



Lincoln Library

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection at Allen County Public Library

Otis Moody – Annie F. Noble Collection

51st Illinois Volunteers

1 box; 0.25 cubic feet

Biographical Notes

Otis Moody (1829- Sept. 20, 1863)

Otis Moody was born in 1829 in Massachusetts to Levi and Mary Moody. He later moved with his brother Andrew to Chicago, where they were “master builders.” The 1860 United States Federal Census shows Otis residing in Chicago’s 2nd Ward with his brother Andrew and sister-in-law Sarah. Moody enlisted for military service with the 51st Illinois Volunteers on September 20, 1861, at the age of 32. He was commissioned first lieutenant of Company K. When Luther Bradley took command of the brigade that included the 51st Illinois, Otis was named acting assistant adjutant general of the brigade and served as Bradley’s adjutant until his death. His duties were mostly administrative but critical to the efficient operation of the military unit.

On September 19, 1863, at Chickamauga, Bradley led his brigade into battle. Moody’s duty was to dispatch Bradley’s orders to other officers. Moody was shot in the abdomen and critically wounded. His friend, Lewis Hanback of the 27th Illinois, carried Moody to a makeshift cabin hospital and stayed with him during the last hours of his life. Otis Moody died from his wounds the morning of September 20, 1863, exactly two years after enlisting in the Army. He was first buried near the cabin hospital. In February 1864, he and other Union dead who had been hastily buried after the battle were reinterred in the newly created Chattanooga National Cemetery.

Annie Fenwick Noble Walbridge (Sept. 8, 1837-Sept. 28, 1910)

Annie Fenwick Noble was born in North Shields, England, on September 8, 1838. Her father, Capt. James Noble, commanded a vessel in the Royal Navy and was killed during the Opium Wars in China. Annie and her mother, Anne Watson Noble, emigrated from England to the United States when Annie was 21 years old. The passenger list for the ship *American Eagle* shows that they arrived in New York City from London on August 22, 1859. It is not known how Annie met Otis Moody, but his letters to her reveal that they shared a connection to evangelical Protestantism and a close personal relationship. Moody’s will included a bequest to Annie: “I desire to have my pocket testament, which has been my companion during the Campaign, sent to my friend, Miss Annie F. Noble.”

Annie lived in Brooklyn, New York, and was active in Henry Ward Beecher's Plymouth Church. On September 3, 1868, she married Charles Eliphalet Walbridge, a Civil War veteran and influential Buffalo, New York, businessman. The couple settled in Buffalo; they had five children, two of whom died in infancy. Annie died on September 28, 1910, and is buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo.

Scope and Content

The Otis Moody – Annie F. Noble Collection consists of 35 letters written to Annie F. Noble between December 1860 and June 1865. Thirty-three letters were written by Otis Moody; two letters were written by Otis's brother Andrew's wife; and one incomplete letter was written by an unknown correspondent. Also included in one of Otis's letters is a lock of his hair that he sent to Annie. Otis's letters to Annie are dated from December 1860 to September 1863. His pre-war letters contain courting banter and reveal his religious sensibilities and his opposition to slavery. His wartime letters describe his time in the Army, his experiences with his duties, and day-to-day life during the Civil War. Otis also offers Annie advice on a variety of matters. The letters to Annie from Sarah Moody reveal the two women's close acquaintance; the letter dated October 13, 1863, discusses Otis's death and the family's attempts to recover his body. The incomplete letter dated June 27, 1865, which lacks a signature, reveals that Annie had at least one other suitor between Otis's death and her marriage to Charles E. Walbridge.

Also included in the collection is a folder of supplementary material that contains the following: a printout of Otis Moody's biography and burial information from the 51st Illinois website (website no longer active; see <http://web.archive.org/web/20080820042504/http://www.51illinois.org/moody.html>; <http://web.archive.org/web/20120829162411/http://www.51illinois.org/page2.html>); a copy of an 1860 US federal Chicago census record listing Andrew, Sarah, and Otis Moody; a transcript of a letter written by Lewis Hanback to Otis's mother describing his presence at Otis's death; an e-mail of the text of Otis's will; a copy of a New York passenger list for the *American Eagle* documenting Annie F. Noble's arrival in New York on August 22, 1859; a copy of the memorial and family history of Annie's husband, Charles Eliphalet Walbridge, noting his marriage to Annie on September 3, 1868; a copy of Col. Luther Bradley's letter noting his visit to Annie several months after Otis's death; a printout showing Annie's headstone and burial information; and other emails dated 2008 regarding the Otis Moody and his military service.

Container List

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Item Number</u>
<i><u>Otis Moody to Annie F. Noble</u></i>		
December 1860	Chicago	71200908301018
April 4, 1861	Chicago	71200908301019
May 1, 1861	Chicago	71200908301020
June 18, 1861	Chicago	71200908301021
July 25, 1861	Chicago	71200908301022
August 12, 1861	Chicago	71200908301023
August 21, 1861	Chicago	71200908301024
September 11, 1861	Chicago	71200908301025
September 30, 1861	Chicago	71200908301026
October 20, 1861	Chicago	71200908301027
October 29, 1861	Chicago	71200908301028
December 8, 1861	Camp Douglas, Chicago	71200908301029
December 22, 1861	McDonnough County, Tennessee	71200908301030
January 3, 1862	Camp Douglas, Chicago	71200908301031
January 21, 1862	Camp Douglas, Chicago	71200908301032
February 9, 1862	Camp Douglas, Chicago	71200908301033
February 17, 1862	Camp McClernand, Cairo, Illinois	71200908301034
March 2, 1862	Camp Cullom, Kentucky	71200908301035
April 6, 1862	Camp near New Madrid [Missouri]	71200908301036
April 20, 1862	On board steamer D.G. Taylor, near Paduc[ah], Kentucky	71200908301037
April 25, 1862	Hamburg, Tennessee	71200908301038
May 16, 1862	Camp near Corinth, Mississippi	71200908301039
May 26, 1862	Farmington, Mississippi camp near Corinth	71200908301040
June 8, 1862	Camp near Booneville, Mississippi	71200908301041
July 19, 1862	Camp Big Springs, near Corinth, Mississippi	71200908301042
August 1, 1862	On Memphis and Charleston Railroad near Decatur, Alabama	71200908301043
December 18, 1862	Camp Sheridan, 5 miles from Nashville on Nolensville Pike	71200908301044
March 12, 1863	Camp near Murfreesboro, Tennessee	71200908301045
April 28, 1863	Camp Schaefer near Murfreesboro, Tennessee	71200908301046
July 26, 1863	Cumberland Mountains	71200908301047
August 20, 1863	Bridgeport, Alabama	71200908301048
September 3, 1863	Hog Jaw Valley, Alabama	71200908301049
September 12, 1863	Alpine, Georgia	71200908301050

Sarah Moody to Annie F. Noble

May 13, 1862 Chicago

October 13, 1863 Chicago

[71200908301051](#)

[71200908301052](#)

Unknown suitor to Annie F. Noble

June 27, 1865 Near Ball's Cross Roads, Virginia

[71200908301053](#)

Jane E. Gastineau, 2013
Revised, Jane E. Gastineau, June 2015