Guide to the Thew Family Letters, 1848-1914
61.1

Special Collections
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State University of New York College at Plattsburgh
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Thew, Betsey (Lobdell)
Thew, Kate
Thew, Bethuel
Thew James
Thew, Josephus
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal Narratives
Biographical Note

The Daniel Thew family of Peru was a large family whose members scattered over northern New York and a number of western states and territories. Four served in the Union army during the American Civil War.

Daniel Thew (1792-1870) was born in Plattsburgh, NY on March 11, 1792, the son of Garrett Thew and his 2nd wife Deborah Cure. He married his first wife Electa Nichols (1792-1842), the daughter of Eleazer Nichols, in late 1813 or early 1814. Daniel and Electa had eleven children, all sons, Robert (1814-1883), Eleazer (1816-1898), Gilbert Edward (1817-1899), Garret (1819-1894), Henry (1821-?), Charles Henry (?-1898), Nathan (1824-1864), John I. (1827-1901), Josephus (1829-?), Bethuel (1831-1862), and James (1833-1908). Electa was the first of the family to be buried in the Thew Graveyard, Peru, NY.

Daniel married his 2nd wife, Eunice Able Smith (1792-1848), in 1844. They had no children together but Eunice had a daughter from a previous marriage, Helen M. Smith (1831-1891), who became a member of Daniel’s household. Eunice and Helen are also buried in the Thew Graveyard.

Betsey Lobdell (1810-1894) became Daniel’s 3rd wife on February 1, 1849. She was born in Danby, VT, on November 11, 1810, the daughter of Jared Lobdell (1767-1846) and Betsey (Signor) Lobdell (1769-1858). Prior to marrying Daniel, Betsey had a son, Darius Jared Lobdell (1838-1889). Daniel and Betsey had one child of their own, a daughter, named Katherine/Kate. Kate (1850-1917) never married and died in an automobile accident and is buried in God’s Acre Cemetery, Peru, NY. Betsey died March 16, 1894 and is buried in the Thew Graveyard.

Scope of the Collection

The bulk of the 349 letters were written by members of the family, and with few exceptions, were addressed to Daniel and/or Betsey Thew, his wife, and their daughter Kate.

The letters describe family activities, sickness, etc., nineteenth-century life in Northern New York and Vermont, frontier life in the West, and the Civil War as experienced by four Union army soldiers.

The collection has been rehoused in two archival boxes, with the first box containing former boxes 1 and 2 and the second box containing former boxes 3 and 4.

See also Series 7A in the Everett Family Papers Collection (90.2) for additional Thew family correspondence.

For more detailed information and genealogy of the family see also:

Lobdell, Julia Ardelia Harrison. *Simon Lobdell-1646, of Milford, Conn. and his Descendants:
Nicholas Lobden (Lobdell)-1635 of Hingham, Mass. and Some of his Descendants.*


**Container List**

**Box 1: Letters to Daniel and/or Betsey (Lobdell) Thew, from their children, 1856-1885**

1/1 Bethuel Thew, son, 1856-1857

1/1/1 June 1, 1856, Minneapolis, MN. Just arrived in Minnesota. Enthusiastic about life there. Minneapolis is a small village. Earns $2 a day.

1/1/2 Jan. 17, 1857, Minneapolis. Plans to start a blacksmith shop in the spring.

1/1/3 Oct. 7, 1857, Minneapolis. Business is poor. May go to Wisconsin or Illinois in the spring.

1/1/4 Nov. 25, 1867, Minneapolis. Business is poor. May go to California next spring. Wants Robert to send him his rifle.

1/2 James Thew, son, 1856-1863

1/2/1 Apr. 30, 1856, Hebron, WI. Is working in a wagon shop. Lives six miles from brother Gilbert’s place. Is thinking of going to Kansas.

1/2/2 Feb. 8, 1858, Germantown, WI. Working in a shop, making cutters. Plans to have his own shop. Will stay here but does not like Wisconsin. “If Bethuel comes here, I will try to get him to go to Kansas with me.”

1/2/3 Apr. 16, 1863, Fort Lyon, Colorado Territory. Now in the Union Army. Reports that his brother Bethuel is dead.

1/2/4 Apr. 27, 1863, Fort Lyon, Colorado Territory. All is quiet at Fort Lyon.

1/2/5 June 1, 1863, Fort Lyon, Colorado Territory. Is lonesome. Expects to remain at Fort Lyon.

1/2/6 Sep. 28, 1863, Fort Larend, KS. Was thrown from his horse. Broke his leg. Houses in this part of the country are made from mud.

1/3 Josephus Thew, son, 1861-1862
1/3/1 Aug. 26, 1861, Baltimore, MD. Has enlisted in the army for three years. Very depressed. Does not expect to live through the war.

1/3/2 Oct. 8, 1861, Annapolis, MD. “Tell Harry to try to get Mary from her wicked mother and be a father to her.” Wants Henry to have his possessions if he is killed.

1/3/3 Nov. 26, 1861, Annapolis. Has not yet been in any general engagement, only skirmishes.

1/3/4 Feb. 13, 1862, Roanoke, NC. Describes a battle on Feb. 8th.

1/3/5 Feb. 18, 1862, Roanoke, NC. Describes again the battle of Feb. 8th.

1/3/6 March 17, 1862, Fort Thompson, NC. Describes a battle on March 14th.

1/3/7 March 24, 1862, Camp Reno, NC. Describes another battle and conditions in North Carolina.

1/3/8 July 25, 1862, Newport News, VA. Complains of the treatment of the common soldier. Thinks he will be killed but is willing to give his life for his country.

1/4 Gilbert and Jane Thew, son and daughter-in-law, 1855-1869

1/5 Garrett and Marietta Thew, son and daughter-in-law, 1857-1872

1/6 Eleazar and Mary Thew, son and daughter-in-law, 1855-1871

1/7 Darius and Roxanna Lobdell, son and daughter-in-law, 1854-1885

Box 2: Letters to Daniel and/or Betsey (Lobdell) Thew, from relatives, 1851-1886

2/1 Thomas H. Kirby, nephew, 1862-1865

2/2 Thomas E. Huston, nephew, 1856-1864

2/3 Bettie Huston, niece, 1857-1864

2/4 John S. Parris, nephew, 1865-1867

2/5 Olive Lawson, niece, 1879-1884

2/6 Hannah P. Cook niece, 1851-1886

2/7 Mary Rodee, niece, 1851-1883

2/8 Eunice (Lobdell) Jones, sister of Betsey Thew, 1853-1859
Box 3: Letters to Daniel and/or Betsey (Lobdell) Thew, from relatives and friends, 1848-1899

3/1 Caleb and/or Cata Parris, brother-in-law and sister of Betsey Thew, 1851-1865

3/2 Relatives and friends, 1848-1899

   3/2/1 Harriet M. Soper, niece, Saranac, NY, July 7, year unknown
   3/2/2 Molly, niece, undated
   3/2/3 Martha White, granddaughter, Saranac, NY, November 25, year unknown
   3/2/4 Kate M. Thew, niece, Saranac, NY, July 18, year unknown
   3/2/5 C. L. Darling, niece, Dalton, MA, December 24, 1848
   3/2/6 Henry Thew, Counsil Bluff, Las Vegas, NV, April 20, [1850]
   3/2/7 C. P. L., niece, Bridgewater, MA, April 11, 1852
   3/2/8 J. Hungerford (to John and Daniel Thew), Rouses Point Village, NY, March 13, 1854
   3/2/9 Sally D. ? ? and D. Thew, [brother?] Minnesota, 1856
   3/2/10 S. R. DeLong, Chicago, IL, October 3, 1856
   3/2/11 R. N. Huston, to “Brother and Sister Thew”, Coral, IL, February 6, 1857
   3/2/12 C. D. Jones, niece or nephew, Tassinong, IN, May 8, 1857
   3/2/13 C. D. Jones, niece or nephew, Tassinong, IN, June 27, 1857
   3/2/14 Ann Janett Thew, daughter, Saranac, NY, November 16, 1857
   3/2/15 Emily, Chateaugay, NY, November 17, 1857
   3/2/16 Amanda, Plattsburgh, NY, February 28, 1858
   3/2/17 Betsey Thew to Daniel Thew, Plattsburgh, NY, March 17, 1860
   3/2/18 Addie E. Huston, niece, Coral, IN, August 9, 1863
   3/2/19 ? Stearns to Daniel Thew, East Beekmantown, NY, March 5, 1866
   3/2/20 Celia, niece, Danby Four Corners, VT, September 3, 1867
   3/2/21 Sarah Thew, daughter, Saranac, NY, July 12, 1868
3/2/22 Charles K. Thew, son, Saranac, NY, April 18, 1869; S. H. Thew, daughter-in-law, Saranac, NY, April 18, 1869

3/2/23 [Celia], niece, Danby Four Corners, VT, July 11, 1869

3/2/24 Mary Kirby, niece, Plattsburgh, NY, October 3, year unknown

3/2/25 Kate Thew, daughter, Saranac, NY, January 11, 1878

3/2/26 Irena Signor to Betsey, friend, Plattsburgh, NY, March 9, 1878

3/2/27 Olive Parris, niece, Barnumsville, VT, October 11, 1881

3/2/28 Martha White, granddaughter, Saranac, NY, December 17, 1881

3/2/29 Edwin Thew, grandson, Saranac, NY, June 22, 1882

3/2/30 D. L. Rodee, niece, Barnumsville, VT, March 7, 1884

3/2/31 Olive Parris, niece, Barnumsville, VT, September 3, 1886

3/2/32 Ella Hammond, niece, Ellenburgh Centre, NY, September 7, 1886

3/2/33 M. C. Major, niece or nephew, Winchendon, MA, September 16, 1886

3/2/34 Ed, grandson, Saranac, NY, October 1, 1886

3/2/35 Olive Parris, niece, South Dorset, VT (postmark), October 24, 1886

3/2/36 J. [H.] Thew, Vernon Centre, Minnesota, March 11, 1899

3/3 Letter to Darius Lobdell from Cata Parris, his aunt, 1856

3/4 Letter to Helen M. Smith, from Bettie Huston, cousin, 1885

3/5 Letter to Helen M. Smith, from Katie Thew, half-sister, 1877

3/6 Letter to Hulda (Parris) Lobdell from Caleb Parris Lobdell, son, 1870

3/7 Letter to Cata Parris from Caleb Parris, her husband, 1854

Box 4: Letters to Kate Thew from relatives and friends, 1864-1914

4/1 Edwin Thew, nephew, 1878-1901

4/2 Martha (Thew) White, niece, 1885

4/3 Ella Hammond, cousin, 1873-1901
4/4 Thomas E. Huston, cousin, 1865-1875
4/5 Bettie (Huston) Lyon, cousin, 1864-1901
4/6 Olive Lawson, cousin, 1881-1897
4/7 Relatives and friends, 1869-1914

4/7/1 M. C. [Rodee], West Chazy, NY, May 17, year unknown
4/7/2 Julian Thew, Saranac, NY, April 12, 1864
4/7/3 Emma Jane Knowles, Peru, NY, September 17, 1869
4/7/4 William R. Braisted, cousin, Bridport, NY, May 2, 1875
4/7/5 William R. Braisted, cousin, Bridport, NY, November 4, 1875
4/7/6 J. E. Huston, cousin, Bridport, NY, December 3, 1875
4/7/7 J. E. Huston, cousin, Bridport, NY, December 28, 1875 (postmark)
4/7/8 S. P. M., [Nef.], Saranac, NY, February 13, 1876
4/7/9 Ida [H. Runker], niece, Bloomingdale, NY, March 6, 1876
4/7/10 Cora Hammond, cousin, Ellenburgh Center, October 14, 1882
4/7/11 Helen M. Smith, half-sister, Saranac, NY, January 15, 1883
4/7/12 [Cata Parris], cousin, South Whallingford, VT, January 14, 1887
4/7/13 Lottie, cousin, Middletown Springs, VT, September 1, 1896
4/7/14 Fred H. Lobdell, nephew, Dighton, KS, January 27, 1897
4/7/15 Fred H. Lobdell, nephew, Dighton, KS, February 13, 1897
4/7/16 Fred H. Lobdell, nephew, Dighton, KS, March 3, 1897
4/7/17 Jennie Martin, Hunter, ND, May 4, 1894
4/7/18 Jennie Martin, Hunter, ND, June 16, 1894
4/7/19 Harvey Everett, Lebanon, OR, January 5, 1900
4/7/20 Harvey Everett, Lebanon, OR, April 23, 1900
4/7/21 Emma A. Huston, cousin, Alden, IA, January 15, 1901
4/7/22 James Thew, brother, Wonewoc, WI, December 24, 1902
4/7/23 Minnie, Treadwells Mill, NY, March 15, 1903
4/7/24 Grace Lyon, cousin, Alva, OK, October 18, 1903
4/7/25 Michael Downs, Peru, NY, July 31, 1904
4/7/26 Grace Lyon, cousin, Claflin, KS, August 28, 1904
4/7/27 S. R. DeLong, Tucso, AZ, October 16, 1904
4/7/28 S. R. DeLong, Tucso, AZ, January 29, 1905
4/7/29 Cora Lobdell, niece, Dighton, KS, June 30, 1908
4/7/30 Cora Green Lobdell, niece, Kinsley, KS, May 10, 1914