

William D. Stuart papersMS.0108

William D. Stuart papers
1850-1863

Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS.0108

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/588

Unit Date

1850-1863

Language

English .

Creator

Stuart, William D. (William Dabney), 1830-1863

Creator

Smith, Francis H. (Francis Henney), 1812-1890

Creator

Jordan, Gabriel, Jr., 1831-1884

Extent

60 items 60 items in one box

Physical Location

Manuscripts stacks

Repository

Virginia Military Institute Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions.

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Preferred Citation

William D. Stuart papers, 1850-1863. MS 0108. VMI Archives, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

William Dabney Stuart was born on September 30, 1830 in Staunton, Virginia to Thomas Jefferson Stuart and Martha M. Dabney. He did preparatory work at the Staunton Academy and then entered VMI in July 1847. Stuart graduated from VMI in July 1850, standing 3rd in a class of 17.

Following graduation he taught at VMI (1850-1853) and was subsequently a principal of classical schools in Washington D.C. and Richmond, Virginia. He married Frances Harris of Loudon County, Virginia and the couple had three children: Martha, Mary Bell, and William.

During the Civil War, Stuart briefly commanded the 15th Virginia Infantry Regiment, and was then appointed Colonel with the 56th Virginia Infantry Regiment, Confederate States Army. He was mortally wounded at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania during Pickett's Charge, and died in a hospital in Staunton on July 29, 1863.

Scope and Contents

The bulk of the William D. Stuart papers consists of the Civil War papers (60 items; 1861-1863) of Stuart. The papers contain: Correspondence to and from various Confederate Army officers Morning and guard reports Military orders Invoices and receipts documenting Stuart's brief service with the 15th Virginia Infantry Regiment and his command of the 56th Virginia Infantry Regiment Other items include letters of recommendation for a United States Army Commission (1850), a letter from Gabriel Jordan, Jr. (VMI Class of 1850) dated November 1854, and printed material.

Keywords

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 15th

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1850

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

Correspondence

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

Orders (military records)

Receipts (financial records)

Letters of recommendation

Marshall, Humphrey, 1812-1872

Cosby, George B. (George Blake, 1831-1909)

Slaughter, Philip P. (Philip Peyton), 1834-1893

Baldwin, Briscoe G. (Briscoe Gerard), 1828-1898

Online Access

Full text transcriptions of the bulk of these papers are available online.

Provenance

The William D. Stuart papers were originally in the possession of Stuart's widow and were passed down through the family before being donated to VMI.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged by document type and chronologically thereunder.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/468

Unit Date 1850-1863

Language English.

Extent 54 items

Letter from Francis H. Smith to A. H. H. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/473

Unit Date 1850 December 3

Language English.

Creator Smith, Francis H. (Francis Henney), 1812-1890

Scope and Contents

Written from VMI, Lexington, Virginia. Letter endorses William D. Stuart's application for a commission in the United States Army.

Keywords

Letters of recommendation

Correspondence

Transcription

Virginia Military Institute December 3 1850

My dear sir Having understood that Mr. W. D. Stuart is an applicant for a commission in the U.S. Army I take the liberty of addressing you a private note on his behalf. I do this in preference to the formal course of a recommendation, because you will be better able to appreciate what I may say in the unreserved mode in which I write.

You are aware that Mr. S. entered this Institution as a cadet in July 1847. After completing the whole course of studies, he was graduated in July last with great credit. You will see by the accompanying merit roll that in all his classes he maintained a most respectable standing, while in Geology, Artillery, and Infantry Tactics, he was No. 1. And in Military Engineering 3rd.

In addition to these facts, he was a commissioned officer of the Corps of Cadets and gave great satisfaction to us in the manner in which he discharged his duties.

So high was our estimate of his talents as a scholar and qualifications as an officer, that on a vacancy in our Corps of Instructors occurring in July, he was selected as an assistant Professor of Math. And assistant Instructor of Tactics and has been discharging these duties with great credit up to the present time.

From my personal knowledge of the qualifications of an officer of the Army, I know that there are few young men who enter the Service from West Point who are better qualified than Stuart and I have no doubt he will make as fine an officer as can be selected for the Infantry arm of the Service.

You know his moral qualifications as well as I do. If any doubt had existed on this point, he would never have been appointed an officer in this Institution.

hope it will be the pleasure of the President to confer an appointment upon Mr. Stuart.

This Institution has been laboring now for 11 years in building up its Military reputation and we should like to have an opportunity of comparing our graduates with those from West Point.

With cordial regards to Mrs. S. I am very truly your friend Francis H. Smith

Hon. A. H. H. Stuart Washington City

Letter from Thomas H. Williamson

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/474

Unit Date 1850 December 10

Language English.

Creator Williamson, Thomas H. (Thomas Hoomes), 1813-1888

Scope and Contents

Written from VMI, Lexington, Virginia. Letter endorses William D. Stuart's application for a commission in the United States Army.

Keywords

Letters of recommendation

Correspondence

Transcription

Va. Military Institute Dec 10th 1850

Mr. W.D. Stuart desires to obtain a commission in the U.S. Army. His present post, that of Asst. Instructor of Tactics in the Va. Military Institute is evidence of his peculiar fitness for command. His acquirements at the Institute of which he is a graduate, embracing Engineering, Artillery, and Infantry Tactics, with Mathematics and the Natural Sciences were such as to induce the authorities of the Institute to select him from her many graduates for the very responsible situation he now holds, a situation which requires judgement, firmness and decision of Character- all of which Mr. Stuart possesses in a high degree. His uniformly gentlemanly deportment has endeared him to his fellow officers and will make him grace the position he seeks. Thomas. H. Williamson Prof. Engr. & Arch.

Letter from John T. L. Preston

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/475

Unit Date 1850 December 10

Language English.

Creator Preston, John T. L. (John Thomas Lewis), 1811-1890

Scope and Contents

Written from VMI, Lexington, Virginia. Letter endorses William D. Stuart's application for a commission in the United States Army.

Keywords

Letters of recommendation

Correspondence

Transcription

VMI December 10, 1850

W. Stuart was appointed immediately after his graduation Assistant Instructor of Tactics in the Virginia Military Institute. This is the highest and most indubitable testimony of the estimate of his military qualifications, by those who know him best. The course of military instruction and discipline at the Institute conforms strictly to that of the U.S.A. at West Point and is conducted by graduates of the latter Institution. If from a jealous regard to the character of the Army, the Government ordinarily restricts its commissions to the graduates of West Point, the same principle might well incline it, in its exceptional appointment of citizens, to feel a preference for those, who like Mr. Stuart, have at a State Institution, thoroughly prepared themselves for the Military Profession. John T.L. Preston Prof. V.M.I

Letter from Gabriel Jordan, Jr. to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/476

Unit Date 1854 November 22

Language English.

Creator Jordan, Gabriel, Jr., 1831-1884

Scope and Contents

Written from Huntsville, Alabama. Letter comments on respective marriages, jobs, and future prospects.

Keywords

Correspondence

Transcription

Engineers Office Memphis and Charleston Railroad Huntsville November 22d 1854

My Dear Stuart, I have just stolen away from my wife and have run up to my office with the determination of writing you. I was not a little surprised to learn through your letter that you had written me. Your letter, which reached me about ten days ago was the only one I have received from you since your marriage. I wrote you at that particularly interesting time a note of congratulations, as well as a letter, just before your marriage, but have received no letter in return. Now my good fellow I have no doubt but what you think that you wrote me, but as for my part I am inclined to think that you did not. I

am sure I should not think it strange if you had not for you are a newly married man, and as a matter of course can not afford to give your friends many thoughts, at least for a while.

It is really refreshing, my old friend to hear from you and especially to know that you are a married man and in the full enjoyment of the pleasures that attend married love. My wife returned from Virginia about the first of September with much improved health---and my boy is a most magnificent fellow. A look at him might be of some service to you. Don't blush my dear fellow I don't mean any thing.

Dabney, what under the sun has become of all of our class mates. You are living in the center of our great union and should be posted up on every thing. I never see the names of any of our class in the papers, nor do I ever correspond with any of them, hence I am utterly ignorant of their movements. I never any thing from Lexington since you left there. Have any of our old acquaintances married off since our days-.

Matters here are still wearing a pleasant and flattering aspect. Our road is moving on finely, and we trust ere many more months pass away, that we will have a large and important portion of our work finished. I wish that we had a good comfortable post to offer you here. We are finishing up so fast that we are reducing the Corps instead of increasing. Still, should you ever make up your mind to embark in the profession, we might look out for a post for you.

Your school I trust will for the present afford you a comfortable competency, and something besides. School teaching, like every thing else has its reverses, its calms and its storms. We can find no profession that is made up entirely of sunshine. We must expect the life of man to harmonize with nature, having its passing clouds and refreshing sunshine in equal turns. I with all my hopeful temperament, have had my moments of gloom and anxiety, but with a fond wife, no less hopeful than myself, to cheer me, I have faced all and am now full of bright anticipation. Nor does this come about from any fortune, or particular promises, but all from a conviction that there is room for everyone in this world and plenty for everyone to do, and that industry when ever it is found is in the course of time rewarded. This is an unusually difficult time with almost everyone. There seems to be a weariness in the money market in every quarter. Men experience great difficulty in meeting their general expenses. This state of affairs, I have no doubt has had its influence upon your school, and I feel assured that there will be an improvement after a little while. I hope my dear Stuart, that you will continue to keep me posted up in regard to your movements, for I may find a good offering out South that would please you, and if such should be the case, it would give me inexpressible pleasure to serve you. I will always be on the look out. A new country is better for a young man in any profession. The competition is not so great and pay better. Present me the kindest manner to your good wife and receive the renewed assurance of your old and sincere friend and classmate. Gabe Jordan Jr.

Letter from William D. Stuart to John Letcher

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/478

Unit Date 1861 April 15

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Richmond, Virginia. Letter asks Virginia Governor John Letcher for an appointment in the Army in the event of secession.

Keywords

Correspondence

Letcher, John, 1813-1884

Transcription

Richmond, Va. April 15th 1861

Gov. Letcher Dear Sir, I enclose recommendations from the Authorities of the Va. Military Institute to the Secretary of War under Mr. Fillmore for an appointment in the U.S. Army at that time. I submit them to you in my own behalf for an appointment under the State of Va. in the event of her secession from the present Federal Government. I desire an appointment to any position in which my services may be required the most valuable, either in the active duties of the field or otherwise. Very respectfully yours,
Wm. D. Stuart

Military order

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/479

Unit Date 1861 May 20

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Special Order No. 81 from Richmond, Virginia. William D. Stuart is assigned to duty with troops at the

Special Order No. 81 from Richmond, Virginia. William D. Stuart is assigned to duty with troops at the camp of instruction.

Keywords

Orders (military records)

Correspondence

Transcription

Head Qrs Va Forces Richmond Va. May 20 1861 Special Orders No 82

Col. T.P. August, Lt. Col. W.D. Stuart, and Major Thos. G. Peyton, Virginia Vols, are assigned to duty with the troops at the "Camp of Instruction" and will report without delay to Col. William Gilham commanding that post.

By order of Maj. Genl Lee R. Garnett Adjut Genl.

Letter from Richmond City Guard to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/480

Unit Date 1861 May 21

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Richmond, Virginia. Letter expresses regret at William D. Stuart's resignation as commanding officer of the Richmond City Guard.

Keywords

Correspondence

Transcription

Richmond May 21st 1861 Capt. W. D. Stuart

Dear Sir, At a meeting of the Richmond City Guard held this evening, the undersigned were appointed a Committee to express to you the unfeigned regret of the Company on having read your resignation, and to tender you the sincere thanks of the Company for the faithfulness and efficiency with which you have discharged the duties of Commanding Officer.

While the Company deplores deeply the necessity which separates you from us, we rejoice to know that our Beloved State will have the benefit of your valuable services.

Permit us personally and on behalf of the Company to tender you our best wishes for your future happiness and prosperity.

Very truly your friends, Davis N. Walker Samuel M. Bailey James E. Burress

Letter from William Gilham to Colonel

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/481

Unit Date 1861 May 23

Language English.

Creator Gilham, William, 1818-1872

Scope and Contents

Written from the Camp of Instruction, Richmond. Letter to an unidentified colonel regards the placement of William D. Stuart and other officers.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Transcription

Unofficial

Camp of Instruction May 23rd

My dear Col. When three field officers were assigned to duty here, I was so green as to put each in command of a Regt., having no other officers who knew any thing about organizing a Regt. This arrangement does not seem to have suited Col. August, who has been complaining to the powers that be, and I have received an order directing me to assign them all to one Regt--that of Col. August of course. Col. Stuart is one of them, and is totally unprepared for the field; he will make application to Gen. Fauntleroy this evening for a few days, please see what you can do for him. Gen. F. though may not have him in his Divn, if so he will have to go to Col. Magruder of course.

Yours sincerely W. Gilham

Letter from Maury Garland to William D. Stuart**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/482**Unit Date** 1861 July 5**Language** English.**Scope and Contents**

Written from Richmond, Virginia. Letter regards materials to make a tent.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Transcription

Richmond July 5th 1861 Lt. Col. Stewart [Stuart] 3rd Regt. Va. Vols. Yorktown

Dear Sir, Sometime, about the latter part of May or the commencement of June your lady Mrs. Stewart in company with Mrs. Lucy Wharton called at my Office in order to procure material for the purpose of making you a tent as they were unable to get a tent already made: and stated that you were without one. Under these circumstances, I furnished the necessary material with the consent of Col. Heth the then Q.M. General who instructed me to take your receipt for one tent. The receipt has been delayed from various causes, partly because I did not know the address of Mrs. Stewart or yourself. Should you receive this letter I would be much obliged that you sign and return me the enclosed receipt; by your prompt attention to wit you will much oblige.

Yours very respectfully, Maury Garland Capt. and Asst. Q. M.

Letter from G. B. Cosby to William D. Stuart**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/483**Unit Date** 1861 July 25**Language** English.**Scope and Contents**

Written from Williamsburg, Virginia. Letter orders William D. Stuart to work on fortifications at King's Mill.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Transcription

Head Quarters Williamsburg July 25th 1861

Col., The General having understood that Colonel August is unwell. He directs that you will urge with the greatest vigor the work on the Fortification at King's Mill. In order to do this you will have but one drill a day in the evening. The working hours will be from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. The guns to place in the various works are now on the way here and it is specially desired to have the works ready for them at the earliest moment.

I am sir very respectfully Your obedient servant G. B. Cosby Maj. and AAAG

Military order**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/484**Unit Date** 1861 August 13**Language** English.**Scope and Contents**

Special Order No. 222 from Youngs Farm. Regards payment of troops and powers of attorney. By command of General Magruder and signed by G. B. Cosby, A.A.A.G.

Keywords

Orders (military records)

Correspondence

Military order**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/485**Unit Date** 1861 September 17

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Special Order No. 280 from the Adjutant Inspector General's office, Richmond, Virginia. William D. Stuart is promoted and assigned to the command of the 56th Virginia Regiment.

Keywords

Orders (military records)

Correspondence

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

Transcription

Adjutant Inspr Genl's Office Richmond Sept 17th 1861 Extract Special Orders No. 280

XI. Lieut Colonel William D. Stuart Virginia Volunteers is promoted to be Colonel and assigned to the Command of the 56th Virginia Regiment just organized at Camp Lee, near this city, and will report accordingly.

By order of the Secretary of War [Geo. Deas] A.A.G.

Letter from William D. Stuart to George W. Munford

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/486

Unit Date 1861 November 15

Language English.

Creator Stuart, William D. (William Dabney), 1830-1863

Scope and Contents

Written from Camp Lee. Letter regards a flag for William D. Stuart's regiment.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

Transcription

Camp Lee Nov. 15th 1861 Col. George W. Munford

Sir I had the honor receive at the hands of Col. S. Bassett French the Flag of Va. intended for the Regiment I have the honor to command, also the accompanying letter of presentation from you.

As the commanding officer of the Regt. and its organ upon this occasion, I need not assure you that I received it with pride and satisfaction. Regarding it as the emblem of the honor and purity of our Mother State, hitherto unsullied in Council or War it shall be carefully guarded that it receive no detriment at the hands of the Regiment to which you have confided. I think I can with all safety assure you, and that the Sons of Va., voluntarily of the 56th Va. Regt. will ever be found at their post of duty and that they will never do discredit to the sacred cause in which they have enlisted.

The Daughters of Va. whose fair hands have wrought this beautiful emblem of Va.'s honor, will never have cause to blush for shame at the conduct of their brothers.

I am very respectfully Your obedient servant William D. Stuart, Col. Commanding 56th Va. Regt.

Military order

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/487

Unit Date 1861 November 21

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Special Order No. 232 from Richmond, Virginia by command of Secretary of War per John Withers. The 56th Virginia Infantry regiment is ordered to Jeffersonville, Virginia to report to Brigadier General Marshall.

Keywords

Orders (military records)

Correspondence

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

Transcription

Adjnt and Insp Genls Office Richmond, Nov 21st 1861 Extract Special Orders No 232

XI. The 56th Regiment Virginia Volunteers, Col. Stuart Commanding, will proceed without delay, via Wytheville, to Jeffersonville, VA. and report for duty to Brig. Genl. Marshall.

By Command of the Sec. of War Jno. Withers Asst. Adj. Genl.

Letter from Humphrey Marshall to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/488

Unit Date 1861 December 1

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Pound Gap, Virginia. William D. Stuart is ordered to move his regiment forward by Pound Gap towards Prestonsburg, Kentucky.

Keywords

Correspondence

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

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

Transcription

Head Quarters Brigade Pound Gap 1 Dec 1861

Col. Stuart, Sir, In reply to your note reporting your command to me, I direct that you move your regiment forward by Pound Gap towards Prestonburg in Kentucky, as soon as possible after the reception of the order, unless you should receive other directions from Maj. Genl. George B. Crittenden at Knoxville.

I am sir, Your obedient servant, Humphrey Marshall Brig. Genl.

Telegram from W. Gibboney to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/489

Unit Date 1861 December 2

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Wytheville, Virginia. Telegram regards wagons.

Keywords

Telegrams

Correspondence

Transcription

Some of the wagoners I hired and started left the teams on the road. I am compelled to go to Abingdon by private conveyance and will purchase some waggon & c by the way and hire other wagoners.

W. Gibboney A. Q. M.

Letter from A. Meade Smith to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/490

Unit Date 1861 December 2

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Wytheville, Virginia. Letter regards transportation vouchers.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Transcription

Transportation Office C.S.A Wytheville, Va. December 2nd 1861 Col. W. D. Stuart Com. 56th Regt. Va. Vols. Abingdon Va.

Colonel, The Frt. Agt. of the Va. and Tenn. R. R. has requested me to give him vouchers for the transportation of the stores in the Train which accompanied that containing your Regiment from Wytheville to Abigdon and allso for the baggage of the Regiment.

Will you please inform me whether you have already provided receipt for the transportation and whether the baggage was entitled to transportable from government. I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully Your obedient servant A. Meade Smith Capt. & [Acting] QM CSA

Military order

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/491

Unit Date 1861 December 5

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Knoxville, Tennessee. William D. Stuart's regiment is ordered to Nashville, Tennessee.

Keywords

Correspondence

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

Orders (military records)

Transcription

Hd. Qts. Knoxville, Tenn Dec. 5th 1861

To- Col. Stuart Commd. 56th Regt. Va. Vols.

You will move with your Regiment as soon as transportation can be furnished to you, to Nashville Tenn.

By Command of Maj. Genl. G. B. Crittenden A.S. Cunningham A.A. Genl.

Telegram from William H. Carroll to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/492

Unit Date 1861 December 10

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Knoxville, Tennessee. General A. S. Johnson orders William D. Stuart's regiment to remain with General Marshall.

Keywords

Telegrams

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

Correspondence

Transcription

Received at: Abingdon Dec 10 1861

By Telegraph from: Knoxville Dec 10 To: Col. Stuart

Genl. Johnson orders that your Regiment remain with Genl. Marshall W. H. Carroll Brig. Genl.

Telegram from S. Cooper to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/493

Unit Date 1861 December 11

Language English.

Scope and Contents

From Richmond, Virginia. William D. Stuart's regiment is to proceed to Pound Gap to report to General Marshall.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Transcription

Received at: Abingdon Dec 11 1861 By Telegraph from: Richmond Dec 11 To: Col. W. D. Stuart

Proceed with your Regiment to Pound Gap and report to Genl. Marshall. The Quarter Masters Dept. is ordered to furnish transportation.

S. Cooper A. G.

Military order**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/494**Unit Date** 1861 December 21**Language** English.**Scope and Contents**

Special Order No. 8 from Headquarters 1st Brigade, Army of Eastern Kentucky, Camp near Paintville, by order of General Marshall. William D. Stuart's regiment is to move immediately without further delay.

Keywords

Orders (military records)

Correspondence

Transcription

Headquarters 1st Brigade Army of Eastern Ky. Camp near Paintville Dec 21st 1861

Special Order No. 8

Col. Stuart is directed to move his Regiment from Abingdon immediately with such transportation as can be procured. It is of the first importance to the safety and success of the command on this frontier that the reinforcements destined for the forces already here shall move to the front without delay. Fine opportunities for brilliant successes have been lost for want of their presence and others are daily passing away. The weather has favored the movement of the troops, but has not been taken at advantage. The General directs that the movement be commenced without further delay and that the passage of the troops over Pound Gap be notified to him by the returning courier.

By order of Brig. Genl. H. Marshall Att. B. H. Bradley A. Adj. Genl.

Letter from Humphrey Marshall to William D. Stuart**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/495**Unit Date** 1861 December 22**Language** English.**Scope and Contents**

Written from Paintville, Kentucky. William D. Stuart must move his regiment without delay.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Transcription

1861 December 22 Paintsville, KY 22nd Dec.

Col. Stuart, I send express to you to move your regiment without delay. I am before a force so much superior to me in number, according to the report of reliable scouts, that I can scarcely hope to avoid a collision-- it may be disastrous to us- until you arrive.

If there are any forces near your route who are disengaged I would like exceedingly to have them assist me now. I am here with a force not amounting to 1500 men fit for duty. I shall struggle to keep off the evil day as long possible for you to arrive.

Yours truly & c H. Marshall Brig. Genl.

[note on back] Press transportation any where you can, if it is not ready, but travel lightly for the roads are deep. H.M.

Letter from R. H. Chilton to William D. Stuart**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/496**Unit Date** 1861 December 24**Language** English.**Scope and Contents**

Written from Richmond, Virginia. William D. Stuart is directed by the Secretary of War to report to General Marshall.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Transcription

Adj. Insp. G. S. G. Office Richmond Dec 24/61

AQJ. [X] inspect. GENL'S OFFICE RICHMOND DEC 24/61

Sir, The Secretary of War directs that you immediately proceed to carry out the instructions referred to in your comn of the 23rd inst. by reporting, with all your effective force, for duty to Brig. General Marshall, making proper provisions for your sick at Abingdon.

Very Respectfully Your Obd. Servt. R. H. Chilton A. Genl.

Lt. Col. Philip P. Slaughter Or/ Commanding Officer 56 Reg. Va. Vols. Abingdon , Va.

Letter from Philip P. Slaughter to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/497

Unit Date 1861 December 27

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Abingdon, Virginia. Letter concerns orders to go to Pound Gap, Virginia.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Transcription

Abingdon (Va) Dec 27th 1861

To- Col. Wm. D Stuart

Dear Sir: Since my arrival I have received orders to go immediately to Pound Gap from both the Sec. of War and Gen. Marshall. The order from Gen. M is both peremptory and urgent, and it is asource of the greatest mortification to me to find that, at so critical a juncture we are totally impotent, and I much fear ("entre nous") our reputation may suffer in the mind of the public who cannot be aware of the embarrassing circumstances by which we are surrounded. I think it would be well if you could represent us in our true colors to the War Dept. Genl. M. writes that he is threatened by a superior force and urges our immediate movement which I am unable to comply with, not having more than eight or nine waggons and no horses. At the very earliest moment possible I will move on to Pound Gap with the fragment of the Regt.

From what I have learned since writing the above, the opinion prevails in Richmond that the Regt. declined transportation on account of the "onerous march across the mountains". You can judge of the correctness of this statement. Such seems to be the prevailing opinion in the War. Dept. Can you do any thing for us? I am in the worst quandary I ever was in my life. Please telegraph me at your earliest convenience.

I think a court of inquiry would be beneficial to us: at all events, it could not injure us.

Yours very respectfully P. P. Slaughter Favor of Capt. R. B. Patterson Q.M.

P. S. I enclose you Genl. Marshall's orders, that you may see how we stand. I retain a copy of them. You will also find enclosed, the order from War Dept. P. P. S.

Copy of letter from Philip P. Slaughter to Brigadier General Marshall

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/498

Unit Date 1861 December 27

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Abingdon, Virginia. Letter regards contradictory orders and illness of William D. Stuart and men.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

Transcription

Abingdon Dec. 27th 1861

To- Brig. Gen. Marshall

Sir, I am in receipt of your order of the 22nd inst. as well as your Special Order No. 8. It is a source of exceeding regret and much mortification to me, to find myself in so crippled a condition at such a critical junction. Twice since being here I have prepared transportation in accordance with orders, once to join

your command, which, when I got ready, I was compelled to decline by an order from Gen. Crittenden "to go immediately to Nashville and report to Gen. A. S. Johnston. I then went to work to get transportation by rail, to Nashville, which I after some days effected. My men were at the Depot ready to march on the cars, when I received a telegram to remain and go with you; since which time I have not been able to collect the necessary No. of waggons to convey the Regt. in obedience to orders.

The Regt. is reduced lower than one half its original size, and is at present in a very debilitated condition. Col. Stuart, by reason of sickness has not been able to take command of the Regt. since leaving Richmond. Maj. Green is absent, all of which combine to place me in a very unenviable position upon the receipt of your orders.

As to the matter of transportation, I have only eight or ten wagons and no horses, as the Quartermaster informs me.

I shall endeavor to the utmost of my ability to move at the earliest time possible and most sincerely hope I may be able to join you in season to render some assistance in the existing emergency.

This will be handed to you by Capt. T. Smith of the 56th Regt. in whom you can place all confidence.

I did not see your courier or I should have dispatched by him. He left before I could reach the village.

I am sir very respectfully Your obt. Servt. Philip P. Slaughter Lt. Col. Comd. 56th Va. Regt.

Letter from Marion Howard to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/499

Unit Date 1861 December 27

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Abingdon, Virginia. Letter reports on sickness of regiment and men in hospital.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Transcription

Abigdon, Va. Dec 27th 1861

Dear Colonel, 'Tis said and I more than partly believe that we are to move to Marshall's Command per Pound Gap and that in some what of a hurry. Your command is worse off in the matter of sick men than when you left. There are forty men in the Hospital and the number would be greater in there were room. The number of sick men in camp and private houses is hardly to be believed, but I think I am in bounds when I say that if 250 men rank and file are able to march now, 'tis more than I expect. But 'tis hardly friendly to trouble you with such things so I'll only say that we "what can go" are going and no mistake. I hear you have some idea of joining us immediately. Don't hurry unless you are really strong enough; for I know your impetuosity of old.

In great haste M. Howard

Military order

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/500

Unit Date 1862 January 2

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Special Order No. 1 from Richmond, Virginia. William D. Stuart's regiment is detached from General Marshall's command and will proceed to Bowling Green, Kentucky to General A. S. Johnston.

Keywords

Orders (military records)

Correspondence

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

Transcription

Adjt and Inspr. Genl's Office Richmond, Jany 2 1862 Extract Special Order No. 1

Colonel Stuart's 56th Regiment Virginia Volunteers is detached from General Humphrey Marshall's Command and will immediately proceed to Bowling Green Kentucky and report to General A.S. Johnston for duty with General Floyds Brigade.

By Command of the Secretary of War John Withers Asst. Adjt Genl.

Letter from Phillip P. Slaughter to William D. Stuart**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/501**Unit Date** 1862 January 4**Language** English.**Scope and Contents**

Written from Abingdon, Virginia. Letter regards order to proceed to Bowling Green, Kentucky. Letter also encloses Special Order No. 1 (dated January 2, 1862).

Keywords

Correspondence

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Personal narratives—Confederate Orders (military records)

Transcription

Abingdon (Va) Jan. 4th 1862 Col. Wm. D. Stuart

Dear Sir, On yesterday, I received from Captain Patteson the following telegram. "Col. Stuart says, leave Jacob and his baggage". The dispatch said nothing of the horse. I was in much doubt about him. Before determining, I mentioned the matter to Dr. Howard, who by the way, has been confined to his bed for a week, & is unable to proceed with the Regt. and intends keeping his horse with him. After reading the telegram, he advised me to leave your horse in care of Jacob. All your baggage, that is, all I imagine was meant, consisting of a horse, saddle & bridle, sword, bed, trunk, field glasses, canteen, etc. I turned over to Mr. Benham, saw them placed together in a room and showed them to Jacob.

Six companies of the Regt. have gone in under command of Capt. Boswell. The others will go tonight. I am much afraid we may be detained somewhat at Union, the first burnt bridge; but our great object is to get away as fast as possible from the road to Pound Gap. I will send you a copy of the order from the Sec of War.

Jacob, during our troubles has been invaluable to me; indeed, while attending to my immensable duties, I think I would have starved but for his providing hand & it is almost certain I would have lost everything I have, but for his care. I envy you very much the possession of so valuable & reliable a servant.

I told him he would either keep his horse in the Quartermaster's stables or at Mr. Benham's. In case I misinterpreted your wishes concerning him, and you should desire him to be sent on, write to Dr. Howard, who expects to carry his own, & it will be as easy to carry two as one. Should you adopt this suggestion, you had better write immediately.

Jacob desires me to say he is tolerable well and would like to hear from you as soon as convenient to know what course he is to pursue.

Maj. Green has not returned as yet. Two of Capt. Richardson's men deserted last night. I think we have some thirty sick in the hospital.

Hoping this may find you rapidly recovering and that you are able to rejoin us speedily.

I am sir, very respectfully P. P. Slaughter

[on back] Copy of Order from Sec. Of War Extract Adj. & Inspect. Genl's Office Richmond Jan 2th 1862 Special Order No. 1:

XV. Colonel Stuart's 56th Regt. Virginia Volunteers, is detached from General Humphrey Marshall's Command and will immediately proceed to Bowling Green, Kentucky and report to General A. S. Johnston for duty with General Floyd's Brigade.

By Command of the Secretary of War Jno. Withers Asst. Adj. Genl. Col. 56th Va. Vols. To Commanding Officer C. S. Forces Abingdon Va.

Letter from William D. Stuart to General Cooper**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/502**Unit Date** 1862 February 5**Language** English.**Creator** Stuart, William D. (William Dabney), 1830-1863**Scope and Contents**

Written from Richmond, Virginia. Letter regards confusion in orders to 56th Virginia Infantry Regiment.

Keywords

Correspondence

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

Transcription

Richmond, Va. Feb 5th 62

Genl. Cooper, Sir, I beg leave to submit he following statement to the Department in refutation of the report, circulated I understand at the Head Qrs. by the Brigade Quartermaster of Genl. Humphrey Marshall's, to the effect that I had refused transportation for my command, from Abingdon to Prestonsburg the point to which I was ordered by Genl. Marshall. The enclosed letter written at the time to the Department has bearing upon this point. The following is a literal copy of the order from Genl. Marshall by my messenger Capt. Taylor sent to inquire to which point I should march.

Head Quarters Brigade Pound Gap 1 Dec 1861

Col. Stuart, Sir, In reply to your note reporting your command to me, I direct that you move your regiment forward by Pound Gap towards Prestonsburg in Kentucky, as soon as possible after the reception of this order, unless you should receive directions from Major Genl. George B. Crittenden at Knoxville.

I am sir Your Obt. Servt. Humphrey Marshall Brig. Genl.

This order was received late at night and a verbal message by Capt. Taylor that a messenger had been sent to Genl. Crittenden to inform him of my presence in Abingdon and that he should write order me to join him if necessary. Not hearing from Genl. Crittenden in forty-eight hours after, I sent Lieut. Col. Slaughter to Knoxville to find out from him at once whether I should expect orders from him and he replied by Telegraph through Capt. Cunningham his A. A. Genl. ordering me to Nashville & Col. Slaughter returned the following day bringing the following order by which this is an exact copy.

Hd. Qrs. Knoxville Tenn. Dec. 5th 1861 To Col Stuart Command. 56th Regt. Va. Vols.

Sir, You will move with your Regiment as soon as transportation can be furnished to Nashville, Tenn.

By Command of Maj. Genl. G. B. Crittenden S. Cunningham A. Genl.

The interval between the reception of these orders was employed by me busily in attempting to procure transportation and finding no Quarter Master at Abingdon, I sent to Wytheville for Capt. Gibboney A. Q. M. at that point to report at Abingdon and assist me. My own QuarterMaster was without funds for that purpose. Capt. Gibboney arrived bringing with him waggons purchased on the road and by the time of the reception of the order from Genl. Crittenden, I had enough transportation on hand, by leaving some articles behind to enable me to reach Prestonsburg. Of course after the order of Genl. Crittenden, I had no use for the waggons and ordered them immediately to be loaded with supplies of ordnance and other belongings to Genl. Marshall and forwarded to him

Immediately upon the receipt of Genl. Crittenden's order, so uncertain was telegraphic communication, I sent my Quarter Master to Lynchburg to arrange for transportation by rail to Nashville and had already procured it and would have been on the way to Nashville but for the bursting of one of the [flues] of the engines, when I received the following order by Telegraph received in Abingdon Dec 10th about dark.

Knoxville Dec 10th To Col. Stuart, Genl. A . S. Johnston orders that your Regiment remain with Genl. Marshall. W. H. Carroll Brig. Genl.

Upon the reception of this order I immediately telegraphed the Department to know whose orders I should obey? In the meantime the waggons I had secured for my Regiment were on the way to Pound Gap and I was thus compelled to commence again to prepare transportation for that trip.

I had been quite unwell with jaundice ad the Surgeon finding that we would be compelled to go to Pound Gap told me that he would not answer for the consequences should I undertake to go and advised my return to Richmond, where I have been confined to my room with a severe attack of Rheumatism until within the last ten days. I left the Regiment under command of Lt. Col. Slaughter and I know that the delay in proceeding to join Genl. Marshall arose from no indisposition on his part to execute the orders, but from an absolute inability to procure the necessary transportation. There can be found in the service no officer more active, intelligent and competent to the discharge of the duties of his position. We are anxious if there is the slightest doubt remaining on the mind of the Honl. Sec. as to the want of proper activity on the part of the officer of the Regiment to move forward, that he will order a Court of Inquiry that the matter may be thoroughly sifted.

I have the honor to be Your obt. servt. Wm. D. Stuart, Col. 56th Va. Regt.

Letter from I. B. Gibson to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/503

Unit Date 1862 March 4

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Richmond, Virginia. Letter regards William T. Cross' certificate of disability.

Keywords

Certificates

Correspondence

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

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

Transcription

Genl. Hospital Richmd. March 4 1862

Wm. T Cross, Private Co. E. 56 Reg. Va. Vols. has been in this hospital since 1 Nov 1861 with Secondary Syphilis. He has now Syphilitic Rheumatism & as his turn of enlistment will expire in June, I recommend his discharge from the service.

I. Beu. Gibson Surg. P. A. C. S. Richmond Genl. Hospital

Official business Wm. D. Stuart Col: 56 Regt.

Sir, Enclosed please find Certificate of disability for Private W. T. Cross. It must be approved by the Capt. of his Co. & Col. of the Reg. & returned to me- at least this is the usual form.

If there is a prospect of obtaining his discharge at once, I would prefer his remaining in the Hospital until it is received here.

Very resp. I. B. Gibson Surg. P. A. C. S. Richmd Genl. Hospital

Letter from Briscoe G. Baldwin to Colonel Mackall

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/504

Unit Date 1862 March 8

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Richmond, Virginia. Letter regards William D. Stuart rejoining his regiment after a severe illness.

Keywords

Correspondence

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

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

Transcription

Richmond Arsenal March 8th 1862

My Dear Colonel, This will be handed you by my friend Col. W. D Stuart 56 Va. Vols. who is about joining his Regiment, at present attached to your Department. Col. Stuart has by severe sickness been detained from following a career so nobly begun at Bethel.

His health is now sufficiently restored to justify his joining his command. I bespeak for him your kind consideration in advance, because having known him intimately from boyhood to the present time, I declare him to be a "gentleman and a soldier", as Lear was a king- "every inch".

Your Friend Briscoe G. Baldwin Capt. Arty. P. [A?] Col. W. W. Mackall A. A. Genl.

Military order

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/505

Unit Date 1862 March 17

Language English.

Scope and Contents

General Order No. 246 from Floyd's Division, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Reenlisted men are entitled to a 60 day furlough, but this may be suspended in case of "collision with the enemy."

Keywords

Orders (military records)

Correspondence

Transcription

Head Quarters Floyd's Division Chattanooga, Mar 17th 1862 General Order No. 246

The reenlisted men of this command are entitled to a furlough of sixty days at home, but in case of a collision with the enemy at Knoxville this will be suspended for one week.

By order Brig. Gen. Floyd [C. Derrick] A.A. Gen.

Official [Mr]Robin Terry A.A. A Gen.

Military order

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/506

Unit Date 1862 March 17

Language English.

Scope and Contents

General Order No. 27 (extract) from Floyd's Division, Camp Bettie Childress. Order regards movement of the command via rail.

Keywords

Orders (military records)

Correspondence

Transcription

Headquarters Floyd's Division Camp [? Childress] Mar 17 1862 General Orders No. 27 Extract

The entire command will move tomorrow morning on the cars in the following order. 1st Headquarters, 2d Artillery, 3d. 1st Brigade, 4th 2d Brigade.

The 1st Brigade will load its baggage on the cars at 9 o'clock in the [trn]-yard just across the bridge arranging so that their baggage or wagons will not be in the way of Head Qrs.

By order Brig. Gen. Floyd Peter Otey A.A. Gen

Official Mr. Robbin Terry A.A. A Gen.

Military order

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/507

Unit Date 1862 March 19

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Special Order from Floyd's Division, Knoxville, Tennessee. General Floyd is relieved of command and regimental commanders are to report to Colonel George Maney.

Keywords

Orders (military records)

Correspondence

Transcription

Head Qrs Floyd Division Knoxville, March 19th/62 Special Orders No--

Having been relieved from my command I hereby turn over the troops under me to the command of Col. Maney commanding forces at Knoxville Tennessee. The commanding officers of Regts will report for duty at once to Col. Maney

By order Brigdr Gen. Floyd Peter Otey A.A.G.

The Field Officers and officers commanding regiments will report at these HdQrs as soon as practicable. The General desires to introduce these gentlemen to the commanding officer Col. Maney.

By direction Brigdr Gen. Floyd Peter Otey A.A.G.

Letter from George Maney to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/508

Unit Date 1862 March 19

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Knoxville, Tennessee. William D. Stuart is to hold his regiment ready to move and to report on the strength of his command.

Keywords

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

Correspondence

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

Transcription

Head Quarters Knoxville March 19th 1862

Col. Stuart Commnd. 56th Va. Regt.

You will hold your Regt. ready to move at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. Send to these Headquarters by 8 ½ O'clock tomorrow morning a report of the strength of your command for duty.

Geo. Maury Col. Comdg. at Knoxville.

Letter from George Maney to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/509

Unit Date 1862 March 20

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Knoxville, Tennessee. William D. Stuart is directed to "take command of all the forces here, formerly of Genl Floyd's command, in the movement towards Jacksboro."

Keywords

Correspondence

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

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

Transcription

Hd. Quarters Knoxville 20th March 1862

Colonel W. D. Stuart 56 Va. Regiment

You are hereby directed to take command of all the forces here, formerly of Genl. Floyd's command in the movement towards Jacksboro. Capt. B. W. Snyder Qr. Master will report to you as Qr. Master for your command. He will be furnished with twelve 4 horse wagons for transportation of your command. If this transportation is more than sufficient for the tents, cooking utensils and ammunition necessary for your command you will please direct your commissary, whom you may select from your command, to load the unappropriated wagons with Flour and Bacon for which he will make requisition on the post commissary at this place.

Respectfully, Geo. Maney Col. Commanding Forces at Knoxville

Military order

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/510

Unit Date 1862 March 20

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Special order from Knoxville, Tennessee. William D. Stuart is to move tomorrow on the road to Clinton.

Keywords

Orders (military records)

Correspondence

Transcription

Hd Qrs Knoxville Mch 20th/62 Special Order No--

Col. Stuart will move with his command tomorrow morning at 6 o'clk on the road to Clinton. You will have rations for one day cooked tonight.

By comd of Col. George Maney Comdg Post R.B. Snowden Adjt.

Military order

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/511

Unit Date 1862 March 21

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Special Order from Knoxville, Tennessee. William D. Stuart is to hold command of the 36th, 50th, 51st

and 56th Virginia Regiments in readiness to move towards Jacksboro.

Keywords

Orders (military records)

Correspondence

Transcription

Head Qrs Knoxville, March 21st 1862 Special Order No-

Col Stuart You will hold your command, composed of the 36th, 50th, 51st and 56th Regts in readiness to move at 4 o'clk this afternoon towards Jacksboro.

Col. George Maney Comdg Post R.B. Snowden Adj't.

Letter from R. B. Snowden to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/512

Unit Date 1862 March 21

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Knoxville, Tennessee. William D. Stuart is not to move his command until further orders.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Transcription

Col. Stuart I am instructed by Col. Maney to say you will not put your command on the march until further orders. You are however instructed to hold it ready to move at a moment's notice.

R. B. Snowden Adj't. Knoxville March 21st 1862

Letter from George Maney to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/513

Unit Date 1862 March 21

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Knoxville, Tennessee. William D. Stuart march towards Clinton is revoked.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Transcription

Hd. Quarters Knoxville March 21st 1862

Col. Stuart Command. of Floyd Brigade

Your order to march toward Clinton is revoked. I desire to see you at my Hd. Quarters in person at first convenient moment to regard to encamping your command here.

Very Respectfully Geo. Maney Col. Commnd. At Knoxville

Letter from Humphrey Marshall to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/514

Unit Date 1862 March 31

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Lebanon. Letter regards previous orders.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Transcription

Lebanon, 31st March 1862

Col. Stuart, Of so much of your order of the 28th as proposes the formation of a camp near Abingdon by

the unfurloughed officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of "Floyd's Brigade", I shall express no opinion at this time. I presume your halt at Abingdon, for instructions from Richmond, was in pursuance of your duty under the direction of Major General Smith. I am glad he has force to spare.

The others parts of your order I cheerfully approve and will sustain. I know of no vice so fatal to our soldiery as intemperance; and, independent of the loss of many genial fellows to the cause in which our swords are drawn, their fall is the gain of the meanest and the most heartless men in community. The vigor of authority shall not be wanting on my part to sustain every effort to limit the pernicious vice.

I enclose an Order, which please hand to Maj. Fisher that he may have a few struck off and sent after such of my men as have left Abingdon.

Your vindictory note has been successful I imagine in proving that you did not delay marching last winter intentionally, but the failure to join me was a great misfortune to this command.

I am ready however to look forward and not backwards, and hope our acquaintance may be as agreeable in its continuance as it has been awkward in its beginning.

Yours Respectfully, H. Marshall Brig. Genl. Comd.

Letter from John B. Floyd to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/515

Unit Date 1862 April 1

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Letter regards releasing a sick soldier (Hanshew, 50th Virginia Regiment) to go home with his father.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Transcription

Apr 1st 1862 Col. Stuart

Dear Sir, The bearer of this note Mr. Hanshew is the father of the soldier in the 50th Regt. The young man is at present in hospital and has been quite a sufferer. He was sick in the autumn and before fairly recovered was taken to the west. He was subjected to all the exposure and hardships at Ft. Donelson where he was frost bitten in the trenches. The retreat and long march have proved too much for him and he is really quite worn out. His father wishes to take him home for a few weeks if possible to [illegible] him & I think it important for the young man to go. I know the father well, he is worthy of trust and is a man of excellent character.

I am sir very truly yours John B. Floyd

Letter from W. R. Abbot to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/516

Unit Date 1862 April 8

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Letter requests recommendation to enter the Confederate Army and family news.

Keywords

Correspondence

Transcription

Confederate States of America TREASURY DEPARTMENT FIRST AUDITOR'S OFFICE Apr. 8th 1862

Dear Mr. Stuart, I think I shall die if I don't manage to get with the Army in some capacity or other, & as the circumstances of my family do not admit of my going as a private, I must try to obtain some position which will pay. I have not the presumption to ask for a commission in the Infantry or Artillery, where a knowledge of military tactics is essential, but as all the appointments are not made in the Engineers Corps & for that a knowledge of Mathematics more than anything else is required, I have thought that I might possibly by some study in the meanwhile fit myself for a position in the Engineers. I would not myself have thought such to be the case, but for the assurance of a friend, who is in the Corps & and after considerable experience says that I am fully capable of filling such a position creditably. The object of my writing this letter therefore is to request that you will give me a testimonial to be presented to the Sec. of War, who would doubtless be influenced by what you say. Possibly with that & what I may get old Bledsoe, the Asst. Sec. to say for me, I may obtain a Lieutenancy in the Engineers.

If Frank had been successful I would not myself apply, but I suppose his application is pretty securely pigeon holed & he will never hear from it, though Tom Harris is now in the city & a member of the Military Committee of Congress.

I saw Aunt F. last night and she and the children are in good spirits, looking forward to visiting you in Abingdon, in accordance with your letter of recent date. Aunt F. was glad to hear of your being so well & comfortably fixed & perhaps her cheerfulness is only the reflection from your good spirits, as she learns from your letters & others who have seen you.

Ma and the children are pleasantly fixed in Danville & are all very well: Frank was at Orange C. H. when I heard from him, though there is a rumor that his division went down to reinforce Magurder. The sky is brightening. I have not time to write more at present. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain yours affectionately. W.R. Abbott

Letter from John B. Floyd to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/517

Unit Date 1862 April 20

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Abingdon, Virginia. Letter regards discharge of an underage soldier.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Transcription

Abingdon 20th April 1862 Col. Stuart

Dear Sir, Mrs. Saunders, the bearer of this is the mother of the boy who is applying for a discharge on the score of minority. I sent you the certificate, & c some days ago. I have no doubt of his being under age. She wants to know the conditions of his application. May I ask you to let her know it?

With the highest respect Your obd. Servt. John B. Floyd

Letter from Alfred L. Rives to George W. Randolph

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/518

Unit Date 1862 April 30

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Richmond, Virginia. Letter commends William D. Stuart, with an endorsement specifically about his gallantry at the Battle of Bethel, Virginia.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Transcription

Confederate States of America WAR DEPARTMENT Engineer's Bureau Richmond, Va. 30 April 1862

Genl. G. W. Randolph Secretary of War

Sir, I have had the pleasure of knowing Col. W. D. Stuart for many years. At Lexington where we were cadets together, his peculiar qualifications as a soldier and tactician, on graduating, led to his immediate appointment as assistant instructor of infantry and artillery tactics, a position which he held with much credit for three years. Since the commencement of the war he has been constantly engaged on active service, first on the Peninsula and afterwards in the West. In the first locality I had the pleasure of again meeting him and heard him uniformly spoken of as a gallant, efficient, and accomplished officer.

In these days of uncertain tenure of office, your endorsement of the substance of this letter would probably be of great service to him, especially as his standing on the Peninsula and conduct in the Battle of Bethel are personally known to you.

With great respect, your obedient servant, A. L. Rives Acting Chf. Eng. Bu.

War Department April 30th 1862

I take great pleasure in bearing the testimony to the gallantry and conduct of Col. Stuart at the Battle of Bethel of which I was an eye witness, and to his efficiency as an officer and his deportment as a gentleman. He is an educated soldier and I should be sorry for the Country to lose his services. Geo. W.

Randolph

Letter from R. B. Garnett to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/519

Unit Date 1862 October 26

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Winchester, Virginia. Letter acknowledges receipt of report of Battle of South Mountain (Maryland) and expresses personal regard.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Transcription

Camp near Winchester, Va. Oct 26 1862

My dear Colonel: I have rec'd your report of the battle of "South Mountain" and with it your very kind note.

I can truly assure you I was much gratified with the expressions of regard and esteem you therein expressed towards me. My brief association with you was among the most pleasant I have formed during the war and I sincerely trust it may be renewed at no distant time, under such auspices that we may be able to cultivate a still closer intimacy. With many prayers for you safety and happiness I remain truly your friend R. B. Garnett

Letter from Thomas D. Jeffress to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/520

Unit Date 1862 October 30

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Lynchburg, Virginia. Letter protests Thomas D. Jeffress' return to the Regiment.

Keywords

Correspondence

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

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

Transcription

Provost Marshal's Office Lynchburg, Va. Oct 30th 1862 Col. W. D. Stuart

Dear Sir, I received this morning a letter from one of the 56th Va. Regt. informing me that "you & Maj. Green intended to write to the War Department and endeavor if possible to have me relieved of duty here and ordered to return to Regt." I at first doubted its authenticity, but seeing it was from a semi-official source I necessarily attached some importance to it.

I was astonished to hear that you contemplated such a thing as it would undoubtedly place me in a false light before the Department. I presumed you had received official notification of my appointment here.

I have always thought you were magnanimous enough not only to be willing for any officer of your Regt. to obtain promotion and a better position, but would aid him if possible in doing so.

I informed you in three letters before that I applied in Sept. last to Q. M. for transportation to Regt. and applying the same day to Adj. Gen. Cooper in person to ascertain the point to go to, was directed by him to report to Maj. Gen. Smith for duty. By whom I was sent to Brig. Gen. Winder who ordered me to take charge of the C. S. Military Prison. I remained there about three weeks and discharged the duties satisfactorily to my commissioning officer and was on the 21st Oct. appointed "Provost Marshal" of this city with written orders from Maj. Gen. G. W. Smith, a copy of which I send you.

Each position was unsolicited and unexpected by me; but at the same time agreeable and satisfactory; because the "posts" I was assigned were not only easier and higher than the Capt. of Infantry, but also horses and servants furnished me, and paid \$180 per month. The pay however is no consideration with me. The chances of promotion are still greater in my present position.

I will also state to you, that is I preferred it, I am legally exempt from military duty by the recent "exemption act" passed by both "Houses of Congress" and approved by the President. First I have a plantation with over 40 negroes, and on it "no white male adult not liable to military duty." Second I have a large manufacturing mill and my superintendence is necessary for its successful operation. For either

1st or 2nd reasons I am exempt by "Act of Congress".

But notwithstanding pecuniary losses I am willing to remain in the army, provided my services will accomplish anything in the cause we are engaged.

I hope this will be satisfactory to you. I fear you did not receive my former letters making substantially the same statements as above; and I feel a conscientious sense of duty, in justice to myself to write to you again

The appointment here was somewhat complimentary to me and I have intimations already of a higher and more responsible position being assigned me.

I would be glad if you would answer this.

Very respectfully Your obt. Servant Thomas D. Jeffress Capt. and Provost Marshall of Lynchburg

P.S. I understand that only 8 or 10 efficient men of Co. "G" are with the Regt. and only about 22 or 23 in all on roll. I left several in Richmond at Hospital who will probably never recover sufficiently to return to duty. T. D. J.

Letter from George C. Cabell to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/521

Unit Date 1862 November 26

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Letter regards a report in which George C. Cabell erroneously commended Captain Thomas D. Jeffress.

Keywords

Correspondence

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

Transcription

18th Va. Regt. Nov. 26th 1862 Col. W. D. Stuart

Col., In reply to your note rec'd some time since asking of the "mention made" of Capt. T. D. Jeffress "upon" a report of one of the Richmond battles forwarded by myself to Brigade Hd. Qrs., I have to say that Capt. Jeffress made out the report of the battle himself, he being the Senr. Officer present who was in the fight. When the report was handed to me Lt. Chaffin Actg. Adjt. told me that the officers of the Regt. desired that I should make mention of the good conduct of Capt. Jeffress in battle, as the Capt. from motives of delicacy would of course say nothing of himself. I endorsed upon the report that I was not in the battle myself, was not in command of the Regiment at the time the events spoken of occurred, but that at the request of others, I would state that Capt. Jeffress deserved "honorable mention" for good conduct in battle. I have since learned that Lt. Chaffin was not in the fight himself and I am sorry that I acted upon his suggestion and made the endorsement referred to for the reason that I appeared to discriminate in favor of Capt. Jeffress when in fact I knew nothing of the conduct of any officer in the Regiment in the battle alluded to.

I am Col. Very Respectfully Geo. C. Cabell, Major

Letter from F. W. Nelson to S. A. Cooper

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/522

Unit Date 1863 March 7

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Petersburg, Virginia. Letter requests 25 conscripts to fill reduced ranks.

Keywords

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

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

Correspondence

Transcription

Camp Near Petersburg of Pickett's Div. Garnett's Brig. March 7th 1863 Genl. S. A. Cooper

Sir, I respectfully make an application for 25 Conscripts the requisite number to fill the reduced ranks of my Company at its present standard. You will confer a favour by assigning to the ranks of my Company 25 Conscripts, or any number as you, in your judgement may think proper or circumstances may require. You can see by my muster roll that my company only numbers 31 total present or absent, having never

received any Conscripts since its entry into service.

Most Respectfully Your obedient Servt. F. W. Nelson Lt. Comd. Co. "A" 56th Va.

Letter from Stephen D. Cronin to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/523

Unit Date 1863 March 7

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Petersburg, Virginia. Letter requests to be absent from duty to see to business at home.

Keywords

Correspondence

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

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

Transcription

Camp Near Petersburg, Va. March 7th 1863

I respectfully ask permission to be absent from my duties for a few days for the following reasons. My property has been dwindling away daily since 25th Dec last, for want of my personal attention. My negroes are roaming through the country without a proper home and I will probably lose them all if I cannot attend to the matter immediately. I leave my company in command of the Capt. I have deferred asking leave of absence until now, because of there being only two (2) officers belonging to the company and the comdg. Officer of the Regt. deems it best that the vacancies of 2nd and 2nd jr. Lieuts. should not be filled at present, I presume because of the smallness of the Co. I reenlisted as a private and have never received a furlough or anything in lieu thereof and have never been absent without leave.

S. D. Cronin 1st Lieut. Co. "I" 56th Va. Regt.

Letter from Frank W. Nelson to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/524

Unit Date 1863 March 8

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Letter requests a leave of absence to visit home.

Keywords

Correspondence

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

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

Transcription

March 8th, 1863

I respectfully ask for a leave of absence for 20 days to visit my home in Mecklenburg Co. Va. having been in the service for 20 months and having never received but four days furlough since the organization of my Regiment. I hope this application will be granted. I was originally a 12 months Volunteer and subsequently reenlisted for the War.

Lieut. F. W. Nelson Co. A. 56th Va. Regt.

Letter from Nathaniel A. Flourney to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/525

Unit Date 1863 July 27

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Kittrell's Springs, North Carolina. This letter was written after the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and it comments on casualties in regiment and general news.

Keywords

Gettysburg, Battle of, Gettysburg, Pa., 1863

Correspondence

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

Transcription

Kittrell's Springs July 27th 1863 Col. Wm. D. Stuart

Dear Sir, I was transferred from General Hospital No. 10 to Black's and White's Hospital, from that place on the recommendation of the Medical Director in Richmond (Dr. Wm. Carrington) I was allowed the privilege of going home and report once in fifteen days in person or through my Physician's certificate. My furlough was extended the other day, 30 days to enable me to visit the Springs for my health. I am improving very rapidly now and shall be on, as soon as I am able for duty. You have passed through a very fiery ordeal since I left you. I regret being absent from my company in time of battle. I am truly sorry to learn that you are wounded, hope it will not prove serious, and allow me here to indulge the hope that you will be Genl. Garrett's successor. You certainly deserve the place. I am very anxious to hear from my company. I heard indirectly that Lieut. Finley was wounded, whether seriously or not I did not learn. Pickett's Division was very badly cut up. The mortality among officers was unprecedented. I expect to be here at least two weeks longer. I wish to get entirely well before returning. When I return again I hope to be able to stay with you. Direct your letter to "Lawrenceville. Brunswick Co. Va." With my best wishes that you may speedily recover and when I see you again you may be my Brigadier. I subscribe myself your true friend, N. A. Flournoy

Telegram from R. L. Owens to William D. Stuart

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/526

Unit Date April 10

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Written from Richmond, Virginia. Telegram regards search of trains for stolen coffee.

Keywords

Telegrams

Correspondence

Morning reports, rosters, and guard

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/469

Unit Date 1861-1862

Language English.

Morning report

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/527

Unit Date 1861 December 26

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Report for the 56th Virginia Regiment at Camp Robertson.

Keywords

Reports

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

Morning report

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/528

Unit Date 1861 December 27

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Report for the 56th Virginia Regiment at Camp Robertson.

Keywords

Reports

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

Special duty roster

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/529

Unit Date 1862 October 22

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Special duty roster for the 56th Virginia Regiment.

Keywords

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

Guard report

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/530

Unit Date January 23

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Guard report for the 56th Virginia Regiment.

Keywords

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th
Reports

Receipts and invoices

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/470

Unit Date 1861-1862

Language English.

Receipt

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/531

Unit Date 1861 October 14

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Receipt for wall tent pins and poles.

Keywords

Receipts (financial records)

Receipt

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/532

Unit Date 1861 November 25

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Receipt for ordnance (cartridges).

Keywords

Receipts (financial records)

Ordnance shipment transmittal document

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/533

Unit Date 1861 November 25

Language English.

Keywords

Financial records

Invoice

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/534

Unit Date 1862 January 31

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Invoice of commutation of quarters and fuel for 1st Lieutenant George W. May, Company C. 56th Virginia, for the period of December 8 to 31, 1861.

Keywords

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th
Financial records

Invoice

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/535

Unit Date 1862 January 31

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Invoice of commutation of quarters and fuel for 1st Lieutenant George W. May, Company C. 56th Virginia, for the period of January 1 to 31, 1862.

Keywords

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th
Receipts (financial records)

Receipt

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/536

Unit Date 1862 February 10

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Receipt for wall tents.

Keywords

Receipts (financial records)

Receipts

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/537

Unit Date 1862 May 7

Language English.

Extent 2 items

Scope and Contents

Two receipts for muskets and cartridge boxes.

Keywords

Receipts (financial records)

Receipt

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/538

Unit Date 1862 November 12

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Receipt for clothing.

Keywords

Receipts (financial records)

Receipt

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/539

Unit Date 1862 November 14

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Receipt for commissary stores.

Keywords

Receipts (financial records)

Civil War documents

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/471

Unit Date 1861-1863

Language English.

Extent 7 items

Scope and Contents

This series includes a draft of a speech given upon presentation of a flag to the 56th Virginia Infantry Regiment, court-martial specifications, and other documents.

Keywords

Courts-martial and courts of inquiry

Speeches, Addresses, etc.

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 56th

Military records

Confederate veterans and print material

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/472

Unit Date 1892-1897

Language English.

Scope and Contents

This series includes programs and other documents from Roanoke, Virginia area camps.

Keywords

Programs (Publications)