

The Lemuel Durbin Williams Papers Finding Aid MS158

Lemuel Durbin Williams Papers (MS158)
1842-1885 (Bulk 1853-1862)



Title Statement

The Lemuel Durbin Williams Papers Finding Aid MS158

Author: Kathleen Crossman

Publication Statement

Publisher: Local History and Special Collections Branch, Alexandria Library

717 Queen Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Business Number: 703-746-1791
lhsc@alexlibraryva.org
URL: <http://alexlibraryva.org/lhsc>



2006

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-12-15 14:27:01 +0000.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS158

Unit Date

1842-1885 (Bulk 1853-1862)

Mixed Materials

03 (Assorted Box)

Text

2 (Oversize Box)

Language

English .

Creator

Williams, Lemuel Durbin, CPT, 1830-1865

Extent

.23 Cubic Feet 12 folders

Repository

Local History and Special Collections Branch, Alexandria Library

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Item identification], Lemuel Durbin Williams Papers, MS158, Alexandria Library, Local History/Special Collections, Alexandria, Va.

Biographical / Historical

Lemuel Durbin Williams (1831?-1865) was a member of the Washington Light Infantry militia for several years prior to the start of the Civil War. When the D.C. Militia Infantry was formed to defend Washington D.C. in the early days of the Civil War, he joined the Washington Light Infantry for a 3-month tour of duty on April 10, 1861 and initially served as a 1st Lieutenant. Upon the promotion of Captain Lemuel Towers a month later, Williams was promoted to Captain and took command of the company. He was mustered out on July 10, 1861. Influenced by his work with a volunteer militia and his service in the Civil War he published one military instruction manual early in 1861 and wrote two other related works that apparently were never published. By profession Williams was a draughtsman. He worked for the United States Coast Survey and later for the Northwest Boundary Survey Office. Examples of maps that Williams worked on can be found online at the Library of Congress American Memory site. Information about additional maps can be found on the American Philosophical Society website. Professionally and for publication he used the names L.D. Williams and Lem D. Williams. His outside interests extended to submitting two designs for a Treasury note; he received the offered premium because significant amounts of his designs were incorporated into the final product. Williams married Sarah M. O'Donnell in 1852. He died at age 34 on July 31, 1865 after a short illness. He was survived by his wife and six children.

Content Description

The collection is primarily focused on Williams' membership in the Washington Light Infantry, his published and unpublished works on proper performance of various military duties, and his work for the Coast Survey. The collection contains a work log from his days at the Coast Survey, correspondence received by Williams, and his published and unpublished works, including one which was written over part of a daily log from his service in the D.C. Militia Infantry.

Keywords

Washington Light Infantry -- 1860-1865
Surveyors -- 1850-1870
United States Coast Survey.
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
Williams, L.D.

Description of Subordinate Components

Biographical

Text 03 (Assorted Box)

Container 158-1 (folder)

U.S. Coast Survey - daily log

Unit Date 1853-1857

Text 03 (Assorted Box)

Container 158-2 (folder)

U.S. Coast Survey - correspondence with Jacob Monk

Unit Date 1859-1862

Text 03 (Assorted Box)

Container 158-3 (folder)

U.S. Coast Survey - notes

Text 03 (Assorted Box)

Container 158-4 (folder)

Washington Light Infantry - membership records

Unit Date 1842-1858

Text 03 (Assorted Box)

Container 158-5 (folder)

Washington Light Infantry - correspondence

Unit Date 1861-1864

Text 03 (Assorted Box)

Container 158-6 (folder)

Washington Light Infantry - dance card

Unit Date 1885

Text 03 (Assorted Box)

Container 158-7 (folder)

Works - American Illustrated Military Textbook

Unit Date 1861

Text 03 (Assorted Box)

Container 158-8 (folder)

Works - Laws and Principles Governing in the Field, Camp and Garrison

Text 03 (Assorted Box)

Container 158-9 (folder)

Works - "Diary of Command " and "Notes on a new/revised Work"

Text 03 (Assorted Box)

Container 158-10 (folder)

Treasury Note Designs.

Text 03 (Assorted Box)

Container 158-11 (folder)

Souvenir (\$50 Confederate bill)

Text 03 (Assorted Box)

Container 158-12 (folder)

Muster roll for Company A, Washington Light Infantry District

Unit Date 1861 April 10

Text 2 (Oversize Box)

Container 1 (folder)

Flyer advertising The American Illustrated Military Text Book

Text 2 (Oversize Box)

Container 2 (folder)