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Edward W. Kinsley

1862-1891

2 boxes (0.67 linear feet)

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Edward Wilkinson Kinsley was an abolitionist and merchant from Massachusetts. Born in New Hampshire, his parents were also strong abolitionists. He and his family then moved to Springfield, Massachusetts and he had moved himself to Boston by the time he was sixteen years old. There, he became a strong figure in helping African-American troops in the Civil War and he eventually raised the 1st Colored Regiment of North Carolina. Kinsley also served as a wool dealer in the firm of Horswell, Kinsley, and French of Boston.

Background on Edward W. Kinsley

Edward Wilkinson Kinsley was born on December 24, 1829 in Nashua, New Hampshire. Both of his parents were abolitionists and he followed in their footsteps. He and his family then moved to Springfield, Massachusetts, when he was two years old, and by the time he was sixteen, he had moved himself to Boston, Massachusetts. He became involved in politics and activism, spending most of his time fighting for equal pay for African-American troops in the Union Army. He worked closely with Massachusetts Governor John Andrew, also a prominent abolitionist. Kinsley helped raise the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, the first African-American regiment of the Civil War, along with the 55th Massachusetts Regiment. He also went on to raise the 35th Colored Regiment of U.S. troops, also known as the 1st North Carolina Colored Regiment. Kinsley served as a merchant and wood dealer at Horswell, Kinsley, and French while in Boston, as well as a state agent. He married Calista Adelaide Billings on April 16, 1856. Kinsley later died in 1891 at the age of 62.

Scope of collection

Included in this collection are Edward W. Kinsley's reminiscences, diary entries, correspondence, and miscellaneous items. His reminiscences vary in topic, but are centered around the lead-up to the Civil War and the war itself, including his interactions with Governor John Albion Andrew and the second election of President Lincoln. His diary entries include his experiences in the South, and his correspondence include people such as Massachusetts Governor John Andrew, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Charles Sumner. Included in the miscellaneous items are news clippings, a scrapbook from a post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and notes from his wife, Calista's, diary.

Series descriptions

Series 1. Personal Writings

1863-1870

Contains personal writings by Edward W. Kinsley, including excerpts from his diary and a large series of reminiscences dictated to his daughter.

Series 2. Correspondence

1863-1880

Contains correspondence to and by Edward W. Kinsley. Includes correspondence with numerous Union Army officials along with other notable persons of the times such as Harriet Beecher Stowe, John Albion Andrew, and Charles Sumner.

Series 3. Miscellaneous

1862-1985

Contains a variety of items, including diary excerpts from Kinsley's wife, Calista, a scrapbook from a Grand Army of the Republic Post named in Kinsley's honor, as well as news clippings and photographs related to both Kinsley and Mori Arinori, the first Japanese ambassador to the United States.

Inventory

Series 1. Personal Writings

1863-1870

Diary: First Visit to the South

1863 May-Jun

Box 1: 34

Diary: Memoranda From Leaves of Diary

undated

Box 1: 35

Diary: Second Visit to the South

1863 Dec-1864 Jan

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Reminiscences: Table of Contents - I. Ordered to Newbern by Gov. Andrew

1870 Feb

Box 1: 42

Reminiscences: II. Raising the First North Carolina Colored Regiment

1870 Feb

Box 1: 43

Reminiscences: III. Wilder Dwight

1870 Feb

Box 1: 44

Reminiscences: IV. Ordered to Washington by Governor Andrew

1870 Feb

Box 1: 45

Reminiscences: V. Second Visit to the South and Emancipation Proclamation Celebration

1870 Feb

Box 1: 46

Reminiscences: VI. President Lincoln's Letter and the Steamboat

1870 Feb

Box 1: 47

Reminiscences: VII. A Little More About Ann Starkey

1870 Feb

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Reminiscences: VIII. How Colonel Hutchings Freed a Slave

1870 Feb

Box 1: 49

Reminiscences: IX. General Tom Stevenson's Confirmation as Brigadier-General

1870 Feb

Box 1: 50

Reminiscences: X. The Second Election of Mr. Lincoln

1870 Feb

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Reminiscences: XI. The Inauguration Ball

1870 Feb

Box 1: 52

Reminiscences: XII. Honey Hill

1870 Feb

Box 1: 53

Reminiscences: XIII. Colonel Blodgett

1870 Feb

Box 1: 54

Reminiscences: XIV. Hoop-Skirt

1870 Feb

Box 1: 55

Reminiscences: XV. The Story of Governor Andrew and the Poor Apple Woman

1870 Feb

Box 1: 56

Reminiscences: XVI. The Fall of Richmond

1870 Feb

Box 1: 57

Reminiscences: XVII. Andrew and Sumner

1870 Feb

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Reminiscences: XVIII. Charles Goodyear

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Reminiscences: XIX. Sergeant Koster

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Box 1: 60

Reminiscences: XX. Arinori Mori

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Box 1: 61

Reminiscences: XXI. A Visit to John Bright

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Reminiscences: XXII. Christmas in London

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Reminiscences: XXIII. Springfield Speech

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Box 1: 64
Reminiscences: XXIV. A Trip to the West
1870 Feb
Box 1: 65
Reminiscences: XXV. How Bees Saved a Life
1870 Feb
Box 1: 66
Reminiscences: XXVI. John Creerer of Chicago
1870 Feb
Box 1: 67
Reminiscences: XXVII. Edward A. White
1870 Feb
Box 1: 68
Reminiscences: XXVIII. Ned's Christmas Money
1870 Feb
Box 1: 69
Series 2. Correspondence
1863-1880
Correspondence: Andrew, John Albion
1863 Dec-1866
Box 1: 1
Correspondence: Beecher, James C.
1863 Jun-1865 Oct
Box 1: 2
Correspondence: Blackmar, Wilson W.
1870 Jan
Box 1: 3
Correspondence: Bigelow, J.W. (John?)
1865 Feb
Box 1: 4
Correspondence: Child, Francis James
undated
Box 1: 5
Correspondence: Codman, C. R.
1875 Sep
Box 1: 6
Correspondence: Dawes, Henry Laurens
1875 Sep
Box 1: 7
Correspondence: Endicott, William
undated
Box 1: 8
Correspondence: Euouye, Y.
1875 Jan
Box 1: 9
Correspondence: Forbes, John Murray
1874 Mar-1875 Sep
Box 1: 10
Correspondence: Foster, John Gray
1863 Aug
Box 1: 11
Correspondence: Hara, N.
1874 Jun
Box 1: 12
Correspondence: Hargit, Mariah
1863 Jul
Box 1: 13
Correspondence: Hartwell, Alfred Stedman

1864 Jan-1865 Dec
Box 1: 14
Correspondence: Hongua, A.
1874 Nov
Box 1: 15
Correspondence: Howe, L. I.
1864 Mar
Box 1: 16
Correspondence: James, Helen
1864 Feb
Box 1: 17
Correspondence: Kinsman, J. B.
1864 Apr
Box 1: 18
Correspondence: Landy, Luke R.
1880 Jun
Box 1: 19
Correspondence: McKay, George F.
1864 Aug
Box 1: 20
Correspondence: McKim, William N.
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1863 May
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Correspondence: Miles, Nelson A.
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Correspondence: Seward, Charles
1875 Aug
Box 1: 25
Correspondence: Starkey, Mary Ann
1864 Oct-1866 Sep
Box 1: 26
Correspondence: Stowe, Harriet Beecher
1863 Sep, undated
Box 1: 27
Correspondence: Sullivan, John W.
1863 Dec
Box 1: 28
Correspondence: Sumner, Charles
1863 Apr-1876 Mar
Box 1: 29
Correspondence: Unidentified
1864 Jul-1870 Jul, undated
Box 1: 30
Correspondence: Wild, Edward Augustus
1863 Nov, undated
Box 1: 31
Correspondence: Wild, F. E.
1864 Apr-1865 May
Box 1: 32
Correspondence: Wild, Walter C.
1863 Jun
Box 1: 33

Series 3. Miscellaneous

1862-1985

Historical Journal of Massachusetts: "General Edward A. Wild and Civil War Discrimination"

1985 Jan

Box 1: 37

Kinsley, Calista A.: Notes From Diary

1862 Sep-1864 Jan

Box 1: 38

News Clippings: Kinsley, Edward W.

undated

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News Clippings: Mori, Arinori

undated

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Photographs: Mori, Arinori

1871-1873 Mar

Box 1: 41

Scrapbook: Grand Army of the Republic Edward W. Kinsley Post 113

1891 Jun

Box 2

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Elizabeth Goucher, great-granddaughter, November 1956.

Processing Information

Processed by Linda Seidman, November 1985.

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English

Copyright and Use (More information)

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Search terms

Subjects

Kinsley, Edward W. (Edward Wilkinson), 1829-1891

Massachusetts

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

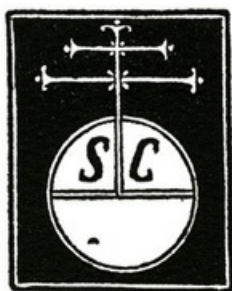
Contributors

Kinsley, Edward W. (Edward Wilkinson), 1829-1891 **[main entry]**

Genres and formats

Correspondence

Diaries



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