

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

Civil War Collection, 1861-1868

Location:

Manuscript boxes "C"
Folio volumes "C"
Octavo volumes "C"

Size of collection:

4 manuscript boxes; 3 folio volumes; 1 octavo volume

N.U.C.M.C. #: 62-3085

RLIN id: MAAR92-A194

Sources of information on collection:

The octavo volume, "Soldiers' Letters, 1861-1865," is indexed. See "Treasury Girls," by Janet E. Kaufman, *Civil War Times Illustrated*, Vol. XXV, No. 3, May 1986, p. 32-38, for information on Southern working women.

Source of collection:

Agnes Latham and Ruth Vaughan Smith; Rev. Herbert E. Lombard; Harriet Roe; Mrs. Charles H. Baker; Mrs. Walter VanderPyl; Mrs. Wells Carver; Albert S. Cushman; Mrs. Charles A. Hamilton; S. W. White; Edward Nichols; Mr. Swan; Mrs. Harry T. Whitin; Helen M. Knight; Emma F. Waite; Edward H. Cole; Arthur D. Putnam; H. A. Wright; John George Metcalf; Holden Public Library

Collection description:

This assortment of Civil War papers is composed of numerous individual collections from the Civil War period. The majority of the items are letters from Union soldiers to their families and friends at home. Some of the collections are substantive: the soldier is identified by regiment and hometown and many of his letters have been preserved. Most of the collections, however, are more miscellaneous and consist of one or two letters, a variety of official papers, memorabilia, incomplete diaries, reminiscences, ship records, and medical records.

The first two manuscript boxes contain the more substantive collections, arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the principal writer or recipient. Box 1, folder 1 contains a one hundred eighty-four (184) page memoir, "Reminiscences of the Civil War," in which John Emerson Anderson (), a Union soldier, describes General William T. Sherman's occupation of Atlanta and march to Savannah. Box 1, folder 2 contains letters of Anderson.

Box 2, folder 1 contains papers pertaining to the Civil War that were collected by William Sever Lincoln (1811-1889) and donated to the American Antiquarian

Society. Some of these were taken from Confederate homes during the last days of the war. Included in this folder are copies made by Lincoln of two soldiers' diaries, muster rolls for the Confederate army, miscellaneous general orders and correspondence, and a copy of an 1862 Confederate inquiry into the loss of Roanoke Island. This inquiry includes a response by Henry Alexander Wise (1806-1876).

Box 2, folder 8 contains miscellaneous letters in alphabetical order by writer where there are only a few items by each writer.

(cont.)

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

Civil War Collection, 1861-1868

Collection description (continued):

Box 2, folder 9 contains miscellaneous letters in chronological order where the writers are incompletely identified.

Box 2, folder 10 contains miscellaneous papers in chronological order, including plans for a Union redoubt to be built at New Bern, N.C.; a consolidated morning report prepared by Brig. General John Sedgwick (1813-1864) at general headquarters in Fair Oaks, Va., in 1862; and discharge papers, court-martial orders, as well as a series of detailed orders by Admiral David Glasgow Farragut (1801-1870) pertaining to the Battle of Mobile Bay, August 1864. The folder also includes a "Morning Report of Marine Guard Stationed on Board U.S. Steamer 'Shenendoah' ... Oct. 29th 1866."

Box 3 includes a partial diary of an unidentified Union soldier stationed at Fort Pike, La., 1863. There is one folder of materials removed by Lucy Chase (1822-1909) from headquarters of General Grant at City Point, Va., 1865 (see the Chase Family, Papers, c. 1787-c. 1915).

Box 3, folder 3 contains miscellaneous papers pertaining to the Confederate States of America (much of this material was removed from the Chase Family, Papers, c. 1787-c. 1915).

Box 3, folder 4 has typed copies of correspondence of Joseph Christmas Ives (1828-1868), a West Point graduate who served as Jefferson Davis' aide-de-camp.

Box 3 also contains letters and Civil War memorabilia, 1861-1865, collected by Dr. John George Metcalf (1801-1892) for his scrapbook entitled "The Irrepressible Conflict." Dr. Metcalf, a physician in Mendon, Mass., was a member of the American Antiquarian Society, a town officer, and state senator, 1878-1879. Several Mendon and Milford men, serving in the Union Army and

stationed with their regiments in various areas of the war zone, wrote to Dr. Metcalf during the war. They occasionally enclosed such memorabilia as Confederate bills and bank certificates, family letters removed from Confederate soldiers, Confederate pass forms, printed tracts, and government papers (e.g., draft exemptions). Several letters of soldiers were written from Confederate prison camps and bear printed slogans.

The Union Army correspondents include Dr. Francis Leland (1817-1867), a Milford, Mass., physician and surgeon; the Rev. Carlton Albert Staples (1827-1904), minister in Lexington, Mass.; Nathan Wheelock (1843-) and Charles Henry Wheelock (1840-1862) of Mendon, Mass.; and Dr. Rowse Reynolds Clarke (-1888), a physician in Whitinsville, Mass.

There are several excellent letters containing much information relative to camp life (especially the Potomac military camp), medical treatments, supplies, and illnesses; marches, skirmishes, and battles; dry-goods supplies received from Massachusetts volunteer groups; prison life, scenes of slavery. Several letters written by Dr. Leland detail a surgeon's day in military camp, Leland's visit with Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) in 1861, and the carnage on battlefields in Virginia. Dr. Clarke wrote of political wrangling in 1862 between the provisional governor of North Carolina and Gen. Ambrose Everett Burnside (1824-

(cont.)

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

Civil War Collection, 1861-1868

Collection description (continued):

1881) concerning fugitive slaves and instruction of black refugees. Charles Henry Wheelock commented negatively on promotion techniques within the 15th Mass. Regiment in 1862.

Box 4 contains approximately three hundred fifty (350) letters from Southern women (and a few men) seeking to secure employment in the Department of the Confederate States Treasury. The majority of the letters are addressed to Christopher Gustavus Memminger (1803-1888) as Secretary of the Treasury and a few include an endorsement from Varina Howell (Mrs. Jefferson) Davis (1826-1909). Some of the women wrote detailed letters explaining their economic status and family situation.

Two of the folio volumes are account books of commissary supplies for the Confederacy. The volume marked "Confederate States, 1863-1864" on the spine is indexed and actually includes entries for 1865. The other volume, "Invoices of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores, 1861-1863," includes a great variety of entries, dated through 1866. Many of the accounts record supplies sent to Col. Moses

Hanibal Wright (1836-1886). The third folio volume contains newspaper clippings which had been pasted into the second folio volume, but have since been removed.

The octavo volume contains copies of letters written by the following Union soldiers from 1861 to 1865: Izenart P. Cushman (1827-1863), George P. Burrows (1840-1879), Alonzo S. Cushman (1843-1864), and David F. Cushman (1840?-).

See Contents List.

1 May 1974
revised 31 March 1975
revised 16 November 1976
revised 1 August 1977
revised 5 October 1979
contents list added 7 February 1991
revised 16 February 2010

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Civil War Collection, 1861-1868

Contents List

Box

1

Folder	1	Reminiscences of John Emerson Anderson
Folder	2	Letters of John Emerson Anderson
Folder	3	Letters of Henry Baker of Sanborton
Folder	3a	Letters to Rev. Caleb Davis Bradlee (1831-1897), minister in Boston, Mass.

Folder 4 Letters of Daniel E. Burbank of Fitzwilliam, N.H.
 Folder 5 Converse Family letters
 Folder 6 Letters to William P. Corthell of South Abington, Mass.
 Folder 7 Letters of Fredrick A. Dickinson of Deerfield, Mass.
 Folder 7a Letters of Alonzo Hill
 Folder 8 Letters of Henry L. Jeslin of Fitchburg, Mass. [cf. Josselyn
 accession,
 1994]
 Folder 9 Letters of George Fredrick Jourdan & his wife, of Grafton, Mass.
 Folder 10 Letters of George G. Kimball

2

Folder 1 Papers relating to the Civil War, collected by William Sever Lincoln
 Folder 2 Papers of John G. Park
 Folder 3 Letters of Hon Eron N. Thomas of (Rease?), N.Y.
 Folder 4 Correspondence of William Thompson (-1877) of Lancaster, Mass.
 Folder 5 Correspondence of the Vaughan and Howe Families
 Folder 6 Letters of Charles Ward
 Folder 7 Letters of Jonathan Gibbs Warren
 Folder 8 Miscellaneous correspondence, arranged alphabetically by writer
 Folder 9 Miscellaneous correspondence, incompletely identified, arranged
 chronologically
 Folder 10 Miscellaneous papers, arranged chronologically

3

Folder 1 Parial diary of an unknown Union soldier, 1863
 Folder 2 Papers removed by Lucy Chase from the headquarters of General Grant
 at
 City Point, Va., 1865
 Folder 3 Confederate States of America papers
 Folder 4 Typed copies of orrespondence of Joseph Christmas Ives
 Folder 5 Scrapbook of John G. Metcalf, containing letters and Civil War
 memorabilia, 1861-1865

4

Folder 1 Letters from Southern women (and a few men) seeking to secure
 employment in the Department of the Confederate States Treasury
 Folder 2 same
 Folder 3 same
 Folder 4 same

Folio Volume

1 Account Book, Confederate States, 1863-1865 (indexed)

Civil War Collection, 1861-1868 Contents List (cont.)

- 2 Account Book, Invoices of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores, 1861-1866
- 3 Newspaper clippings (removed from folio volume #2)

Octavo Volume

- 1 Copies of letters written by Union soldiers, 1861-1865