

A Guide to the John J. Clarke Papers, 1861-1865 MS.0112

John J. Clarke Civil War papers
1861-1865

Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS.0112

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/604

Unit Date

1861-1865

Language

English

Creator

Clarke, John J., ?-1889?

Extent

12 items

Physical Location

Manuscripts stacks

Repository

Virginia Military Institute Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions.

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Biographical / Historical

Little is known about the personal history of John J. Clarke. His date and place of birth are unknown. During the pre-Civil War years he was employed as a civil engineer. In April 1861, he commissioned as a captain in the Confederate Army Engineer Corps and served as an engineer until the end of the Civil War, rising to the rank of colonel.

By 1864 Clarke was the Chief Engineer for the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. At the War's end, he settled in Georgia, where he was Superintendent of the Georgia Central Railroad. Records indicate that he was living in Savannah in 1868. He died circa 1889 in an accident in New Jersey.

Scope and Contents

The John J. Clarke Civil War papers consist of documents, including commissions, military orders, correspondence, and dispatches that relate to activities in and around Charleston, South Carolina during the period of 1864 to 1865. One letter (dated February 4, 1865) to Colonel Clarke from Headquarters discusses proposed training of African-American troops in the Confederate States of America Corps of Engineers.

Keywords

Confederate States of America. Army—Corps of Engineers

Charleston (S.C.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—African Americans

Military commissions

Receipts (financial records)

Correspondence

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

Muster rolls

Dispatches

Orders (military records)

Online Access

The John J. Clarke Civil War papers are available online.

Description of Subordinate Components

Provisional Army of Virginia commission document

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1676

Unit Date 1861 July 8

Language English

Creator Letcher, John, 1813-1884

Scope and Contents

Commission document by Provisional Army of Virginia that commissions John J. Clarke as a first lieutenant. The document is signed by Governor John Letcher.

Keywords

Military commissions

Confederate States Army commission document

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1677

Unit Date 1862 February 15

Language English

Scope and Contents

Issued by the Confederate States of America War Department. The document appoints John J. Clarke as Captain, Corps of Engineers, Provisional Army Confederate States.

Keywords

Military commissions

Confederate States of America. Army—Corps of Engineers

General order

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1678

Unit Date 1862 April 14

Language English

Scope and Contents

A general order that appoints John J. Clarke as Chief Engineer, Peninsula Department, by order of General John B. Magruder.

Keywords

Orders (military records)

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

Correspondence

Dispatch from Robert E. Lee to John J. Clarke

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1679

Unit Date 1862 May 8

Language English

Creator Lee, Robert E. (Robert Edward), 1807-1870

Scope and Contents

Dispatch remarks that "In prosecuting the work of obstructing James River you [John J. Clarke] are authorized to seize for the Confederate States any vessels in the river which you may need....".

Keywords

Dispatches

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

Correspondence

Dispatch

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1680

Unit Date 1863 November 27

Language English

Scope and Contents

Dispatch regards the construction of a bridge.

Keywords

Dispatches

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

Correspondence

Letter from John J. Clarke to J. H. Alexander

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1681

Unit Date 1864 September 1

Language English

Scope and Contents

Written from Charleston, South Carolina. Letter requests that "Co. B., 23rd Regiment South Carolina

Volunteers, Elliott's Brigade, now serving near Petersburg, be ordered to report to me here, for service on boats supplying Fort Sumter."

Keywords

Charleston (S.C.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

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

Correspondence

Letter from Pierre G. T. Beauregard to John J. Clarke

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1682

Unit Date 1864 December 9

Language English

Creator Beauregard, G. T. (Gustave Toutant), 1818-1893

Scope and Contents

Written from Savannah, Georgia. Letter thanks John J. Clarke for his gift of a pair of spurs.

Keywords

Correspondence

Letter from Charles Marshall to John J. Clarke

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1683

Unit Date 1865 February 4

Language English

Scope and Contents

Letter conveys General Robert E. Lee's opinion about John J. Clarke's plan for training of African-American troops in the Engineer Corps.

Keywords

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—African Americans

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

Confederate States of America. Army—Corps of Engineers

Correspondence

Lee, Robert E. (Robert Edward), 1807-1870

Circular

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1684

Unit Date 1865 February 15

Language English

Scope and Contents

Written from Headquarters, Charleston, South Carolina (Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida). This document is a confidential detailed directive regarding the withdrawal of troops and materials from Charleston, harbor forts, and on the defensive lines.

Keywords

Charleston (S.C.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

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

Circular letters

Correspondence

Roll of engineer officers and acting engineers

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1685

Unit Date 1865 March 20

Language English

Scope and Contents

Document titled "Engineer Officers and Acting Engineers now on duty with Major John McCrady, Acting Chief Engineer."

Keywords

Confederate States of America. Army—Corps of Engineers

Muster rolls

Receipt

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1686

Unit Date 1865 March 28

Language English

Scope and Contents

A financial receipt for one horse.

Keywords

Receipts (financial records)

Letter to John J. Clarke

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1687

Unit Date 1865 April 7

Language English

Scope and Contents

Written from Chesterville, South Carolina by Captian [Smith?]. Letter regards duty assignments of various officers as well as a surveying and mapping project.

Keywords

Correspondence

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