

Coll. 30  
Dr. Edwin Field (1849-1922) Papers  
1898-1911



Monmouth  
County  
Historical  
Association

Processed by Beverly Pagels  
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## INTRODUCTION

Dr. Edwin Field was born in Middletown, New Jersey in May of 1849. He resided in Red Bank for over forty years with his wife, Alice, whom he married in February of 1875. He was a leader in civic activities in and about Red Bank inclusive of taking on roles in all the branches of the Masonry, organizing the local BPOE and the Monmouth Club. Militarily, he was appointed chief officer of the Draft Board. His skills as a surgeon placed him at the head of his profession, titled with the Chief Surgeon of Long Branch Hospital.

He enlisted on June 30, 1898 with the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the NJ Volunteers during the Spanish - American War where he was given the title of Major Surgeon and held the position of captain of the Monmouth Troop. Relegated to three medical facilities, Camp Wetherhill, South Carolina, Camp Meade, Pennsylvania, and Camp Voorhees, New Jersey, much of his active duty time was spent caring for soldiers, including their well being or signing decisions of their medical disabilities due to war injuries and ultimately signing off on their discharges from active duty. He also saw over all of the medical inventories and needs of the hospitals in conjunction with the ordering of daily necessities for the staff and recovering soldiers, such as food, supplies, equipment, clothing, etc. He was discharged of his medical role in April 1899, but continued to remain an active member of the Second Brigade, National Guard, and New Jersey through 1911.

Dr. Field as a civilian continued his medical practices in Red Bank, New Jersey. He died on October 27, 1922 at the age of seventy-three. His wife Alice applied for and was finally granted Edwin's military pension in 1928. She passed on May 12, 1929 at the age of eighty.

## DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

The bulk of this collection consists of the daily records of patients and medical supply inventories scribed by Dr. Edwin Field, which was a large part of his daily requirements as an

enlisted military surgeon. A bevy of receipts, invoices, military correspondence, general orders, vouchers, circulars, and numerous journals are present, as well.

Also of note is a sailing log authored by Dr. Field while cruising the New Jersey coastline from Atlantic Highlands south to the Chesapeake Bay aboard the William S. Mount.

Two news articles naming Dr. Edwin Field include colorful descriptions of the warm welcome and homecoming reception and festivities given to the Red Bank area soldiers that enlisted to serve during the Spanish-American War. Each article offers proclamations and kudos for Dr. Field for his patriotism and bravery as a soldier and his skill as a medical practitioner and as a surgeon.

A news article mentions Dr. Field (now a civilian) as an attending physician called to a scene of an "aeroplane accident" over the Keansburg boardwalk where the plane was guided towards the beach and dropped into the water.

Of special interest is a list of names, (two sets: 2 handwritten separate lists and one compiled and finalized, typed list) from several companies of the 7<sup>th</sup> regiment National Guard NJ that were to be in attendance for the inauguration of President Theodore Roosevelt in Washington, D.C. on March 3, 1901.

A small photograph collection of Dr. Field in various military attires is included.

A military service record of Dr. Edwin Field received from the National Archives, Washington, D.C.

A Pension Service Record of Dr. Edwin Field from the National Archives inclusive of his death certificate.

PROVENANCE: Gift of Mrs. Walter Rullman, October 1966, March 1967.

RESTRICTIONS: None

SERIES DESCRIPTION:

This collection is divided into two series: I. Active Military Career and II. Active/ Professional /Civic Career

Series I. Active Military Career, 1898-1911

12 folders, 2 boxes

Includes military letters and correspondence, medical correspondence logs, military invoices and receipts, medical inventories, medical reports, medical patient reports, patient related medical discharges, medical record keeping notebooks, (all of which were compiled from Dr. Field's services at three different locations, Camp Voorhees, Sea Girt NJ, Camp Wetherhill, SC

and Camp Meade, Pa. dates from August 1898-April, 1889), news paper (copy) photograph of Dr. Field in military garb, Dr. Field's military service record received from the National Archives, affidavits from those close to both Dr. Field and his wife used as legal proof that his wife was eligible to collect his pension after Dr. Field's passing.

Series II. Active Professional / Civic Career, 1885-1912

5 folders, 1 box

Includes personal letters and correspondence, Dr. Field's start up of the Red Bank unit of the NJ National Guard, (Of special interest is a list of names, (two sets: 2 handwritten separate lists and one compiled and finalized, typed list) from several companies of the 7<sup>th</sup> regiment National Guard NJ that were to be in attendance for the inauguration of President Theodore Roosevelt in Washington, D.C. on March 3, 1901.) as well as the organizer of the B.P.O.E. ( Elks Club), and the Monmouth Club, leader of many civic activities in Red Bank, such as a leader in all branches of the Masonry, cruise log while aboard the William S. Mount, news article describing Dr. Field's medical expertise in the life saving of an "aeroplane" crash victim, private practice medical related equipment and book order receipts, correspondence inviting Dr. Field to be a guest speaker at a medical convention, news article describing Dr. Field's homecoming and his eagerness to resume both his medical practice and his position as Chief of Staff at the Long Branch Hospital.

Of special interest are two pieces of correspondence alluding to the fact that large sums of money were given to Dr, Field. One piece was a bank note, [loan], (Second National Bank, Red Bank) given to a family member, Henry Field in the amount of one thousand dollars April 4, 1898 and November 5, 1898. The other was a settlement in the amount of ten thousand dollars, in cash, given to Dr. Field from the Navesink National Bank in Red Bank, April 21, 1906.

Placed in miscellaneous are some medical record keeping items in the collection that span a portion of the time frame that Dr. Edwin Field served in the military, (December 6,1898-February 27,1899), but belonging to Captain Clayton Bailey, while others have no name identification.

## CONTAINER LIST

### BOX # /FILE # / CONTENTS

Series: I. Active Military Career, 1898-1911

1/1/ Letters and Correspondence, Morning Report Notebook, Camp Voorhees, Sea Girt, NJ, August 1898-October 1898

1/2/ Invoices and Receipts, Camp Voorhees, Sea Girt, NJ, July 1898-November 1898

- 1/3/ Letters and Correspondence, Camp Wetherhill, SC, January 1898-July 1899
- 1/4/ Invoices and Receipts, Camp Wetherhill, SC, November 1898-March 1899
- 1/5/ Letters and Correspondence, Camp Meade, Pa, March 1898-December 1898
- 1/6/ Invoices and Receipts, Camp Meade, Pa, July 1898-February 1899
- 1/7 Medical reports and record keeping
- 2/1/ Copied newspaper photographs, no date
- 2/2/ Letters and Correspondence, NJ National Guard, Second Troop Calvary, Red Bank, NJ  
February 1895-August 1911
- 2/3/ Invoices and Receipts, NJ National Guard, Second Troop Cavalry, Red Bank, NJ 1905-1911
- 2/4/ Dr. Field's Veteran's records (Spanish American War), Widow's Military Pension  
application/affidavits
- 2/5/ Medical record keeping notebooks

Series: II. Active Professional/Civic Career, 1885-1912

- 3/1/ Letters and Correspondence
- 3/2/ Invoices and Receipts
- 3/3/ Copied newspaper articles
- 3/4/ Copied Cruise Log
- 3/5 Miscellaneous