

# BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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## Walter Thorn

[Archive]: *Walter Thorn Papers, circa 1860-1910*

[Brooklyn, New York]: (1860-1910)

\$5000



A small archive of letters, documents, and related personal papers of Walter Thorn, a highly decorated Union Army officer and prominent civic leader and attorney in Brooklyn, New York. An outspoken abolitionist, during the Civil War Thorn served in two New York Infantry units before becoming second lieutenant in the 116th Infantry, United States Colored Troops, an African-American regiment from Kentucky. He attained the rank of Brevet Major and won several medals for hand-to-hand combat and bravery during the war. In 1898 he was awarded the Medal of Honor for rescuing a picket guard of the 116th at the Dutch Gap Canal in Virginia.

After the war Thorn held several federal, county and local government posts, served as Captain of the New York National Guard, and was active in several veterans' organizations. In the early 1900s he served as commander of the Medal of Honor Legion and President of the War Veterans and Sons Association.

The archive is comprised of a scrapbook and two file-folders containing clippings and printed ephemera relating to Thorn's Civil War and post-war activities and awards; one file folder of printed and manuscript documents relating to Thorn's appointments to Deputy Sheriff and other Brooklyn government posts; and 12 Autographs of Civil War officers and other prominent friends. Also included are about 20 typed letters and several draft manuscripts and ephemera dating from when Thorn served as President and Director of the Medal of Honor Legislative Committee and Medal of Honor Legion.

A detailed list follows:

Scrapbook and two file folders of Clippings, circa 1861-1910

[Scrapbook]: Quarto. 100pp. Half-cloth and marbled paper over boards. Contains numerous articles and ephemera about, by, and collected by Walter Thorn. Most of the material relates to: the 14th Regiment New York State Militia (also called the 14th Brooklyn); the New York National Guard (Company "A" 14th Regiment); the Medal of Honor award (1898); and relating to Thorn's activities as President of the Medal of Honor Legislative Committee (early 1900's).

Manuscript and Printed Documents, 1870s-1900  
(Housed inside a mid-19th century oblong French publisher's binding)

1. Eastern District of New York. [Document]: Oblong quarto (12½" x 8½"): Appointment of Walter Thorn Special Deputy Marshal. 4 November 1870. Issued and Signed by Francis L. Dallon, Marshal of the United States for the Eastern District of New York.

2. Eastern District of New York. [Document]: Quarto (9" x 11"): Appointment of Walter Thorn Deputy Marshal of the United States. 3 October 1872. Issued and Signed by Samuel R. Harlow.

3. Kings County Clerk's Office. [Printed Document]: Quarto (9" x 11½"): Appointment of Walter Thorn Commissioner of Deeds for Brooklyn. 31 December 1872. Issued and Signed by George G. Herman.

4. Aras G. Williams, Sheriff of Kings County. [Manuscript Warrant]: (8½" x 14"). 1 January 1873. Manuscript copy. Appointment of Walter Thorn as Deputy Sherriff of Kings County (Brooklyn). Issued and Signed by Aras G. Williams.

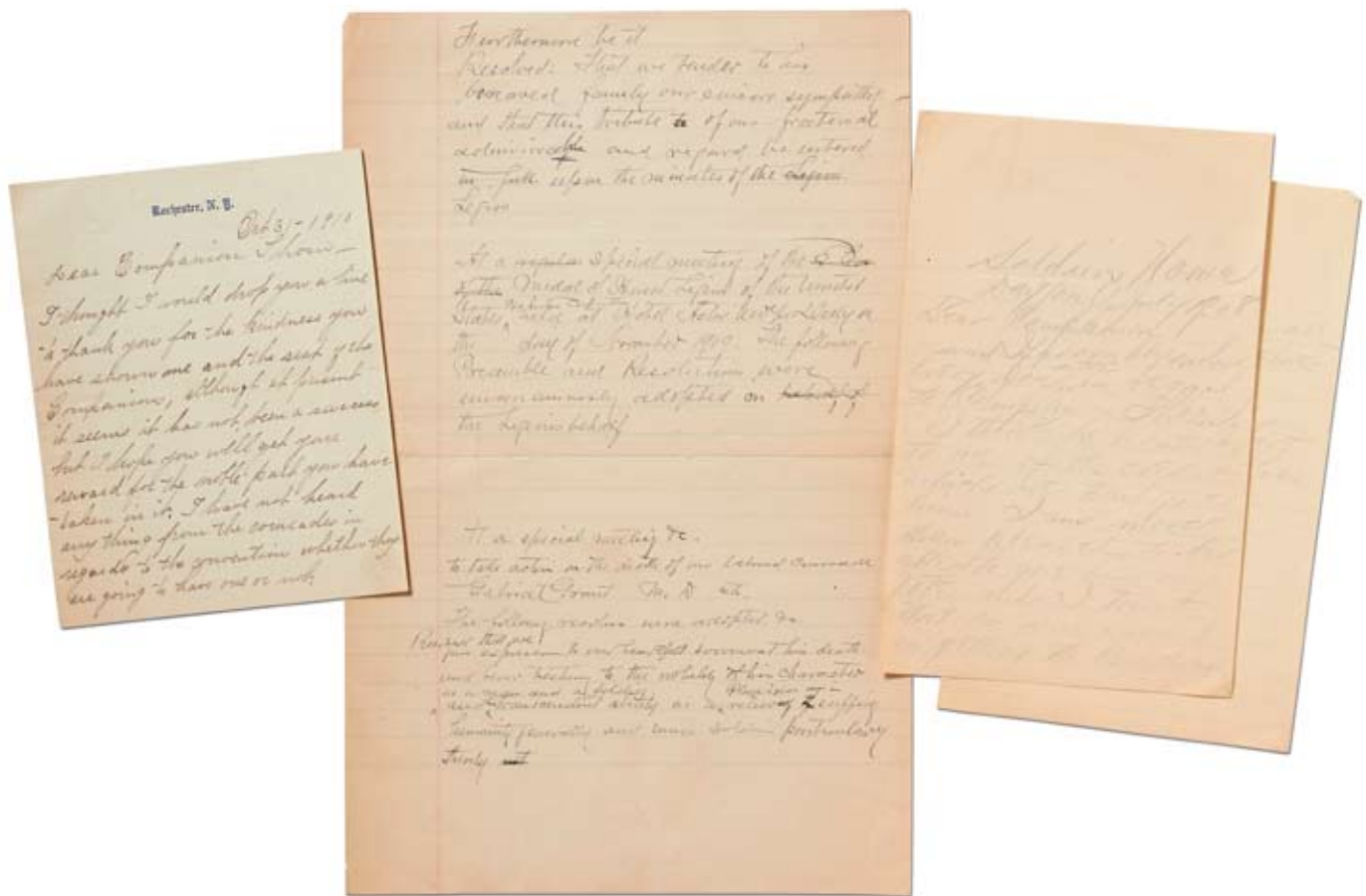
5. John H. Starin. [Signed Invitation]: (4" x 6½"). Headquarters Boat, June 10, 1901. Issued by John Starin, re: the 23rd Annual Excursion for Union Veteran Soldiers and Sailors of New York.

A photograph of a handwritten note on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in cursive ink. At the top, it says "Schenck, Ross, AQS 5-20-64." The main body of the text reads "No compromise with traitors in arms." Below that, it says "Ross, Schenck" and "May 20. 1864." There is a small "CW" written in the bottom left corner.

Walter Thorn Letters and Documents, early 1900s  
-[Typescript Letter (annotated draft)]: Folio (8" x 13").  
4 sheets, typed on the rectos. Brooklyn: 2 May 1907.  
A public letter: "From the Brooklyn Daily Times" addressed to Grand Marshall Daniel Simmons, notifying him "that he would not serve on his staff in the parade on Decoration Day because it is proposed to have the Confederate Veterans Camp in line with U.S. Grant Post on that day." ... "An issue is raised that will not down. The spirit which impelled our Comrades to voluntarily pass through the baptism of blood, which by the grace of God resulted in the freedom of four million slaves, is not dead and will sooner or later assert itself."

-[Circular Letter, Signed (annotated draft)]: Folio (8" x 12"). Incomplete (lacking the first sheet): pp. 2-4, typed on the rectos. Thorn responds to an attempt to establish a "rival" Legion.

-[20 TLS]. Medal of Honor Legislative Committee and Medal of Honor Legion. 1907-08. Walter Thorn's correspondence in his capacity as President and Chairman of the Medal of Honor Legislative Committee. Typed letters: Law Offices of Walter Thorn, Brooklyn, N.Y., and Medal of Honor Legislative Committee letterhead. Official business regarding a movement (initiative) to petition Congress to pension Medal of Honor men. Thorn argues in favor of the movement. Additional business, reports of committee meetings, etc.



-[Draft Manuscript]: Folio. 2pp. Memorial tribute to Surgeon Gabriel Grant, U.S. Army. He was awarded the Medal of Honor July 21, 1897 for extraordinary heroism on 1 June, 1862.

-[2 Draft Letters]: Half-page letter to "Comrade Porter" (Oct. 4, 1909) and one undated 2pp. quarto letter.

Thomas L. Gilbert (to Walter Thorn)

-ALS. Octavo. 3pp. Soldier's Home, Dayton, Ohio: July, 1908.

-ALS. Octavo. 3pp. Rochester, N.Y.: October 31, 1910.

12 Autographs: Civil War officers and other prominent friends/colleagues

-George W. Childs [2 autographs]: Publisher; philanthropist; co-owned the Philadelphia Public Ledger with financier Anthony Drexel. Two autographs dated 1885 and 1889.

-John A. J. Creswell [2 autographs]: Radical Republican from Maryland (United States Representative and Senator); Postmaster General of the United States (appointed by President Ulysses S. Grant).

-Donald M. Dickinson: Postmaster General of the United States (appointed by President Grover Cleveland).

-Thomas T. Eckert: Brigadier General in the Civil War;

Chief of the War Department Telegraph Staff (1862-1866); Assistant Secretary of War (1865-1867); and an executive at Western Union.

-Richard B. Haldane, 1st Viscount Haldane: influential British Liberal Imperialist and later Labour politician, lawyer and philosopher; Secretary of State for War (1905-1912); Lord Chancellor (1912-1915); served again as Lord Chancellor in 1924 in the first Labour administration.

-Thomas L. James: Journalist, government official, and banker who served as the United States Postmaster General (appointed by President James Garfield).

-Henry Ware Lawton: Major General (also awarded the Medal of Honor), who served with distinction in the Civil War, the Apache Wars, the Spanish–American War and was the only U.S. general officer to be killed during the Philippine–American War.

-Robert C. Schenck: Major General in the Civil War; American diplomatic representative to Brazil and the United Kingdom. He was at both battles of Bull Run and took part in Jackson's Valley Campaign of 1862, and the Battle of Cross Keys. Inscribed and dated in 1864: "No compromise with traitors in arms. Robt. C. Schenck / May 20, 1864."

-James S. Sherman: 27th Vice President of the United States (1909–1912), under President William H. Taft; the first VP to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at a

baseball game.

-[Autograph]: (Union General - ?).

Photograph

8" x 10" gelatin silver print, mounted on cardboard:  
captioned on the back: "M. T. Abel, 1 st Lieut. Co. C  
- Gov. Guards, Columbia, S.C.


Medal of Honor Legion (Six printed reports in stapled wraps)

-12th Annual Reunion (1902)

-Annual Convention (1905-1908)

-Annual Meeting (1911) [BTC#400069]

United States of America, }  
Eastern District of New York. }



I, FRANCIS L. DALLON, Marshal of the United States for the Eastern District of New York, under and in pursuance of the Act of Congress, approved July 14, 1870, entitled "An Act to Amend the Naturalization Laws, and to punish crimes against the same, and for other purposes."


Do hereby Appoint *Walter Thorn*

of the City of Brooklyn, a SPECIAL DEPUTY MARSHAL, for the purposes mentioned in the Sixth Section of said Act, which provides as follows: "And it is further enacted, That in any city, having upwards of twenty thousand inhabitants, it shall be lawful for the Marshal of the United States, for the district wherein said city shall be, to appoint as many Special Deputies as may be necessary to preserve order at any election at which representatives in Congress are to be chosen; and said Deputies are hereby authorized to preserve order at such elections, and to arrest for any offence or breach of the peace committed in their view."

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 4<sup>th</sup> day of Nov. 1870.

*Francis L. Dallon*  
United States Marshal,  
Eastern District of New York.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



Eastern District of New York.

This is to Certify, That I, SAMUEL R. HARLOW, Marshal of the United States for the Eastern District of New York, do hereby by virtue of the right and power to me appertaining as said Marshal, designate and appoint *Walter Thorn* a Deputy Marshal of the United States for the purpose of performing the duties and exercising the powers of such Deputy Marshal as the same are specially set forth and conferred in an Act of the Congress of the United States, approved May 31st, 1870, entitled, "An Act to enforce the right of citizens of the United States to vote in the several States of this Union and for other purposes," and the Act or Acts supplementary thereto or amendatory thereof.

And Whereas, The Congress of the United States by an Act entitled, "An Act to amend an Act approved May 31, 1870, entitled "An Act to enforce the rights of citizens of the United States to vote in the several States of the Union, and for other purposes," approved February 28, 1871, did in and by the Eighth Section of said Act enact as follows:

"And it is further enacted, That whenever an election, at which Representatives or Delegates in Congress are to be chosen, shall be held in any city or town of twenty thousand inhabitants or upward, the Marshal of the United States for the district in which said city or town is situated, shall have power, and it shall be his duty, on the application, in writing, of at least two citizens residing in and such city or town, to appoint special deputy marshals, whose duty it shall be, when required as provided in this act, to aid and assist the supervisors of elections in the verification of any list of persons ready under the provisions of this act, who may have registered, or voted, or claims to be placed in such election district as voting precinct at the time and places fixed for the registration of voters, and at all times and places when and where said registration may by law be verified, and the names of registered voters be certified for challenge; and also to attend, at all times for holding such elections, the polls of the election in such district or precinct."

And Whereas, Two citizens residing in the City of Brooklyn have made application to me, in writing, to appoint Special Deputy Marshals, in accordance with the provisions of the above section.


Now therefore, I, SAMUEL R. HARLOW, Marshal of the United States for the Eastern District of New York, do hereby, in pursuance of the authority and power so conferred upon me, appoint *Walter Thorn* of the City of Brooklyn, County of Kings, and State of New York, a Special Deputy Marshal, to exercise and perform the duties, powers and obligations imposed, authorized, prescribed and required by the said Act, or any Act amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two.

*Samuel R. Harlow*  
Marshal of the United States for the Eastern District of New York.

Unless otherwise ordered in writing, this appointment will cease and expire on Nov. 6th, 1872.

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE,  
KINGS COUNTY.



State of New York, }  
COUNTY OF KINGS, }

I, GEORGE G. HERMAN, Clerk of the County of Kings, do hereby certify that, as appears by a Certificate on file in my Office, *Walter Thorn* was, on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of Dec. 1872, appointed a COMMISSIONER OF DEEDS, in and for the City of Brooklyn. I further certify that the said *Walter Thorn* on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of Dec. 1872, took, subscribed, and filed in my Office the oath of office required by law.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of Dec. 1872.

*George G. Herman*  
Clerk.