Hiram in the Civil War

Introduction

The village of Hiram and the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute which was founded there in 1850 (now Hiram College) were involved in the Civil War to an extraordinary degree. James A. Garfield, the principal of the “seminary,” as it was often called, recruited a company of young men from the school and the surrounding township in the fall of 1861. These youths served in the War of the Rebellion until they were mustered out in September, 1864. The families and friends of the men of Company A of the 42nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry kept in close contact with the soldiers, and they preserved the correspondence that traveled between the little northeastern Ohio hamlet and the “tented hill.”

Over the years, several diaries and collections of letters related to the war have been donated to the Hiram College Archives and to the Hiram Historical Society, whose documentary collections are kept in the Archives. These papers preserve the Civil War history of both Hiram College and the Hiram community for scholars and the general public. Private individuals and families in the area also own collections of Civil War letters and journals, and the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland holds a significant collection of Civil War material which helps to paint the picture of Hiram’s place in Civil War history.

David Anderson, Kenyon Professor of English at Hiram College, has transcribed many of the letters and other documents related to Hiram’s participation in the conflict. Joanne Sawyer, College Archivist, has edited them into a dramatic reading entitled “Hiram in the Civil War.” The presentation tells the moving and poignant story of Hiram’s involvement in the Civil War in the words of some twenty local people of the period. This is a story of valor and sacrifice that is unique to Hiram, yet universal in many villages and towns during the Civil War.

A Dramatic Reading from Letters and Documents

in the Hiram College Archives, the Western Reserve Historical Society, the Library of Congress and the family papers of Vesta Ryder Clarke

Compiled by David R. Anderson
and edited by Joanne M. Sawyer

Dramatis Personae:

1. Kate Allyn, Almeda Booth, Eliza Ballou Garfield, Lucretia Rudolph Garfield, Fanny King Mason, Esther J. Smith, and published accounts .............................................. Joanne Sawyer
2. Peleg C. Mason, ........................................................................................................... Nicholas Robinette
3. James A. Garfield, Charles E. Henry, Zeb Rudolph .................................................. David Anderson
4. Aaron Allyn, Edward Allyn, Edwin Allyn, John J. Ryder ............................................. Dennis Taylor

Kate Allyn: .............................................. ec62; sister of Aaron Allyn; died Sept. 30, 1863
Almeda Booth: ..............................................................................................................
Eliza Ballou Garfield: .....................................................................................................
Lucretia Rudolph Garfield: ............................................................................................
Fanny King Mason: ....................................................................................................... ec55; wife of James A. Garfield
Frank H. Mason: ........................................................................................................... ec55; wife of Carnot C. Mason, ec54
Esther J. Smith: ............................................................................................................ ec56
Peleg C. Mason: ............................................................................................................ ec61 [1841-1907]
Emily Mason Ryder: ..................................................................................................... ec56; wife of John J. Ryder
James A. Garfield: ec52; teacher and principal at WREI; Colonel, Co. A, 42nd O.V.I.; Brigadier General, Army of the Cumberland
Amos Sutton Hayden: first principal of the WREI; Disciple minister at Euclid, OH
Charles E. Henry: ec61; friend and confidant of James A. Garfield
Harriet Root: cousin of Charles E. Henry; lived in Bainbridge, OH
Zeb Rudolph: a founder of WREI; father of Lucretia Rudolph Garfield; father-in-law of James A. Garfield
A[aron] Allyn: ec62; died May 1, 1863
Edward Allyn: ec59; twin brother of Edwin
Edwin Allyn: ec58; twin brother of Edward; died April 26, 1864
Emily Allyn Mason: ec56; wife of John G. Mason
John J. Ryder: ec51; Hiram farmer; husband of Emily Mason Ryder
Rena Young: ec64
Burke Hinsdale: ec60; President of Hiram College, 1870-1882; friend and confidant of James A. Garfield
John M. Jolly: Co. B, 42nd O.V.I.; regimental comrade of Edwin Allyn
Elijah Mason: ec62
John G. Mason: ec56; husband of Emily Allyn Mason
William Henry Harrison Monroe: ec62
R.C. Norton: ec61
J. Harrison Rhodes: ec54; teacher at WREI, 1854-1863; friend and confidant of James A. Garfield
James K. Rudolph: ec61; cousin of Lucretia Rudolph Garfield
Clarissa Strong: ec65; fiancée of James K. Rudolph

**"ec" stands for the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute; the number following is the year of enrollment.

**Fallen Hiram Civil War Soldiers**

**Sources:**
Green, F.M. *History of Hiram College.* Cleveland, 1901.
*Official Roster of the Soldiers of the State of Ohio in the War of the Rebellion.* Akron, 1887.
Wakefield, E.B. "Hiram in the Civil War," *The Hiram Advance* (June 24, 1908).

Allyn, Aaron [ec62], Co. A, 42nd OVI, killed Port Gibson, May 1, 1863.
Allyn, Edwin [ec58], died of sickness Knoxville, TN, April 26, 1864.
Bard, Capt. David D. [ec61], 104th OVI, died Franklin, TN, November 30, 1864.
Bennett, Comfort [ec61], Co. A, 42nd OVI, died of sickness, March 14, 1863.
Bentley, Baldwin [ec62], Co. A, 42nd OVI, died of sickness, Kentucky, February 10, 1863.
Bowler, Charles P. [ec59], 7th OVI, "Shot through the heart," Cedar Mt., VA, August 9, 1862.
Brewster, Morris M. [ec62], Co. A, 42nd OVI, died of sickness, January 4, 1862.
Buckingham, D.W. [ec58], Co. F, 2nd U.S. Sharpshooters, wounded Gettysburg, July 3, 1863; died in service, November 26, 1863.
Chapman, Elam [ec62], Co. A, 42nd OVI, died of sickness, Kentucky, March 28, 1862.
Coburn, Wallace [ec61], 7th OVI, mortally wounded, Winchester, VA, March 23, 1862.
Cook, Amasa B. [ec61], Co. A, 42nd OVI, killed near Vicksburg, January 5, 1863.
Cowles, Frank B. [ec60], Co. A, 42nd OVI, died of sickness, Kentucky, March 28, 1862.
Curtis, Albert [ec62], Co. A, 42nd OVI, died of sickness, December 12, 1862.
Davidson, Edward K. [ec62], Battery A, 1st Ohio Artillery, killed in battle, Woodsonville, KY, October 22, 1862.
Durkee, Warren [ec 60], 23rd OVI (Hayes' regiment), killed Antietam.
Haven, John R. [ec59], first WREI student killed; Cotter's Independent Battery, Scarey Creek, Charleston, WV, July 17, 1861; died July 24, 1861.
Hinckley, Bester R. [ec53], Co. A, 42nd OVI, died Plaquemine, LA, February 7, 1864.
James, Seth [ec64], 9th Battery, OVA Artillery, died of sickness.
Mason, Capt. Ambrose [ec59], 105th OVI, died after Battle of Perryville, KY, October 8, 1862.
Mead, Cyrus [ec60], Co. A, 42nd OVI, died of sickness, March 27, 1862.
Northway, Maj. Delos [ec61], 6th Ohio Cavalry, died in Wilderness Campaign, 1864.
Norville, Capt. Henry C. [ec60], 23rd Michigan, died in service.
Patchin, Lt. Lester F. [ec60], 41st Ohio (Hazen's regiment), mortally wounded Stone River, December 31, 1862.
Pulsipher, Thomas N. [ec 60] 131st Illinois, died in service, Louisiana, winter, 1862-63.
Rockwell, Lt. D.L. [ec65], 5th Regiment USA Colored Troops, died.
Rudolph, John C. [ec59], died August 12, 1862.
Ryder, Calvin [ec62], Co. A, 42nd OVI, killed at Vicksburg, May 1, 1863.
Smith, J.H. [ec60], Co. B, 6th U.S. Cavalry, died of disease in service, September 4, 1864.
Smith, William H. [ec59], 14th OVI Battery, died of disease in service, August 2, 1863.
Webb, Mervin F. [ec61], Battery, OVI Artillery, died.
Williams, Maj. Frederick Augustus [ec61], 42nd OVI, died in service, July 25, 1862.
Williamson, W.P. [ec60], 29th OVI, killed Winchester, VA, March 23, 1862.
Winchel, Abel P. [ec62], Co. A, 42nd OVI, died of disease, December 12, 1861.

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**Sources:**

*Allyn-Mason Civil War Letters.* Hiram College Archives.


MS 4575. Western Reserve Historical Society.

*James A. Garfield Correspondence.* Library of Congress.


*James A. Garfield Collection.* Hiram College Archives.


*Amos Sutton Hayden Papers.* Hiram College Archives.

*Henry Family Papers.* Hiram College Archives.

Henry, Frederick A. *Captain Henry of Geauga.* Cleveland, 1942.

*Hiram College Advance.* Hiram College Archives.


*Portage County Democrat.* Ravenna, Ohio.

*Rudolph Collection.* Hiram College Archives.

*Ryder Family Papers.* Courtesy of Vesta Ryder Clarke. Hiram, Ohio.


*Diary of Hettie J. Smith,* ec 61. Hiram College Archives.