

Holtz Collection Letters

Guide to the Private Friedrich John Holtz Archival Collection, Company G, 45th Regiment of Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository

Civil War Museum, Resource Center Kenosha, Wisconsin

Language of Material

Material in English

Abstract

The collection consists of 3 items. The first is a copy of Mr. Holtz's honorable discharge certificate indicating his length of service and where he mustered out along with his physical appearance. The second is a picture taken about 1900 on Friedrich's dairy farm in Richland County, Wisconsin around the 4th of July. In the picture Friedrich is seated next to his wife Mary (Geiger d. 1904) whom he married in Milwaukee on December 30, 1860. Seated on the ground is Friedrich's older grandson, Alvin, (b. 1883-d.1971). Standing to Alvin's left is Friedrich's younger grandson Frederick, age 12 (b.1887-d.1978) . Standing to right of Friedrich is his son Christian (bearded b. 1861-d.1943) of Friedrich is his son Christian (bearded, b.1861-d.1943). The third is a picture of 45th Wisconsin Infantry Volunteer Veterans taken in a Milwaukee park in 1912. It is a 50 year regimental reunion picture of remaining 45th Infantry Civil War veterans.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Use Restrictions

No photocopying please

Preferred Citation

(Identification of Item). The Friedrich John Holtz Collection, The Civil War Museum, Kenosha, Wisconsin

Processing Information

Processed by Frederick John (Rick) Holtz, 2012. Note that Friedrich Holtz was my great-great grandfather.

Biographical note:

Friedrich Holtz was born in Mecklenburg Schwerin Prussia in 1835, emigrating to the United States, first for a time to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and later to southwestern Wisconsin in Richland County sometime during the 1850s. The specific date of his arrival is unknown. He married Mary Geiger (b.1843-d.1904) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on December 30, 1860. While they lived in Missouri 3 sons were born-- Christian (b.1861-d.1944), Herman (b. 1873-d.1926) who became a brick mason, and William (b.1876-d.1923) who became a farm laborer. After moving to rural Richland County, Wisconsin and buying land to dairy farm, Mr. Holtz (age 28)

enlisted for one year in Company G., 45th Regiment of Wisconsin Infantry. Company G of the 45th Regiment of Infantry Volunteers was assigned guard duty of Confederate prisoners of war while on duty in Nashville, Tennessee. After the war he returned to dairy farming in Richland County and passed away at the age of 67 on January 25, 1902. Mr. Holtz is buried in Richland County's Willow Valley Cemetery. His wife Mary joined him in 1904. Christian Holtz continued on in his father's footsteps dairy farming in Richland County. Christian married Rebecca Holt (b.1862-d.1923). They had two sons, Alvin (b. 1883-d.1971) and Frederick (b.1887-d.1978). Christian Holtz later went on into partnership with his son Frederick in their own carpentry business in post World War I in the Waukesha, Wisconsin area while Alvin continued dairy farming in Richland County on his grandfather's land in Richland County.

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

The following artifacts verify Mr. Friedrich Holtz's honorable service in the Civil War, a photo taken of him on his dairy farm two years before his death in 1902, and a group anniversary picture of Civil War veterans taken in a Milwaukee park in 1912.

- Doc. # 1 of 3: Mr. Holtz's Honorable Discharge Paper indicates that he enlisted for a period of one year beginning on December 29, 1864, and was mustered out on July 17, 1865 in Nashville, Tennessee. The document is signed by his commanding officer, Captain Mathias Bauer. We know that his duty in Company G was to guard Confederate prisoners of war. Also listed were his physical characteristics--5 feet 7 inches tall, dark brown hair, and blue eyes. Counter signed on the document in red ink is the fact that he received his final pay upon discharge.
- Doc. #2 of 3: A family picture taken of Friedrich Holtz around the 4th of July, 1900, at his dairy farm in Richland County, Wisconsin. He is seated on the end and is 65 years of age at the time of the photo and his wife Mary is 57. (Note: See the above abstract for specific identification of family members).
- Doc.#3 of 3: An anniversary 50 year reunion veteran photo of the 45th Wisconsin Infantry taken in a Milwaukee, Wisconsin, park in 1912. It is likely that my great-great grandfather knew quite a few of these surviving veterans. (This photo was found on the opposite side of Friedrich's framed Civil War Discharge Document). Though Friedrich had been deceased 12 years before this group reunion photo was taken, it was likely that a surviving veteran gave the Holtz family a copy of the picture).