

## The Bouvé Family Papers, 1847-1907

**Repository:** Hingham Public Library

**Creator:** Bouvé Family

**Quantity:** 1 document box

**Processed By:** Stephanie McBain

**Related Materials:** The Bicentennial Collection contains town records that relate to the Bouvé family.

### Provenance

These papers were created by various members of the Bouvé family while living in Hingham and Boston. They were donated to the library by Joseph Richardson in 1976 and 1980 as part of the Bicentennial Collection.

### Biographical Note

Thomas Tracy Bouvé was the first member of the Bouvé family to settle in Hingham. He was born in Boston on January 14, 1815 to Ephraim Osborn and Lydia Tracy Bouvé. His mother was the daughter of Lydia Cushing Tracy, who was born in Hingham. Thomas married Emily G. Lincoln in Hingham in 1839, and they had seven children. He was an iron merchant in Boston and was a member of the iron house Curtis, Bouvé, and Co. for 30 years before becoming treasurer of the Glendon Iron Co. of Pennsylvania. He received an honorary Master of Arts degree from Harvard in 1850. Thomas was president of the Boston Society of Natural History and the Temporary Home for Destitute Children; a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; a trustee of Perkins Institution for the Blind, Derby Academy, and the Hingham Public Library; and was involved in the establishment of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was also the author of the chapter on Natural History in the book "History of Hingham." Thomas resided on Summer Street in Hingham at his home named "Indian Hollow," and also had a winter residence in Boston. He died on June 3, 1896 in Boston.

Edward Tracy Bouvé was born in Hingham on August 14, 1841 to Thomas Tracy Bouvé and Emily G. Lincoln. In 1872 he married Delphine Dolores Clement of San José, California, and they had two children. In June 1862, Edward enlisted as a Second Lieutenant in Company G of the 32nd Regiment, but came down with typhoid fever and was discharged in December 1862. He reenlisted and was appointed Captain of the Massachusetts 4th Regiment of Cavalry in January 1864; he fought in the Army of the James in the Battle of Fredericksburg, the Sieges of Petersburg and Richmond, and several guerilla fights. In February 1865 he was promoted to Major of the 26th Regiment of the New York Cavalry, and was discharged when that regiment was disbanded in July 1865. After returning to Hingham he became a merchant in Boston. He resided on Lincoln Street in Hingham and died in 1920.

Walter Lincoln Bouvé was born in Boston on October 28, 1849 to Thomas Tracy Bouvé and Emily G. Lincoln. In 1885 he married Charlotte B. Harden of Hingham, and they had two children. Walter received a law degree from Harvard in 1879. He worked as a lawyer and as

justice of the Second District Court of Plymouth. He resided on Cottage Street in Hingham and died in 1944.

Charles Osborn Bouvé was born in Hingham on July 26, 1852 to Thomas Tracy Bouvé and Emily G. Lincoln. In 1882 he married Caroline L. Lane of Hingham and they had two children, a daughter and a son who died at the age of two. Charles worked briefly in an iron house in Boston and as a civil engineer in California. When he returned to Hingham, he worked as a florist before settling into a career at the New England Life Insurance Company. He was a member of the Bostonian Society, the Society of Colonial Wars, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Masonic order. He resided on South Street in Hingham and died in 1907.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection contains correspondence, photographs, publications, and other records created by or relating to members of the Bouvé family in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Correspondence is that of Thomas Tracy Bouvé and his son Walter Lincoln Bouvé. Records include mortgage records and obituaries. Photographs are of Thomas Tracy Bouvé's home in Hingham, Edward Tracy Bouvé as a Civil War soldier, and Army operations in Massachusetts. Publications mainly relate to Thomas Tracy Bouvé.

### **Arrangement**

The collection is arranged into the following four series:

- Series I. Correspondence, 1847-1903
  - Subseries 1, Thomas Tracy Bouvé Correspondence, 1847-1898
  - Subseries 2, Walter Lincoln Bouvé Correspondence, ca. 1898-1903
- Series II. General Family Records, 1853-1907
- Series III. Photographs, ca. 1862-1899
- Series IV. Publications, ca. 1875-1896

### **Series I. Correspondence, 1847-1903**

#### **Subseries 1, Thomas Tracy Bouvé Correspondence, 1847-1898**

Box 1, folder 1

This subseries includes the personal correspondence of Thomas Tracy Bouvé. Correspondents include Charles Sprague; John A. Andrew; and, most frequently, Theodore Parker and Edward Everett Hale. There are also letters from Harvard, MIT, and the Perkins Institution for the Blind, mainly regarding meetings, as well as some letters that were apparently sent to Bouvé after his death.

#### **Subseries 2, Walter Lincoln Bouvé Correspondence, ca. 1898-1903**

Box 1, folder 2

This subseries contains the correspondence of Walter Lincoln Bouvé, including an undated letter from "E.T.B." (probably his brother Edward); an 1898 letter from the War Department in Washington announcing Bouvé's appointment to the Board of Visitors at

the annual examination at the U.S. Military Academy, and an 1898 letter from Secretary to the President John Addison Porter regarding Bouvé's release from his duty as Visitor to assume a position in the Army; and 1899 and 1903 letters from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Department regarding the receipt of letters from Bouvé.

## **Series II. General Family Records, 1853-1907**

Box 1, folder 3

This series includes an 1853 notice of the gift of a book to the Harvard Library by Thomas Tracy Bouvé; an 1855 document stating that Thomas Tracy Bouvé would pay \$5,000 to the Hingham Institution for Savings; an 1855 land mortgage from Thomas Tracy Bouvé to the Hingham Institution for Savings; and the obituaries of Thomas Tracy Bouvé and Charles Osborn Bouvé.

## **Series III. Photographs, ca. 1862-1899**

Box 1, folders 4-5

Folder 4 contains six undated photographs of Thomas Tracy Bouvé's house in Hingham, named Indian Hollow, construction of which was completed in 1855. Included are photographs of the outside of the house, the front door, the upper hall, and the music room. The photograph of the front door includes Thomas' wife Emily G. Lincoln Bouvé, their daughter Ada, and his collie dog Jack. Folder 5 contains two photographs of Edward Tracy Bouvé as a Civil War soldier; one photograph is dated 1862 and the other is undated. Also included is a book of photographs of the Armory of the First Corps of Cadets in Boston and of Army camps, including one in Hingham in 1899.

## **Series IV. Publications, ca.1875-1896**

Box 1, folder 6

This series includes three publications: the undated "Thomas Tracy Bouvé" by W.O. Crosby, reprinted from *Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences*, Vol. XXXII; "A Memorial Volume Containing the Exercises at the Dedication of the Statue of John A. Andrew, at Hingham, October 8, 1875," the proceedings for which Thomas Tracy Bouvé was a member of the Executive Committee; and "Thomas Tracy Bouvé: Memorial Meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History, December 2, 1896."