

**Eugene B. Payne, and Adelia A. Wright; John C. Black, and Others**  
*The General Eugene B. Payne Collection: Consisting of Civil War Letters along with Postwar Letters and Documents from when Payne was an Illinois State Legislator and U.S. Pension Examiner*  
 (1857- circa 1900) \$18,000



A large archive of the personal and professional correspondence of Brevet Brigadier General Eugene B. Payne (37th Illinois Infantry), consisting of about 575 autograph letters and associated documents and ephemera. The collection includes 82 letters of Civil War date exchanged between Payne and his wife Adelia (“Delia”) Wright, together with about 80 other personal letters dating from 1857 up through the 1860s. Also included are Payne’s postwar mostly professional correspondence: consisting of about 375 letters written to Payne from 1865 up through the 1890s, when he was elected a member of the Illinois State Legislature (1864-68), practiced law, and became a U.S. Pension Examiner based in Washington, D.C., and Cleveland, Ohio. The collection includes an 1863 tintype portrait of Payne taken in the field, and a small group of letters written to Payne from Medal of Honor winner General John Charles Black, a longtime friend and fellow soldier in the 37th Regiment, dating from when Black was U.S. Commissioner of Pensions in 1885-89. The tintype is removed from the original case and has some rust abrasion to part of the image, else the letters, documents and ephemera are very good or better overall; with the Civil War letters and associated materials neatly laid in plastic sleeves housed in five three-ring binders.

A descendent of Thomas Paine, Eugene Beauharnais Payne was born in 1835 at Seneca Falls, New York. He briefly practiced law after graduating from Northwestern University in 1860 and helped organize the 37th Illinois Volunteer Regiment “The Fremont Rifles” in 1861. He served as 2nd Lieutenant of Co. H., 1st Illinois Zouaves; Captain of Co. C., 37th Illinois Volunteers, and later as Major and Colonel of the same regiment. During the war he fought in the battles of Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove. He also participated in Union raids along the Mexican border during the Tennessee Campaign, and in General Bank’s Red River Campaign. He left the army at the end of 1864 and returned to his legal practice in Illinois, where he also served in the state legislature, and later became a member of the review board for the Bureau of Pensions in Washington, D.C.

Of the 82 Civil War letters, 42 were written by Payne to Delia, and 40 by Delia to Payne. Payne and Delia were deeply in love, and the letters reveal the extent to which Payne was willing to go (including feigning illness) in hopes of obtaining a furlough. (They were married on January 26, 1862). Here Payne is writing from his camp at Boonville, Missouri, on Christmas Day, 1861:

“God grant that our mutual prayers may be answered & I be allowed ere long to fold my beloved one once more to my heart ... / [Uncle Sam’s] authority here in Missouri is a little mixed. Sometimes it is Union & sometimes it is secesh. Our troops here have accomplished but one success ... this was the taking of 1,340 prisoners by 340 of our [men] ... There are 7 companies of the 8th Iowa Reg. here with Lt. Col. Mathias commanding, & our two companies “C” & “H” under myself. I have the best Company in the state, best drilled & best in everything ...”

But more often than not, events on the field kept Payne busy with his regiment, chasing after Confederate General Bedford Forrest during the Tennessee Campaign, or helping Union General Nathaniel Banks in his retreat to New Orleans during the Red River Campaign. Here Payne is writing from his camp at “Hull’s Plantation” in Mississippi on May 8th, 1864:

“... we are encamped in the door yard of a once wealthy planter (now a rebel colonel). Tis a very beautiful place ... One week ago today we started out from Memphis after old Forrest who was reported at Bolivar. On Tuesday our advance guard found and attacked Forrest with a part of his force at Bolivar. He skirmished for about one hour & then retreated towards Corinth ... We followed on after Forrest to Ripley about 20 miles S.W. of Corinth, when finding from prisoners whom we took that Forrest had reached the Secesh Rail Road & had embarked & that it would be useless to follow him. We turned back & marched for Memphis ... When we reach Memphis we will have completed a triangle – a circuit of 200 miles. This has been the most severe march on my men of any that they ever made ... we have had no tents, nothing but our blankets & mess kits. I have slept out in the open air all the time since our departure from Memphis ...”

And here he is one week later, at the “Mouth of Red River” (May 16, 1864):

“we ... went on board two little steamers – the right wing under charge of Don John Charles (Black) took possession of the ‘Idahoe’, and your roaming husband with the left wing went on board the ‘Hazel Dell’ ... About ten pm we reached the mouth of the Red River, a distance of 60 miles and came to an anchorage among a large fleet of steamers ... We went up to Genl. Canby’s headquarters and reported & was ordered to report to Genl. Herron ... He told us that the Red River expedition was a failure,

that Banks was retreating toward the mouth ... He will retreat to New Orleans. The whole Army is demoralized. Heavy firing has been heard all day. As we number about 250 we will not go up Red River to help Banks off – but assist his coming & go to N.O. – Kirby Smith [Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith] sent word to [General] Banks just before the big fight of the 9th Apr. that if he brought Negroes into the fight that he would show no quarter to neither white or black – Banks, like the white-livered coward as he is, complied & withdrew the Negroes. I have this from an officer of [General Henry] Frisbie's Regt. who used to be a sergeant in my Regt. ...”

Most of Delia's letters were written from their home in Waukegan, Illinois. In a letter from October 12, 1863, Delia, thinking her husband safe at a “convalescing Camp at New Orleans,” expresses her alarm when she is told by a Union soldier that Payne's Division “had left New Orleans – joined the other portion of the 13th Army Corps., and with Franklin's had suffered a severe battle on some river which he could not remember and at some date which he could not remember – He said Herron's was the advanced Pickets. The enemy fell upon them in overpowering numbers – killed 700 and took 2000 prisoners. Is this, can this be true? If it is – you must have been with them ...”

Among the other letters dating from 1857 through the 1860s are 21 personal letters written to Payne or Delia by friends and family, and 30 professional letters written to Payne regarding financial and personnel matters of the 37th Regiment. Included among the approximately 375 postwar letters are a few personal letters, but most are professional letters relating to Payne's work as a legislator, lawyer, and Pension Examiner from 1885 – circa 1900. In 1904 Payne published a history of the 37th Illinois Regiment at the Battle of Pea Ridge. He died in Washington at the age of 75 in 1910.

A remarkable and historically important archive of letters, rich in content. A detailed list with a few selected excerpts from the Civil War letters follows:

#### I. Civil War Letters of Eugene Payne and Delia Wright (82 ALS, 1861-65)

Eugene to Delia (42 ALS)

1. ALS. Quarto. 3pp. Home, January 12, 1861. (E/S).

[Describes his efforts to get a furlough to see his brother, who is dying.]

2. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Waukegan, March 13, 1861. (E/S).

“... Yes ... Waukegan I feel to be my home. Around it lingers my sweetest recollections. Here it was my first love was kindled. Here was I brought to light in that realm of dreams ...”

3. ALS. Octavo. 5pp. April 13, 1861. (E/S).

4. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Camp Yates, May 10, 1861. (E/S).

[Mentions the “Chicago Zouaves” (19th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry) and problems encountered by his Company:] “... We came down here [Headquarters, Camp Yates] under command of two Chicago Zouaves – the Company wanted to get into one of the six regiments called for by the President from Ill., but the Capt., being a Chicago boy, resisted it & wanted to get into a Zouave regiment. The consequence was that we were figured out of all the six regiments ... our Company ... have grown perfectly disgusted with the Army – they have been most basely treated, have been nearly

starved, & not as yet furnished with uniforms. Our Capt. being a stranger, works for the interest of his Chicago boys & neglects his own Company in consequence ...”

5. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Camp Yates, May 16, 1861. (E/S).

“... we have been mustered into the State service for 30 days from the 4th of May – we are in the first regiment of Ill. Militia. We have J.R. Scott for colonel ... Our Company now numbers about 85 privates & 12 officers ... we have all become disgusted with the way in which things have been conducted & the manner in which we have been treated – we hate our Capt. & are not modest in letting him know it – he is tyrannical to the men and neglectful also – He uses me well as far as I am concerned – If he did not he would not remain a live man long, – He is young & inexperienced, so are all the officers in the regiment ...”

6. ALS. Octavo. 8pp. Waukegan, August 11, 1861. (E/S).

“... But De’, I too have got the irrepressible ‘blues’. Our unfortunate expedition to camp Yates has been the means of it all ... [he describes being maligned by:] “contemptible fools ... they think although they do not express it, that my Company have thrown disgrace upon their country & that the only way to retrieve it is to go & do battle for our country ... I have come to the conclusion that this is my only course ... I have given you my promise I know my dearest love to disconnect myself forever from the Army, but my beloved ... will you not release me from that promise when you see how I am situated. When you can perceive that these taunts as to my courage are driving me wild - & that I am so to speak an utter void, a blank in this country unless I do something to counter balance ... the pressure. The path lies before me to do this – to enter the Army, & when the war is ended to return in triumph – take my beloved one to my own home ... If I enter the Army De’ I shall have a great many advantages as an officer ... Oh dearest say you will let me go & become a man again – let me go & show these people who is the coward ... The necessity for troops from Ill. is daily becoming more pressing – I have it from men of intelligence that there will be drafting in Illinois before the first of December – If I go now as volunteer I save the disgrace of being compelled to go by being drafted ... Dearest girl give me your consent to go & I can serve my country with a light heart ... I shall have plenty of opportunities of coming to you – I can get a furlough in November if I go now ...”

7. ALS. Small quarto. 4pp. Benton Barracks, St. Louis, September 23, 1861.

[Payne is promoted to Captain:] “... I went into camp with 90 men ... We staid at Chicago until 3 days ago when we received orders for St. Louis. We came, found Genl. Fremont expecting us ... we will form his body guard, hip hip hurrah wont that be grand! [He then describes being reviewed by Mrs. Fremont:] ... Although your Capt. has a responsible position & a dangerous one, yet he has the love & confidence of his men ... we are a band of brothers I tell you ... we have the most splendid set of colors I ever saw, a deep blue flag with the bust portrait life size of Genl. Fremont upon one side ... We shall stay in this place ... until ... we receive our arms (Belgian Riles) revolvers & bowie knives & then we are ready for sesesh ...”

8. ALS. Folio. 3pp. Boonville, Missouri, November 23, 1861. (E/S).

“... My Company – we are living in a neighborhood of ‘secesh’ as they term them here, but they are very pleasant & kind people ... I am stopping now at the house of a secessionist, but I sleep as securely as at home ...”

9. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Boonville, Missouri, December 1, 1861. (E/S).

“... I have promised you to come to you – I have planned & striven to do it, and always have been thwarted ... By the late rules of Genl. Halleck our commander in place of Fremont officers nor men cannot leave their commands, but I shall not be discouraged ... I am in a quandary about one thing ... to take you with me to the wars would be quite absurd ... I could not take you with me to camp. (Oh I could not, where I see strong men fall, grow sick and die. When I know that one half the men that enter the service cannot stand it ... / As a regiment we have never as yet participated in any battle. Part of our regiment is south of this place about 30 miles – they went through with Fremont to Springfield & returned – we have not seen them for near two months. We have however done something in the way of skirmishing, sometimes taking prisoners & sometimes killing the rebels when they would not submit. We have been stationed here at Boonville all this while – we expect soon however to join our regiment at Syracuse, Mo. ...”

10. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Boonville, Missouri, December 25th, 1861. (E/S).

[Payne cannot get leave, despite appealing directly to General Henry Halleck, so he plays-up health problems:] “... to get a certificate of sickness of unfitness for duty. This I have got although I am as healthy & sound as I ever was ... God grant that our mutual prayers may be answered & I be allowed ere long to fold my beloved one once more to my heart ... / [Uncle Sam’s] authority here in Missouri is a little mixed. Sometimes it is Union & sometimes it is secesh. Our troops here have accomplished but one success ... this was the taking of 1,340 prisoners by 340 of our [men] ... There are 7 companies of the 8th Iowa Reg. here with Lt. Col. Mathias commanding, & our two companies “C” & “H” under myself. I have the best Company in the state, best drilled & best in everything ...”

[Note: Payne’s letters from 1862 are held at Lake Forest College; and about 16 other wartime letters by Payne (dating from 1863-64) are held at Michigan University.]

11. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Camp at Hazel Dell, Missouri, March 5, 1863. (E/S). With an accompanying tintype of Payne, referenced by him in the letter. [Condition note: modest damage from a fire-stain with small piece from the final leaf, affecting part of the text].

“... I had my picture taken when I was up [at Springfield] ... you can explain the look of the picture in this wise: that at the battle of Prairie Grove a shell burst just in front of me and threw the dirt into my face that I never washed it off when I sat for the picture – and as we frontiers men never wash our faces it will pass. Well we might as well never wash for we never see any body. It is now either march-march or camp and fight. We get no rest ... the fact is I am discontented ... If we had anybody but a brute over us as general the position might be bearable. We have had in the last month 30 desertions in our regt. alone and for nothing else only as they said to their comrades before going that Genl. Totten had called them all ‘sons of bitches’ ...”

12. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Camp Carrolton, Louisiana, October 22, 1863. (E/S).

“... We are going to Texas, this is certain. All our transportation has been loaded upon ocean steamers, and I am quite sure our destination is Brownsville (which is opposite Matamoras, Mex. on the Rio Grande). We go there not to push into the country (for our force is not large enough) but to occupy & fortify Brownsville, Texas. I am quite glad this is to be our destination instead of Charleston ... Genl. Dana [Napoleon J.T. Dana] our new Div. commander is getting to be very popular. He has supplied us with new uniforms & tents & everything – I think by the supplies that we are taking along that the

expedition will be similar to that of Genl. Butler when he came here: to take & hold. Regiments of Eastern troops are here who came with Butler who have never left the city – We may go to Matamoros - take it & stay there the remainder of the war ...”

13. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Springfield, Illinois, January 4, 1864. (E/S).

14. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. (+ insert). Cairo, Illinois, April 28, 1864. (E/S).

15. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Memphis, April 29, 1864. (E/S).

16. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Hull’s Plantation, Mississippi, May 8th, 1864. (E/S)

“... we are encamped in the door yard of a once wealthy planter (now a rebel colonel). Tis a very beautiful place – has a magnificent garden ... One week ago today we started out from Memphis after old Forrest who was reported at Bolivar. On Tuesday our advance guard found and attacked Forrest with a part of his force at Bolivar. He skirmished for about one hour & then retreated towards Corinth. Wednesday night we reached Bolivar. We followed on after Forrest to Ripley about 20 miles S.W. of Corinth, when finding from prisoners whom we took that Forrest had reached the Secesh Rail Road & had embarked & that it would be useless to follow him. We turned back & marched for Memphis ... We have driven Forrest clear out of the State of Tenn. ... we have shown him that he could no longer roam & ravish West Tenn. unchecked. Brig. Genl. Sturgeon is our commander, our force numbers about 8,000 men. When we reach Memphis we will have completed a triangle – a circuit of 200 miles. This has been the most severe march on my men of any that they ever made ... we have had no tents, nothing but our blankets & mess kits. I have slept out in the open air all the time since our departure from Memphis ...”

17. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Memphis, Tennessee, May 11, 1864.

”We arrived here last night ... I had expected to stay here but that hope is blasted. We start for New Orleans today at 10 o’clock on the steamer ‘Marriner’ ... Oh that I could come to you & stay with you. I must, I will break this hated chain, this military bondage and be free once more ... I am getting sick of toiling for a government which does as much towards encouraging the rebellion as it does to put it down ...”

18. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Natches, Mississippi, May 13, 1864. (E/S).

“... we are floating down the Mississippi on an old tub of a boat nearly famished ... then we reach Vicksburg & we are transferred to a ... Steamer ‘Grey Eagle’ bound for New Orleans & suppose our troubles are all over ... [but] we reach this place and here an unforeseen difficulty presents itself – We encounter Genl. Camby who not only supercedes Banks but has command of ... the Grand Division west of the Miss. He (Genl. Camby) intimates that he will send us immediately up Red River ...”  
[Payne further describes preparations for the Red River expedition].

19. ALS. Quarto. 5pp. Mouth of Red River, May 16, 1864. (E/S).

[A long letter in which Payne describes the commencement of the Red River expedition:] “... we ... went on board two little steamers – the right wing under charge of Don John Charles (Black) took possession of the ‘Idahoe’, and your roaming husband with the left wing went on board the ‘Hazel Dell’. Down the river went Col. Don Charles and [me] ... only a short distance behind. About ten pm we reached the mouth of the Red River, a distance of 60 miles and came to an anchorage among a large fleet of steamers ... We went up to Genl. Canby’s headquarters and reported & was ordered to report

to Genl. Herron which we did – He told us that the Red River expedition was a failure, that Banks was retreating toward the mouth ...”

[Payne continues writing the next day in pencil:] “Afternoon – Banks is retreating towards the mouth of Red as fast as possible. He will retreat to New Orleans. The whole Army is demoralized. Heavy firing has been heard all day. As we number about 250 we will not go up Red River to help Banks off – but assist his coming & go to N.O. – Kirby Smith sent word to Banks just before the big fight of the 9th Apr. that if he brought Negroes into the fight that he would show no quarter to neither white or black – Banks, like the white-livered coward as he is, complied & withdrew the Negroes. I have this from an officer of Frisbie’s Regt. who used to be a sergt. in my Regt. ... Some of Banks Army has just come down – I send you some of my hair ... Wednesday May 18, ‘64 / I had scarcely done writing the last sentence when ‘Fall-in, Fall-in’ rang out loud ... I found that we were going up the old river to a point just below the mouth of Red & Atchafalaya rivers ... we went up – arrived here last night & found that our boats were to be used as a bridge across the Atchafalaya river for the safe passage of Genl. Banks demoralized remnant of an army ...” [Payne gives a further detailed description of the desperate state of Banks army, thus providing a first-hand account of the Confederate’s missed opportunity to capture the Union fleet (see: Taylor’s v. Smith)].

20. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Morganzia, Louisiana, May 24, 1864. (E/S).

[Banks and his army are ferried across the river, Payne marches to the Mississippi river and meets up with Major Kenncott’s forces; arrives to new headquarters (37th Ill.) at Morganzia:] “... we are temporarily attached to the 1st Brigade 1st Division 13th Army corps ... placed on post-duty from Baton Rouge to New Orleans ... the 19th corps ‘Banks Pets’ as they are called are ordered to the field for active service. We are glad as we can be – for those cowardly sneaking 19th corps have been on Post-duty ever since the war began & have done nothing ... As a Western man I hate the 19th corps almost as bad as I hate the sesesh ...”

21. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Morganzia, Louisiana, June 3, 1864. (E/S).

“... I think it was about a week ago we came here [Morganzia] the 22nd of May expecting all the time to go down the river. On the 30th a scare was gotten up by 19th corps (Oh how I hate those cowards) that the enemy were within 8 miles of us. So of course the 18th corps, or the little remnant of it – about 5,000 men – must needs go out & whip the enemy although the 19th were just below us & numbering about 12,000 – but they were back of the levee & out of harm & their Genl. didn’t want to expose them! So out we goes & after tramping all over the country for 30 miles out, returned las night, having only ran across some 200 guerillas whom we dispersed, killing ten ... You wonder darling how I can live. I could not if it were not for the reflection that I am soon to be free from the Army. I am only waiting until I get to New Orleans where we will get with our own Div. & away from this disorganized mob to tender my resignation ...”

22. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Morganzia, Louisiana, June 5, 1864. (E/S).

23. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Morganzia, Louisiana, June 8, 1864. (E/S).

24. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Morganzia, Louisiana, June 9, 1864. (E/S).

25. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Morganzia, Louisiana, June 12, 1864. (E/S).

26. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Morganzia, Louisiana, June 17, 1864. (E/S).

27. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Morganzia, Louisiana, June 22, 1864. (E/S).

28. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Morganzia, Louisiana, July 5, 1864. (E/S).
29. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Morganzia, Louisiana, July 8, 1864. (E/S).
30. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. (+ insert). Morganzia, Louisiana, July 10, 1864. (E/S).
31. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. St. Charles, Arkansas, July 30, 1864 (E/S).
32. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. St. Charles, Arkansas, August 6, 1864 (E/S).
33. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. On board Steamer 'Freestone' ... Vicksburg, August 10, 1864 (E/S).
34. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Morganzia, Louisiana, August 17, 1864. (E/S).
35. ALS. Quarto. 2pp. Morganzia, Louisiana, August 18, 1864. (E/S).
36. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Morganzia, Louisiana, August 22, 1864. (E/S).
37. ALS. Quarto. 2pp. Morganzia, Louisiana, August 28, 1864. (E/S).
38. ALS. Folio. 2pp. Morganzia, Louisiana, September 2, 1864. (E/S).
39. ALS. Folio. 4pp. Mouth of White River, September 8, 1864. (E/S).
40. ALS. Quarto. 2pp. White River Landing, Arkansas, September 10, 1864. (E/S).
41. ALS. Octavo. 8pp. Springfield, Illinois, January 1, 1865. (E/S).
42. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Chicago, Illinois, January 30, 1865. (E/S).

Delia to Eugene (40 ALS)

1. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Wednesday Eve, April 3, 1861. (E/S). [Drawing of bird cage].
2. ALS. Octavo. 5pp. Home, May 16, 1861. (E/S). [Addressed to "E.B. Payne, 2nd Lieut."]
3. ALS. Octavo. 3pp. Home, June 2, 1861. (E/S).
4. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Home, September 16, 1861. (Envelope/Patriotic Cover and stamp).
- 5-6. ALS. Octavos. (4pp. ; 8pp.) Home, October 10; 12; 1861. (Envelope/Patriotic Cover and stamp).
- 7-8. ALS. Octavos. (4pp. ; 6pp.) Home, November 17; 28; 1861. (Envelope/Patriotic Cover and stamp).
9. ALS. Octavo. 5pp. Home, February 6, 1862. (E/S). [First letter written after their marriage].
10. ALS. Octavo. 8pp. Home, May 11, 1862. (E/S).  
 [Mailed to Captain E.B. Payne, 37th Reg. Ill. Vols., Cassville, Missouri: a long letter written in response to two letters she had just received from Payne, that he had written in April soon after he had participated in the Battle of Pea Ridge. The letters had been held-up and she only just received them that morning. After expressing her anxiety and joy, she writes:] "I know my brave, noble husband is before the enemy and liable any moment to be sacrificed to their greedy thirst for blood and rebellion. I do so hope and trust, and pray – another letter may relieve the intensity of my fears. ... / The letters came at last ... and with them the joy I had thought I should never possess more – the joy of feeling your life still blessed the earth for me. Bad roads I suppose was the occasion of their delay ..." [She also asks about a mutual friend:] "Tell me love all about 'poor Fred' – I have understood by what you have written in your last letters he was wounded and then mercilessly butchered – tell me if this is true. Tell me too dear if he is buried on the battle-field – or if he has been sent home to be laid beside his brother ..."
11. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Fremont Centre, July 12, 1862. (E/S).  
 [Delia is visiting with Payne's family at their house in Fremont Centre:] "They tell me Col. Barnes' recent order is a preface to the moving of the Regiment – and that you will be sent to besiege Richmond ... I am almost crazy about it ... [she writes at length about the prospect of Payne being in Virginia] ... / I have one hope – it is this. If Black's resignation be accepted, you will be Major, and

then I can be with you, can I not? ...”

12. ALS. 2 half-sheets. Waukegan, April 28, 1863. (E/S).

13. ALS. Octavo. 6pp. Waukegan, June 8, 1863. (E/S).

14. ALS. Octavo. 6pp. Waukegan, August 5, 1863. (E/S).

15. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Waukegan, September 24, 1863. (E/S).

16. ALS. Octavo. 6pp. Waukegan, June 8, 1863. (E/S).

17. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Fremont Centre, October 12, 1863. (E/S).

“... I thought you safely in your convalescing Camp at New Orleans. I received in fact two letters from you at that place dated respectively 16th and 18th of Sept. on Saturday. But last night (Sunday night) [ ?? ] from Woodstock – with the intelligence that your Division had left New Orleans – joined the other portion of the 13th Army Corps., and with Franklin’s had suffered a severe battle on some river which he could not remember and at some date which he could not remember – He said Herron’s was the advanced Pickets. The enemy fell upon them in overpowering numbers – killed 700 and took 2000 prisoners. Is this, can this be true? If it is – you must have been with them ...”

18. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Fremont Centre, October 20, 1863. (E/S).

19. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Fremont Centre, October 27, 1863. (E/S).

20. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Fremont Centre, October 31, 1863. (E/S).

21. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Fremont Centre, November 6, 1863. (E/S).

[Delia has just returned from Chicago where she attended the Great Northwestern Sanitary Fair (to benefit soldiers at the front)].

22. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Fremont Centre, November 14, 1863. (E/S).

23. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Waukegan, November 21, 1863. (E/S).

24. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Waukegan, November 26, 1863. (E/S).

25. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Waukegan, November 28, 1863. (E/S).

26. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Waukegan, December 14, 1863. (E/S).

27. ALS. Quarto. 4pp. Waukegan, May 1, 1864. (E/S).

28. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Waukegan, May 11, 1864. (E/S).

29. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Waukegan, May 15, 1864. (E/S).

30-31. ALS. Octavos. 10pp. Waukegan (May 18; May 30, 1864). (E/S).

32. ALS. Octavo. 6pp. May 24, 1864. (E/S).

33. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. May 26, 1864. (E/S).

34. ALS. Octavo. 8pp. June 1, 1864. (E/S).

35. ALS. Octavo. 6pp. Waukegan, June 12, 1864. (E/S).

36. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Waukegan, June 15, 1864. (E/S).

37. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Waukegan, June 19, 1864. (E/S).

38. ALS. Folio. 2pp. Waukegan, June 26, 1864. (E/S).

39. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Waukegan, July 29, 1864. (E/S).

40. ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Waukegan, February 2, 1865. (E/S).

## II. Personal Letters to Eugene Payne and Adelia Wright (39 ALS, 1857-68)

(From friends and family)

1. ALS. To Adelia Wright. Quarto. 1p. Litchfield, Connecticut, April 27, 1857.

2. ALS. Lizzie Bissell to Adelia Wright. Octavo. 9pp. Litchfield, May 15, 1857. (E).

“... I hardly think, my dear Adelia, you are conscious of the place you have held in my affections, and to night as the thought that I may never see you again, and that I shall never be with you as in days gone by, fills my mind, my heart aches heavily ...”

3. ALS. To E. G. Wright (Adelia's mother). Quarto. 2pp. Camanche, Iowa, September 7, 1859.

4. ALS. To Adelia Wright. Octavo. 4pp. [Freedom, Ohio], August 12, 1860.

5-14. ALS (1860-66). To Adelia Wright from her mother. Octavos (with accompanying envelope/ stamp). Osage, Iowa: August 19, 1860; September 2, 1860. Morris, Connecticut: October 1, 1863; February 7, 1864 (+ additional letter from March 7, 1864); May 1, 1864; September 17, 1864; June 3, 1865. Litchfield, Connecticut: February 21, 1866.

15-19. ALS (1861). To Eugene Payne from sisters Mollie and Mary: September 12, 1861 (from Mollie); October 21, 1861 (from Mary); October 25, 1861 (from Mary) November 17, 1861 (from Mary); December 8, 1861 (from Mary). (3 E/S).

20-21. ALS. To Eugene Payne from mother (Fremont, November 24, 1861); and brother (November 25, 1861).

22. ALS. To Delia April 9, 1862. From a cousin, Melinda: [references the death of Payne's brother Fred in the war, and the battle of Pea Ridge].

23-24. ALS. To Delia from sister. May 11, 1862; and January 22, 1863.

25. ALS. Allan C. Story to Adelia Payne. Octavo. 3pp. Chicago, February 12, 1863. (E/S).

[Re: the death of a Union soldier (Craig) and remittance to his wife (Mrs. Craig):] “... Your suggestions relative to the condition of this family, bring others to my mind. First the disgraceful perversion of the object of the war after such as young Craig had enlisted to restore to union, by compelling them to fight for the hideous Africans – so called – freedom. Second, degrading such as he to the level of negroes by permitting them to enlist and become soldiers – on an equality with him. Third, the squandering of money recklessly to buy negroes and cotton speculations by the officers, whereby the poor soldier is left to suffer both him and those he holds near and dear for the want of the necessaries of life – The case in point is simply one we have noticed ... I shall and every unbiased mind ought to hold up the parties instrumental in producing this misery to universal execration and contempt ... I for one believe the language of the Savior in his sermon on the mount as good today as then. We all admit this when we reflect, and lay aside prejudice, bias, or revenge. If it is treason, to be in favor of peace I am willing to be called such ... Mrs. Craig and the widows and orphans of our land caused by this unnatural conflict are ... [ ? ]”

(Note: A.C. Story was a member of the Chicago bar and former president of the board of education (d. 1906). Born in New York, settled in New Orleans where he was admitted to the bar and practiced until the Civil War. Being “a partisan of the union cause” he headed north, eventually settled in Chicago in 1862 where he entered into a partnership with Elijah M. Haines: Adelia Payne was friends with Mrs. Haines).

26. ALS. To Delia from brother, George. Octavo. 4pp. Springfield, February 19, 1863. (E/S).

27. ALS. To Delia from Mollie. Octavo. 3pp. Chicago, February 21, 1863. (E/S).

28. ALS. To Eugene Payne from father. Octavo. 4pp. Morris, Connecticut, March 21, 1864. (E/S). “... I am happy to learn that your Regiment has enlisted again. I am almost tempted myself to ... take up arms, go into the field and fight those blood thirsty hell hounds for such they are and nothing less ... it has come to his my dear son, that forbearance in this case is no longer a virtue ...”

29. ALS. To Eugene Payne from Mary. Fremont, Illinois, June 14, 1864. (E/S).

30. ALS. To Eugene and Delia from Mollie. [Fremont, Illinois], December 7, 1864. (E/S).

31. ALS. To Eugene Payne from father. Milton, Litchfield, October 14, 1866. (E/S).

32. ALS. To Delia from brother, Frank. Beloit, Wisconsin, November 3, 1866. (E/S).

33. ALS. To Delia from a friend. Morris, Illinois, April 26, 1867. (E/S).

34-38. ALS. To Eugene and Delia from mother. Octavos. Waterbury, Connecticut (1867-68). (1 E/S).

39. ALS. To Eugene Payne from Mollie. November 18, 1868. (E/S).

### III. Professional Letters to Eugene Payne (and related Documents)

Civil War Period: 31 ALS to Eugene Payne (1862-65)

Most are addressed to Col. Eugene Payne, re: financial and personnel matters relating to the 37th Infantry and other Illinois Army Corps: enlistments, pay, bounties, etc. Includes several letters that reference Col. John Black, Col. Dye, and other officers. Examples include:

[Manuscript marching orders, **Signed**]. General Orders, no. 68. Head Quarters, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 18th Army corps, New Bern, April 17, 1863. Folio. 2pp.

[ALS]. Mouth of White River, October 5, 1864. To “Citizen E.B. Payne” – “... Col. Black has not come yet with his conscripts, nor does anyone want him to here.”

[3 ALS]. G. J. Dresser to Col. E.B. Payne. Quartos. Pay Department, U.S. Army, St. Louis, Mo. (November 16; 20; 24; 1864).

Postwar Period: 17 ALS to Eugene Payne (1866-70)

Most are addressed to Eugene Payne, re: Payne’s work as a lawyer and member of the Illinois House of Representatives. Examples include:

[MS Letter, **Signed** by 11 soldiers of the 37th]. Protest letter dated November 2, 1866: “To the editor

[of the] Waukegan". Protesting "falsehoods ... about the military record of Col. E.B. Payne.

U.S. Pension Examiner Period (circa 1885-1897) and earlier: over 375 ALS (1866-97; 1904)

Consists mostly of letters written to Payne during the 1890s, including at least three letters from General John C. Black. Also included are professional and personal letters to Payne dating back to 1866, and related personal letters and notes written by Payne to his wife and son.

#### Photographs/Negatives

Tintype. Portrait of Payne in uniform taken at Camp, Hazel Dell, Missouri, 1863. In gold-embossed frame (without case). Condition note: some staining to the left edge.

Carte de visite. Trimmed. Portrait of Payne. W.P. Egbert, Photographic Artist, Davenport, Iowa.

Three sheet film negatives (4" x 5"). Post-civil war portrait of Payne, portrait of Payne and Delia, the tintype. Condition note: overall chemical-salt residue on the surface of each negative.

Gold-toned platinum print. Mounted oval print (6" x 8"). Portrait of Payne when U.S. pension examiner (Washington, D.C.).

#### Other Documents and Ephemera

[Veteran's Ribbon]. Southern Illinois Soldiers' Association. Fourth Annual Reunion, Mt. Vernon, Illinois, September 13-15, 1887.

[MS Biography and Geneology]. "American Ancestry". 15 ruled quarto sheets (versos/15pp.) and printed form completed in manuscript. [\[BTC#421389\]](#)