

Moss, William Stephen, Collection

William Stephen Moss Collection

1863-1864



Title Statement

Moss, William Stephen, CollectionWilliam Stephen Moss Collection, 1863-1864 Ms.2008.019

Author: Emily Cook, Graduate Assistant

Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)
560 Drillfield Drive
Newman Library, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
Business Number: 540-231-6308
specref@vt.edu
URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



2008 (CC0 1.0)

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 13:42:02 -0400.

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

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2008.019

Unit Date

1863-1864

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collecon consists of papers centering on William Stephen Moss, a Confederate prisoner of war during the American Civil War. Includes an identification card, letters from Moss to his mother, a biography written by his son, and a photograph of Moss.

Creator

Moss, William S., 1839-1924

Extent

0.2 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

The copyright status of this collection is unknown. Copyright restrictions may apply. Contact Special Collections and University Archives for assistance in determining the use of these materials.

Reproduction or digitization of materials for personal or research use can be requested using our reproduction/digitization form: <http://bit.ly/scuareproduction>. Reproduction or digitization of materials for publication or exhibit use can be requested using our publication/exhibition form: <http://bit.ly/scuapublication>. Please contact Special Collections and University Archives (specref@vt.edu or 540-231-6308) if you need assistance with forms or to submit a completed form.

Source of Acquisition

The William Stephen Moss Collection was purchased by Special Collections in 2004.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the William Stephen Moss Collection commenced in March 2008 and was completed in April 2008.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], William Stephen Moss Collection, Ms2008-019, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Born 12 October 1839 in Buckingham County, Virginia, William Stephen Moss became a member of the Confederate Army during the American Civil War. Moss served in the 4th Virginia Cavalry, Company B from Chesterfield, Virginia. Captured at Germana Ford on 19 September 1863 when scouting the Union Army, Moss was brought to Washington as a prisoner of war. Moss was quickly transferred to "Point Lookout" in Maryland. On 16 August 1864, Moss was again transferred to Elmira Prison in New York—a prison with a reputation for its unhealthy conditions and high rates of scurvy. On one occasion, as related in the biography of Moss written by his son, Moss attempted to escape by tunneling out of prison with common utensils; but, guards thwarted the plot. After the war, Moss opened a general store with his brother (James Knox Polk Moss) and married Cora A. Leadbetter. William Stephen Moss died in 1924.

Biographical information was obtained largely from the biography of Moss found within the collection.

Scope and Content

The William Stephen Moss Collection includes information on the conditions of Northern prisons during the American Civil War and Moss's personal life. Letters from Washington, D.C.; Point Lookout, Maryland; and Elmira, New York stem from Moss's capture at the Germana Ford in 1863. One letter predates Moss's capture. Specifically, in these letters Moss discusses his desire for a prisoner exchange, the disinterest of authorities in prisoners, endemic sickness, and the tradability of tobacco for stamps. Many original POW covers (envelopes) are included and are marked with signed approval and original postage. Also in the collection is a biography written by Moss's son, William D. Moss, and a hand-tinted photograph of an elderly Moss with a hunting dog lounging near a tree.

Keywords

Civil War

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the William Stephen Moss Collection by Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, is licensed under a CC0 (<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>).

Arrangement

The collection is arranged by material type. Letters are arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

William Stephen Moss's identification card

Unit Date n.d.

box 1

Letter from Culpepper, Virginia

Unit Date 24 March 1863

box 1

Letter from Washington, D.C.

Unit Date 22 September 1863

box 1

Letter from Point Lookout, Maryland

Unit Date 1 October 1863

box 1

Letter from Point Lookout, Maryland

Unit Date 21 April 1864

box 1

Letter from Elmira, New York

Unit Date 5 September 1864

box 1

Letter from Elmira, New York

Unit Date 26 October 1864

box 1

Letter from Elmira, New York

Unit Date 2 November 1864

box 1

"Biography of Wm Stephen Moss: Christian, Citizen, Soldier, Business Leader and Father" by William D. Moss

Unit Date n.d.

box 1

Hand tinted photograph of William S. Moss and hunting dog

Unit Date n.d.

box 1