

Thomas Ellsworth Family Collection

L87-4-13

L2015-05-21

Dates: 1800-1972

Extent: 2 boxes

Biographical Note: Thomas Foulds Ellsworth was born in Ipswich, Massachusetts in 1840. After serving in combat in the Civil War with the 22nd Massachusetts regiment including the Battle of Gettysburg, he was promoted to lieutenant in the 55th Regiment made up of African American soldiers. After the disastrous attack on Honey Hill, South Carolina where the regiment suffered many casualties, Lieutenant Ellsworth was promoted to captain and awarded a Medal of Honor for rescuing the regiment's colonel. He and his wife and their five children moved to Pasadena in the 1890s where he ran a successful contracting business. He died in 1911 in Pasadena.

Abstract/Scope and Content: The Thomas Foulds Ellsworth collection contains documents, newspaper clippings, photos and photo albums, covering the life, family and career of Thomas Ellsworth from his birth, his civil war participation, and his business practices in Pasadena in the early Twentieth Century. The collection also includes a handwritten journal by family member, Mary Elizabeth Williams covering the years 1800-1960. Other items are GAR memorabilia, from buttons to swords.

Key to Arrangement/Content List:

Box 1

Folder 1 – Thomas Foulds Ellsworth Personal Papers

Medal of Honor letter for Captain Thomas F. Ellsworth, November 18, 1895 with copy.

Discharge Papers November 3, 1863.

Certificate of Birth – Thomas Foulds Ellsworth November 12, 1840.

Notice of Sale Pasadena Real Estate Holdings of Thomas F. Ellsworth.

News Paper Clipping (undated) "Record of Bravery" Thomas F. Ellsworth with copies.

Copy of news clipping: "The Battle of Honey Hill." dated: June 24, 1896.

Copy of newspaper article: **Pasadena Evening Star**, May 6, 1904, Part 2 Front page regarding Thomas Ellsworth and his son, H.L. Ellsworth and their shoe store in Pasadena.

Folder 2: Mary Elizabeth Williams original handwritten journal 1868-1972.

Folder 3: Photos

ELL 3-1 Thomas F. Ellsworth portrait in Civil War Uniform.

ELL 3-2 Thomas Ellsworth, Harriet Ellsworth, and son Elmer in front of their home on North Orange Grove and Mundell Drive before 1900.

ELL 3-3 Family Trip to Mt Wilson, October 1902,

ELL 3-4 Family at Catalina Island (undated)

ELL 3-5 Family home 1905-1906 17 acres orange grove at 294 N. Orange Grove.

ELL 3-6 Patti Garren Glasen, Grams Mary Williams, October 4, 1963 – Las Dames Debutante Ball.

Folder 4: Photo Albums, 1800-1960.

Folder 5: Photo Album 1903-1930.

Folder 6: Hand painted wood plaque depicting H. L. Ellsworth South Pasadena 1 acre home painted by Mrs. Westerfield's daughter in 1891.