

# A Guide to the Civil War Research Collection, 1859-1865

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A Collection in the Thomas Balch Library SC 0095

Thomas Balch Library

2006

**Author:** Shannon Fuller

## History

**Processed by:** Shannon Fuller

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Civil War Research Collection, 1859-1865

**Subtitle:** Civil War Research Collection

**Collection:** SC 0095

**Author:** Shannon Fuller

## Publication Statement

**Date:** © 2006 By Thomas Balch Library. All rights reserved.

**Publisher:** Thomas Balch Library

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word, created by Elizabeth Preston, 13 October 2011

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Revision Description

**2013-11-21** Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

## Descriptive Summary

**Collection number**

SC 0095

**Language**

English

## Abstract

This collection consists of photocopies of letters and a diary relating to the Civil War and Loudoun County, Virginia. The letters from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) are mostly official correspondence, including letters from colonels, judge advocates, and the Secretary of War. The official correspondence includes requests of aid, complaints of threats, reports on rebel sympathizers, and more. The other Civil War letters are mostly letters of personal correspondence including letters from soldiers, friends, and family members. These letters include descriptions of Loudoun County, battles, and the "Burning Raid." A chronological list of items is included with both sets of letters. The diary of Charles E. Paxton (1818-1903) recorded events that took place in Loudoun including a list of deaths, battles, and other events.

## Creator

Unknown

## Repository

Thomas Balch Library

# Administrative Information

## Access Restrictions

Collection open for research.

## Use Restrictions

No physical characteristics affect use of this material.

## Acquisition Information

Unknown

## Processing Information

Shannon Fuller, 12 October 2011

## Preferred Citation

Civil War Research Collection, 1859-1865 (SC 0095), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

# Accruals

2011.0258x, 1995.0042

# Alternative Form Available

None

# Custodial History

Formerly filed in Thomas Balch Library Vertical Files.

# Adjunct Descriptive Data

# Related Material

Civil War Letter, Leesburg, VA (SC 0090), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA; Donohoe Family Collection (SC 0021), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

# Bibliography

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## Other Finding Aid

None

## Technical Requirements

None

## Historical Information

Loudoun County, Virginia was a divided county in 1861, even prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. The southern and eastern portions of the county supported the South, while the northern and western portions of the county were sympathetic to the North. In April of 1861, in the days following the firing on Fort Sumter, the Virginia Convention debated and passed the Ordinance of Secession by an 85 to 55 vote. Loudoun County voted 1,626 to 726 for secession. Virginia's secession from the Union placed Loudoun not only on the border of two enemy nations, but also between two Union states, Maryland and West Virginia.

Loudoun County was a major crossroads for the Union and Confederacy with both armies traveling through the county at many points during the war. The county was the site for only one major battle, the Battle of Ball's Bluff. Many skirmishes, small actions, and raids took place in Loudoun, however. The county suffered the most devastation in late 1864 as a result of the "Burning Raid", when a division of Union soldiers were ordered to drive off livestock and burn barns and crops.

The Civil War ended on 6 April 1865 and Loudoun's civilian government was restored with their first post-war election on 1 June 1865. In 1872, Congress reimbursed many Union sympathizers in Loudoun County for property losses suffered during the war.

## Scope and Content

This collection consists of photocopies of letters and a diary relating to the Civil War and Loudoun County, Virginia. The letters from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) are mostly official correspondence, including letters from colonels, judge advocates, and the Secretary of War. The official correspondence includes requests of aid, complaints of threats, reports on rebel sympathizers, and more. The other Civil War letters are mostly letters of personal correspondence including letters from soldiers, friends, and family members. These letters include descriptions of Loudoun County, battles, and the "Burning Raid." A chronological list of items is included with both sets of letters. The diary of Charles E. Paxon (1818-1903) recorded events that took place in Loudoun including a list of deaths, battles, and other events.

## Contents List

**Folder 1: NARA letters, June 1861-December 1864**

**Folder 2: Civil War letters, January 1860-September 1865**

**Folder 3: Charles Paxon diary, July 1859-June 1865**