

A Guide to the John S. Mosby Letters, 1864-1910

The John S. Mosby Letters, 1864-1910
1864-1910

A Collection in The Fairfax County Public Library MSS 06-25

Title Statement

A Guide to the John S. Mosby Letters, 1864-1910

Subtitle: John S. Mosby Letters

Collection: MSS 06-25

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid created by Ross Landis, February 11, 2024

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Record Group Number

MSS 06-25

Language

English

Abstract

The John S. Mosby Letters consist of 0.5 linear feet and span the years 1864-1910 and consist of 1 original handwritten letter, two folders of photocopies of handwritten and typed correspondence and one folder of aperture cards of the photocopies in folders 6 through 40.

Creator

Mosby, John Singleton (1833-1916)

Extent

0.5 linear feet

Repository

Fairfax County Public Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

None

Use Restrictions

Consult repository for information

Acquisition Information

The original letter in folder 1 from John Mosby to Thomas R. Keith dated January 20, 1900, was donated to the Historical Society of Fairfax County in 1950-1951 by Keith's daughter, Hannah Keith Howze. The letter was later transferred to Fairfax County Public Library's Virginia Room on an unknown date. The two photocopied letters from John Mosby in Folders 3-4 were a gift of Dr. Kenneth S. McAtee, May 1989. The photocopies of John Mosby letters 1864-1910 in folders 5 through 40 were a gift of Mrs. Virgie R. Ritchie. Folder 5 contains seven aperture cards containing images of the letters in folders 6-40.

Processing Information

Mark F. Hall, September 2023

EAD generated by Ross Landis, 2024

Preferred Citation

John S. Mosby Letters, MSS 06-25, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Separated Material

None

Historical and Biographical Information

John Singleton Mosby, b. Dec. 6, 1833, Powhatan County, VA. Attended Hampden-Sydney College and the University of Virginia; later studied law and admitted to Virginia bar. Joined Confederate Army, served in 1st Virginia Cavalry under J.E.B. Stuart. Appointed to lead 43rd Virginia Cavalry ("Mosby's Command"), which operated as partisan rangers and guerrillas often behind Union lines in Northern Virginia. Mosby's raids earned him the nickname "The Gray Ghost" and parts of Northern Virginia were known in the press as Mosby's Confederacy. One of his most famous exploits was the capture of Union Brig. Gen. Edwin H. Stoughton from a house (now the rectory of Truro Parish) across Main Street from the old Fairfax County Courthouse. After the war, Mosby served as U.S. consul to Hong Kong (1878-1885), and later as an attorney for the Southern Pacific Railroad, a land agent for the U.S. Department of the Interior, and an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice. He died May 30, 1916, and is buried in Warrenton, VA.

Scope and Content

The John S. Mosby Letters consist of 0.5 linear feet and span the years 1864-1910 and consist of 1 original handwritten letter, two folders of photocopies of handwritten and typed correspondence and one folder of aperture cards of the photocopies in folders 6 through 40. The original handwritten letter contains a newspaper clipping and the letter refutes statements in the newspaper. Much of the correspondence in folders 5 through 40 consists of letters from Mosby to Benton Chinn, chiefly regarding contemporary newspaper references to Mosby's Rangers, other Civil War topics, and political issues of the era in addition to personal matters. Transcriptions of the letters are included.

Index Terms

Beattie, Fountain "Fount" (1840-1923)

Chinn, Benton (1844-1926)

Confederate States of America. Army. Virginia Cavalry Battalion, 43rd.

Guerrillas -- Southern States -- Correspondence.

Keith, Thomas R. (1872-1937)

Mosby, John Singleton (1833-1916)

Soldiers -- Southern States -- Correspondence.

Container List

Box 1 Folder 1: Letter: John S. Mosby to Thomas Keith, with newspaper clipping, 1900 January 20

Box 1 Folder 2: Photocopy of John Mosby Farewell Order dated Apr 2, 1864 [sic] "letter in possession of James L. Klipstein", 1864 [1865] April 2

Box 1 Folder 3: Photocopy of letter, John S. Mosby to Joseph

Bryan, [1907] November 9

Box 1 Folder 4: Photocopy of letter, John S. Mosby to John S. Russell, 1908 March 11

Box 1 Folder 5: Aperture cards (7) of photocopied letters in folders 6 through 40, 1888-1910

Box 1 Folder 6: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, [1888]

Box 1 Folder 7: Postcard, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, 1895 January 29

Box 1 Folder 8: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, 1895 December 27

Box 1 Folder 9: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, [1896] January 30

Box 1 Folder 10: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, [1896] February 10

Box 1 Folder 11: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, [1896] April 23

Box 1 Folder 12: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, [1896] April 29

Box 1 Folder 13: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, [1896] October 11

Box 1 Folder 14: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, [1896] October 22

Box 1 Folder 15: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, 1897 October 17

Box 1 Folder 16: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, 1897 October 18

Box 1 Folder 17: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, 1897 October 20

Box 1 Folder 18: Letter, John C. Ropes to John S. Mosby (w/Mosby's response), 1897 December 14

Box 1 Folder 19: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, 1898 January 9

**Box 1 Folder 20: Letter, John S. Mosby to Alice Chinn, 1898
January 22**

**Box 1 Folder 21: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, 1898
February 5**

**Box 1 Folder 22: Letter, John S. Mosby to Alice Chinn, 1898 May
19**

**Box 1 Folder 23: Undated note, John S. Mosby [to Alice Chinn],
[1898 July]**

**Box 1 Folder 24: Postcard, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn,
1901 July 20**

**Box 1 Folder 25: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, [1901
October]**

Box 1 Folder 26: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, [1903]

Box 1 Folder 27: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, [1903]

**Box 1 Folder 28: Letter, R.E. Lee, Jr. to Alice [Chinn], 1904 April
1**

**Box 1 Folder 29: Letter, John S. Mosby to Frank B. Pemberton
(1 of 2), 1904 September 23**

**Box 1 Folder 30: Letter, John S. Mosby to Frank B. Pemberton
(2 of 2), 1904 September 23**

**Box 1 Folder 31: Letter, John S. Mosby to Judge James Keith,
1906 January 27**

**Box 1 Folder 32: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, 1906
February 28**

**Box 1 Folder 33: Letter, Lawrence Washington to John S.
Mosby, 1906 March 23**

**Box 1 Folder 34: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, 1906
June 6**

**Box 1 Folder 35: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, 1907
June 21**

**Box 1 Folder 36: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, 1907
July 24**

**Box 1 Folder 37: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, 1908
March 12**

**Box 1 Folder 38: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, 1909
March 29**

**Box 1 Folder 39: Letter, John S. Mosby to Fount Beattie, 1909
May 29**

**Box 1 Folder 40: Letter, John S. Mosby to Benton Chinn, 1910
February 12**

**Box 1 Folder 41: John S. Mosby Letters collection original cover
sheet, Undated**

Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library