father was a Major in Louisiana Field Artillery, her brother H.B. Thompson, Jr. served as Infantry Captain during the Spanish American War and later as an officer in the Field Artillery, and her brother Harwood Jeff Thompson served as Captain of Company C, LA Field Artillery. Throughout her life, Eleanor supported the service men through social events and letters to family members and friends serving in the military. This collection contains her correspondence, memorabilia, photographs, certificates and military documents as well as those collected from her father and brothers. The collection was cataloged after surviving Hurricane Katrina in 2005. It was found scattered throughout the archive and three dimensional objects at the Jackson Barracks Museum. Disparate elements were consolidated by reference on the objects to the family names and in the case of a group of medals – similar Katrina-rescue assignment ID numbers indicating they had been found as a group.

Scope and Content

1856-1946 (1880-1910)

The collection contains correspondence, photographs, certificates, and other regalia related to military service and social events of the Thompson family and friends from the 1870s to the 1940s. It contains items and documentation relevant to the Spanish American War, Mexican Border War, World War I and World War II. Documents and photographs cover the Louisiana Field Artillery rosters, social events and activities. Military Documents include muster rolls, rosters, veterans' lists, and supply orders. Photographs include photographs of Thompson family, portraits of servicemen, photos of Cuba during the Spanish American War, and photos Camp Mabry (Austin, TX), Louisiana and Texas National Guards. Many photos include partial lists of names. Dance cards menus and other souvenirs from various social events supporting the military are also included in the collection.

Biographical Information

Four generations of the Thompson Family served the American military during war and peace time from the civil war through World War II. Please see attached family tree for more information.

M. Jeff Thompson served as a Confederate General and worked as the Louisiana State Engineer in 1873. He had a son named Henry Bolivar Thompson (Sr.).

Henry Bolivar Thompson (Sr.) (1852-1901) was born in St. Joseph Missouri and came to New Orleans in 1866. He joined Field Artillery in 1875 and was appointed Lieutenant, Battery B in 1880 and Captain by 1895. By 1891 he had risen to the rank of Battalion Major serving until 1899. He was employed with LA State Engineers in 1866 and by at least 1882 appointed Assistant State Engineer. In 1880 he was appointed secretary of the board in 1882 as Colonel, State Engineers. H.B. Thompson (Sr.) married Amelia Kurczyne daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Kurczyne. They had 8 children: Eleanor Pamela Thompson (1879-1965), Henry Bolivar Thompson Jr. (1880-1902), Harwood Jeff Thompson (1884-1911), Amelia Thompson (O'Neill), Horace A. Thompson, Edith Thompson (Gardner), Edna Thompson (Deck), and Brewer B. Thompson.

Eleanor Pamela Thompson (1879-1965) supported her family's military service through many social functions. She wrote letters to many different servicemen throughout her life and became well known for her creation of Confederate souvenirs. Her correspondence is included in the collection.

Henry Bolivar Thompson Jr. (1880-1902) served in the Spanish American War as Captain Company C, Second Louisiana Infantry Regiment. After the war (1900) he served as a Lieutenant [Battery D?] and later Captain in Battery C, Louisiana Field Artillery.

Harwood Jeff Thompson (1884-1911) served as Captain of Company C, Louisiana Field Artillery from September 1906 through June 1907. He was also an engineer for the government. He died of Tuberculosis in 1911.

Horace A. Thompson served in Louisiana field artillery in 1900.

Edna Thompson (Deck) married Francis C. Deck, MD. They had two sons: Robert E. Deck and Roy B. Deck. Francis C. Deck served with Battery E and later Battery A, LA Field Artillery 1906-1912 and the Ambulance Co. and Hospital Corps of the LA Nat Guard, 1914-16

William Harwood Kurczyne was appointed Lieutenant, Mayor and Adjutant of the British Fusiliers and the _____ Guard French(?) Brigade, New Orleans home guard units, 1861-1862.

Box List

1. Photographs, late 19th – early 20th century [document box – object ID 1955.001.001]
 - a. World's Fair Photos, 1894
 - b. Horace A. Thompson
 - c. Henry Bolivar Thompson Sr.
 - d. Spanish American War – Cuba
 - e. H. Jeff Thompson
 - f. Assorted Military Photographs
2. Photographs, 1906 [sm flat box – object ID 1955.001.002]
 - a. Texas and Louisiana National Guard, Camp Mabry, Austin, TX, 1906
3. Photographs, late 19th – early 20th century [sm flat box – object ID 1955.001.003]
 - a. Portraits
4. Correspondence and Dance Cards, 1862-1946 [document box – object ID 1955.001.004]

Correspondence

- a. Eleanor Thompson 1893-1919
- b. Eleanor Thompson & Mrs. H.B. (Amelia) Thompson 1885-1899
- c. Benoit Bloch – Spanish American War 1898-1899
- d. Henry Bolivar Thompson Jr. to Father, mother and sister (Eleanor) 1898-1899
- e. Francis C. Deck, MD – Base Hospital Det., USA Roster - 1918
- f. Francis C. Deck, MD – Correspondence, Service, LNG 1916-1919
- g. Eleanor Thompson 1940-1946
- h. Robert E. Deck and Roy B. Deck, 1942-1945 (WWII)

Dance Cards

- i. Dance Cards, Invitations – Misc. Units no date (~1890s)
 - j. Dance Cards, Calling Cards, Social Events – Misc. Units – 1862, 1880s-1890s
 - k. Dance Cards, Invitations – Misc. Units 1918-1931
 - l. Dance Cards, Invitations – Infantry 1890s-1900s
 - m. Dance Cards, Invitations – Continental Guards 1880s-1890s
 - n. Eleanor Thompson – Spanish American War – Home front/social 1898
 - o. The Athenaeum Stage seating chart, Nov. 29-30, 1900
5. Louisiana Field Artillery, 1870-1929 [document box – object ID 1955.001.005]
- a. Rosters Battery C, 1870-1873
 - b. Roster Battery B, 1881
 - c. Drill competitions, 1881-1897
 - d. Battery B historical outline, 1884
 - e. New Orleans Exposition Drill competition, 1885
 - f. National Soldier's encampment, 1885
 - g. Interstate Drill & encampment, 1886
 - h. Artillery drill book Battery B, 1889
 - i. Battery B member report of Jefferson Davis Funeral, Dec. 11, 1889
 - j. "Midway Plaisance", [World's Expo], 1894
 - k. Washington Artillery Building Rental contract, Oct 1, 1895
 - l. LA Field Artillery Morning report, Jan. 8, 1898
 - m. Inquiry at City Park Rifle Range, May 15, 1899
 - n. Quartermaster Correspondence, Henry Bolivar Thompson, 1899
 - o. Officer appointment, McKeough, Btry D, 1899
 - p. LA Field Artillery Anniversary Program, 1900
 - q. Instruction for preparation of quartermaster rolls, 1900
 - r. Ball committee, May 28, 1901
 - s. Battery B Roster, 1901
 - t. Veterans List, 1901
 - u. Battery C Roster, 1900-1902 (H.B. Thompson Jr., Capt. post Span Am. Dies 1902)
 - v. Battery C Roster, 1901
 - w. Payroll June 28, 1906 Camp Stafford
 - x. Confederate Memorial Day service roster 1912

- y. Dance cards and Invitations 1870s-1880s
 - z. Dance Cards and Invitations 1890s
 - aa. Dance cards and Invitations 1900-1909
 - bb. Dance Cards and Invitations 1910-1929
 - cc. Blank letterhead and membership cards
 - dd. Blank enlistment form 19??
 - ee. Honorary Member certificate 18?? Signed by H.B. Thompson Sr.
 - ff. Battery B Souvenir
 - gg. Bonds for Equipment (inventory); Fairgrounds Receipt, LA Field Artillery, 1896-1897
 - hh. Payroll, Battery A, 1898
6. Family Members and Misc., 1881-1916 [document box – object ID 1955.001.006]
- Family member collections
- a. Mrs. William H. Kurczyn
 - b. William H. Kurczyn
 - c. Amelia Kurczyn (Mrs. H.B. Thompson Sr.)
 - d. H. Jeff Thompson
 - e. Henry Bolivar Thompson, Sr.
 - f. Henry Bolivar Thompson Sr. – 1881 Diary Btry B and Indianapolis drill history
Henry Bolivar Thompson Sr. – 1883-1901 Diary, loose pps in leather wallet
 - g. Henry Bolivar Thompson, Jr.
 - h. Henry Bolivar Thompson, Jr. – Spanish American War
- Non-artillery units – Infantry and Continental Guards
- i. Company B 1st Regiment Infantry, Souvenir Yearbook, 1900
 - j. Continental Guards, Program, Souvenir Yearbooks 1881, 1892
- Other – Misc. Items
- k. Mexican Border Service History and Roster, 1916
 - l. Correspondence, Army YMCA letterhead, Mexican Border, 1916
 - m. News clippings World War II
 - n. Pieces of unidentified Flag fragments “National Lancers 1836”, “Continental GDS 1854”
 - o. Bingo Card, Hyland’s Gambling Saloon, Jefferson Parish, 1915
7. Publications, Medals misc. objects, 1885-1930s, [flat box – object ID 1955.001.007]
- “H.R. 9944 An Act”, to provide for increased military, 1898
 - “Historic Record of Camp Nichols, 1917”
 - Portions of a Civil War history publication, no cover, no date
 - “War ships of the United States Navy”, 1897
 - The New United States Navy, 1898
 - Unidentified Navy Ship History, no cover
 - Historical Sketches of the United States Navy, no cover, no date
 - “The Philippine Expedition 1898 and Camp Merritt San Francisco”
 - Map of Cuba, 1899, Central of Georgia Railway Co. (2)
 - History, United States Volunteer Army, 2nd Louisiana Regiment, Spanish American, 1898
 - History/Profile of National Guard Militia Units; colored images, fragmentary, undated

- Souvenir Medal: World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893; George Parish "Brought this to me" inked on reverse.
 - Souvenir Medal: Louisiana, World's Columbian Exposition, 1893; ObjectID#JBIN046-07.
 - Souvenir Medals (2): 1893 Grover Cleveland Inauguration; Commemorating two events: the inauguration of Grover Cleveland and 400th anniversary celebration of Christopher Columbus discovering America.
 - Medal: Louisiana Longevity, "Honorable Service to Louisiana" with bronze fleur de lis indicating ten years of service.
 - Medal: Louisiana Emergency Service, post 1933-85
 - Medal: Spanish American War Veteran, (medal portion from small objects collection reunited with ribbon/pin), probably belonged to H.B. Bolivar, Jr.
 - Medal: H.B. Thompson Jr. Best Drill in Manua, Louisiana National Guard C Battalion, 1894 Object ID: JBIN046-1
 - Medal: H.B. Thompson Jr. Best Drill in Manua, Louisiana National Guard C Battalion, 1894 Object ID: JBIN046-1
 - Medal: "Individual Drill, 1904"; reverse: "Donated by Weinfurters Jewelry Palace" probably H.B. Thompson, Jr., Object ID: JBIN046-03
 - Medal: "State of Louisiana Service Medal, Four, Eight, Twelve and Sixteen Years; 28" (reverse), probably H.B. Thompson, Sr., Object ID: JBIN046-06
 - Medal: "H.B. Thompson Jr., LFA Competition Drill, May 1st '[18]97'" Object ID: JBIN046-08
 - Medal: "Lieut. H.B. Thompson[Sr.], Officer's Prize Oct 24th 1880" Object ID: JBIN046-09
 - Medal: "E.P. Thompson, New Orleans, Sept. 6-10, 1932..." Object ID: JBIN013-12
 - Pin: Veterans of Foreign Wars 25 year pin
 - Patch: 31st Division Shoulder Patch WWII
 - Badge: Marine Corps Marksmanship, WWII
 - Ribbon/Pin: Western Water New Orleans, April 7 and 9th 1885
 - Pin: Unidentified Red Star with Numeral 2
 - Unidentified metal object
8. Oversized Material, 1856-1899 [flat box, medium – object ID 1955.001.008]
- Scrapbook – H. B. Thompson 1882-1884
 - Scrapbook – H.B. Thompson Jr., 1898
 - Diary – H.B. Thompson Jr., 1899
 - Notebook – H.B. Thompson Jr., Spanish American War, 1898
 - Large format Photo – Group of Officers, Battery B, LA Field Artillery, no date c.1890s
 - Large Photo – Three Officers, Schubell, McKeough, Schriener, LA Field Artillery
 - Mexican Government Document – William Kurczyn, 1856
 - Back Page, unidentified leather notebook, "Honorary Members" no date
 - American Flag textile remnant, 3.5x3.5 inches
 - Crescent City Jockey Club Programme Military Day, 1894
 - Continental Guards Fabric Menu, Hotel Royal, Feb 8th 1894

9. Flat File Drawer, 1873-1911 – object ID 1955.001.009
 - a. La Field Artillery Roster/Muster Rolls, 1897-1910
 - b. News clippings, New Orleans, 1885-1934
 - c. Poster of the Maine, supplement to Leslie's Weekly, 1898
 - d. M. Jeff Thompson
 - i. Certificate of LA Chief Engineer appointment, 1873
 - e. Henry Bolivar Thompson, Sr.
 - i. Certificates of Field Artillery appointments/discharge, (9) 1880-1899
 - ii. Certificates of Appointment to Assistant State Engineer, (7) 1879-1900
 - iii. 40 Phunny Phellows [social club] "Sir Knight of Artillery" Certificate, 1895
 - f. Henry Bolivar Thompson, Jr.
 - i. Certificate of Field Artillery appointments, (4) 1900-01
 - ii. Letter to Amelia Thompson re. her son H.B. Thompson Jr. in Cuba, 1899
 - iii. "Record of Events..." service in Spanish American War, 1898-99
 - iv. Soldier's Memorial Poster, Spanish American War, with annotations
 - v. Certificates of 2nd Infantry appointments/discharge, (2) 1898-99
 - vi. Certificate of Award, United Daughters of the Confederacy, 1933
 - g. Harwood Jeff Thompson
 - i. Certificate of Field Artillery Appointments, (3), 1906-1910
 - ii. Knights of Khorassan Membership, 1910
 - iii. Knights of Khorassan H. Jeff Thompson Memorial, 1911
 - iv. In Memoriam, CAPT H. Jeff Thompson, Military "E" Owls (2), 1911
 - v. High School Diploma, 1900
 - vi. "The First Battle" Hand written composition "Metropolitan Daily" of battle in Cuba, 1898 [high school composition?]
 - h. Francis C. Deck
 - i. Certificates of Field Artillery Appointments and Service (5), 1906-1912
 - ii. Certificates of Ambulance Co. & Hospital Corps Appointments (2), 1914-1916
 - i. William Harwood Kurczone
 - i. Certificates of Appointments, British Fusiliers and the ____ Guard French(?) Brigade, New Orleans home guard units (5), 1861-1862.