

# Joseph H. Carpenter papersMS.0333

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1852-1864

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## Title Statement

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## Publication Statement

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## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

MS.0333

**Unit ID**

/repositories/3/resources/413

**Unit Date**

1852-1864

**Language**

English

**Creator**

Carpenter, Joseph H. (Joseph Hannah), 1834-1863

**Creator**

Karnes, Benjamin

**Creator**

Echols, John, 1823-1896

**Extent**

7 items

**Physical Location**

Manuscripts stacks

**Repository**

Virginia Military Institute Archives

## Administrative Information

## Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions

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## Preferred Citation

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## Biographical / Historical

Joseph H. Carpenter was born in 1834 in Covington, Virginia. He graduated from VMI in 1856. During the Civil War he served as a Captain, Company A, 27th Virginia Infantry Regiment (later converted to an artillery company known as Carpenter's Battery). Carpenter was wounded at Cedar Mountain, Virginia in 1862 and died from the wound on February 5, 1863.

## Scope and Contents

This collection (seven items) consists of: A manuscript notebook compiled by Joseph H. Carpenter during his cadetship (1852-1856). The notebook contains poetry, class notes, autographs of classmates, and a detailed account of a Corps trip to Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia in October 1855. Two letters written by Carpenter to his father in 1862, including a letter dated June 16, 1862 that describes fighting near Port Republic, Virginia Letter of recommendation written on Carpenter's behalf by Brigadier General John Echols and submitted to Confederate President Jefferson Davis Two commission documents (1861) One letter (dated July 17, 1864) where Carpenter's Battery member Sergeant Benjamin Karnes describes circumstances surrounding the wounding of a fellow soldier. This letter was found among Carpenter's own papers.

## Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—Cadet life—1850-1859

Virginia Military Institute—Cadet compositions—Poetry

Virginia Military Institute—Faculty—Anecdotes

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Artillery—Carpenter's Battery

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1856

Soldiers—Virginia—Correspondence

Shenandoah Valley Campaign, 1862

Port Republic, Battle of (Virginia : 1862)

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Personal narratives—Confederate

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1856

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 27th

Carpenter's Battery

Correspondence

Notebooks

## Online Access

The Civil War documents from this collection are available online.

## Description of Subordinate Components

**Commission document****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5494**Unit Date** 1861 April 22**Language** English**Creator** Letcher, John, 1813-1884**Scope and Contents**

Commission of Joseph H. Carpenter to rank of First Lieutenant of Light Infantry in the 128th Regiment of the 13th Brigade and 5th Division of the Virginia Militia.

**Keywords**

Military commissions

Carpenter, Joseph H. (Joseph Hannah), 1834-1863

**Commission document****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5495**Unit Date** 1861 August 26**Language** English**Creator** Letcher, John, 1813-1884**Scope and Contents**

Commission of Joseph H. Carpenter to rank of Captain of Light Infantry in the 128th Regiment of the 13th Brigade and 5th Division of the Virginia Militia.

**Keywords**

Military commissions

Carpenter, Joseph H. (Joseph Hannah), 1834-1863

**Letter from Joseph H. Carpenter to father****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5490**Unit Date** 1862 May 18**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Written from Stribling Springs, Virginia. Letter regards the death of General Johnson and Joseph H. Carpenter's hope to be a Captain.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Soldiers—Virginia—Correspondence

**Transcription**

Stribling Springs, Va. May the 18th 1862

My Dear Father I wrote you some time ago but suppose that you did not receive my letter as I have not yet received an answer. I received a letter from Harriet a short time ago in which I was sorry to learn that your eyesight was no better. We have again met the enemy upon his own ground and completely routed him through. I suppose that you have now heard of that before this as Genl. Johnson was wounded. We lost a great many officers. This goes to prove that wherever meet him with anything like equal numbers that we prove to be the victims. I understand that there are several appointments to be made in the Regular Service for Captains I should like to have one. For reasons which I will explain to you when I see you and as you have the Governor's promise to aid you very likely I can succeed. The boys generally are well. In haste. Yours affectionately, Jos. Carpenter

**Letter from John Echols to Jefferson Davis****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5491**Unit Date** 1862 May 23**Language** English**Creator** Echols, John, 1823-1896**Scope and Contents**

Written from Lynchburg, Virginia. This is a letter of recommendation written on Joseph H. Carpenter's behalf.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Letters of recommendation

Carpenter, Joseph H. (Joseph Hannah), 1834-1863

**Transcription**

Lynchburg May 23d 1862 His Excellency Jefferson Davis Prest. C. S. A.

Sir, I understand that Capt. Joseph Carpenter, late of the 27th Regt. Virginia Volunteers, but now in command of a battery of Light Artillery in the division commanded by Gen. T. J. Jackson, desires to enter the regular army of the Confederate States and to devote himself permanently to the profession of arms.

It affords me pleasure to bear testimony to the soldierly qualities of Capt. Carpenter, He has received a through Military Education, having graduated at the Virginia Military Institute. He entered the service of the Confederacy at the commencement of the present war, and has ever since been in the faithful and efficient discharge of his duties. For much of the time that I was in command of the 27th Va. Vols. Capt. Carpenter commanded one of the companies of that Regiment and I therefore had the best opportunity of judging of his qualifications. He is prompt, active and faithful in the discharge of every duty, a good disciplinarian and has always displayed great gallantry on the field. As a consequence of his ability to control men and his skill as a Tactician his company was one of the very best and most efficient which I have known in the service. I sincerely trust that he may receive the appointment which he seeks, feeling assured that he will make a most valuable officer to the country. I have the honor to be Most respectfully [Sir] Jno Echols Brig Genl C.S.A.

**Letter from Joseph H. Carpenter to father**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5492

**Unit Date** 1862 June 16

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from "Camp Near Port Republic," Virginia. Letter regards troop movements and promotion news.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Soldiers—Virginia—Correspondence

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 27th

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

Echols, John, 1823-1896

Jackson, Stonewall, 1824-1863

**Transcription**

Camp Near Port Republic June 16, 1862

Dear Father, I wrote some time since but have not as yet received the first scratch of a pen from you. I suppose that you are now at home. Tis useless for me to tell you of the fights that we have had as no doubt you already know. But it appears to me now that fighting is becoming quite fashionable especially in Jackson's army. We have had three days rest in the last two months- the balance of the time either on a forced march or fighting one or the other. A few more such marches and fights will ruin his Old Brigade unless he allows them to recruit a little more, but the enemy appear to be determined to press us hard in our unorganized condition. But thank God we have been able to to overcome them on every occasion as yet. I was amusing in the last two fights. We had to see how Old Jack [word unknown] Fremont & Shields. He pitched into Fremont on Sunday and Shields had to stand in supporting distance and look at us hip him. We then crossed the River, burnt the Bridge and pitched into Shields on Monday and Fremont had to stand in full view and see us completely use Shields up without being able to come to his support. Both Battles were sharp especially on Monday as we were in an open field fighting five hours. I was in it first and continued until the Yanks began to run. When my ammunition gave out and I had to stop. Ben was wounded. Tom Jordan and four or five others slightly. I wrote you about trying to get me a situation in the Regular Service. Genl. Echols has given me a letter which I will send you. I could get others if necessary. The Situation I desire is a commission as Capt. of Artillery in the Regular Service, the reason that I seek it now is there is some talk of taking my company to fill up the 27th Regt. If they do that I shall not accept the commission as Capt. of the company. I was elected almost unanimously Lt. Col. of the 27th. But declined accepting the appointment because I preferred my Battery notwithstanding the severe Labor to that position in Infantry. But since the authorities seem anxious to get me into infantry after all the trouble that I have had I am just anxious not to gratify them if I can help it and I suppose they will grant me the same privilege as other officers of my own rank. I am tolerably well at present. Write soon. Yours etc. Jos. Carpenter

**Letter from Benjamin Karne to Colonel****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/5493**Unit Date** 1864 July 17**Language** English**Creator** Karnes, Benjamin**Scope and Contents**

Written from Winchester, Virginia. Letter describes circumstances surrounding the wounding of a fellow soldier.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

Soldiers—Virginia—Correspondence

**General**

Don't be uneasy about Ben he will be well taken care of. J.

Winchester 17th July 1864

Dear Col. I have just arrived here for the purpose of telegraphing to you to let you know that Ben was very seriously wounded through the right lung on yesterday, but I hope not dangerously, but find there is no communication by telegraph. I will give you the Circumstances as near as I can. He and myself left the road some half mile for the purpose of getting dinner. After getting dinner was coming back to the road, not thinking that there was a Yankee in ten miles of us & the first thing we knew we rode into a Yankee picket post. Ben drew his pistol (I had no arms) to fire on the one nearest to him. The Yankee raised his Carbine, they both fired about the same instant & both fell from their horses wounded. The Yankees jumped up & ran. Ben fired four other shots at him but missed him, the other Yankees having run. I got Ben up on his horse to carry him off but after carrying him a short distance he got too weak to ride. I then had to take him down & leave him as the Yankees were coming up the road again. As soon as I got to the road I got an ambulance & a Company of Sharp Shooters & went back after him & brought him on to our Camp last night near Berryville. He rested very well last night & is in a good deal better this morning than I expected he would be. The Doctors examined his wound this morning & say it is a severe wound but don't consider it a dangerous one. He will be taken to Mr. Cook's today (near Millwood) where he will get every attention & I am in hopes will soon be well enough to be moved to a safe place. I can't tell what our movements will be. The Army has gone into Camp about Berryville, 10 miles South E. of Winchester. After I left Ben, the Yankees came up to him. They gave him some water & took his watch and pistol. They also asked him a good many questions which I am sure were not very satisfactorily answered. My best respects to all, Ben Karnes