

A Guide to the Andrew C.L. Gatewood Papers 1860-1864

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1860-1864

A Collection in Special Collections and Archives MS 0068

Virginia Military Institute Archives

2000

History

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Descriptive Summary

Collection number

MS 0068

Language

English

Physical Characteristics

35 items.

Repository

Archives, Preston Library, Virginia Military Institute

Administrative Information

Access

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Gift of John M. Dunlap.

Preferred Citation

Andrew C. L. Gatewood Papers, MS 0068, Virginia Military Institute Archives, Lexington, Virginia.

Alternative Form

The Gatewood papers are available in full-text format on the VMI Archives website at:

<http://www.vmi.edu/archives>

Biographical/Historical Information

Andrew Cameron Lewis Gatewood was born at Mountain Grove, Bath County, Virginia, on June 30, 1843, the son of Samuel Vance Gatewood (1810-1861) and Eugenia Sophia Massie (1819-1884). Gatewood entered the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, Virginia in July 1860, where he served as a cadet until the outbreak of the Civil War in April 1861. On April 16, 1861, he accompanied the Corps of Cadets to Richmond, Virginia, where he served as a drillmaster to new Confederate recruits; he subsequently served in the same capacity under General Robert S. Garnett at Laurel Hill, Barbour Co., West Virginia. He joined the 11th Virginia Cavalry Regiment in March 1862 and was elected 2nd Lieutenant, "F" Company (Bath Squadron); he served in this unit until the end of the war.

At the close of the Civil War, Gatewood returned to Bath County. His father had died suddenly in 1861, without leaving a will, and as the oldest son Andrew took on responsibility for his family's affairs. He married his childhood sweetheart, Mary Skillern Warwick (1845-1922) in 1869. The couple moved to Big Spring, Pocahontas Co., West Virginia in 1877, where Gatewood spent the remainder of his life working as a farmer and stock raiser. Mary and Andrew Gatewood had 7 children: William Beale; Eugene Samuel; Massie Cameron; Andrew Warwick; Mary Preston; Eliza Pleasants, and one child who died in infancy. Andrew C. L. Gatewood died July 31, 1919, at Pocahontas Co.

Scope and Content Information

The bulk of the papers consist of 28 letters written by Gatewood to his parents and other family members, 1860-1864. Early letters describe life at the Virginia Military Institute (hazing, daily routine, excitement about secession, cadets as drillmasters) and in Lexington, Virginia, just prior to and during early months of the Civil War. Subsequent letters date from his service with the 11th Virginia Cavalry Regiment, Company F, (Bath Squadron), including a letter written after the second Battle of Manassas (2nd Bull Run), Sept 1862. The papers also include a "History of the Bath Squadron," consisting of manuscript fragment, copies of a series of published newspaper articles concerning the unit, and an edited transcription; miscellaneous publications concerning Confederate veterans reunions; and Gatewood's VMI cadet account book.

Index Terms

Gatewood family

Gatewood, Andrew C.L. (Andrew Cameron Lewis), 1843-1919

Virginia Military Institute--Cadet Life--1839-1860
Virginia Military Institute-- Cadet Life--1861-1865
Confederate States of America. Army. Virginia Cavalry Regiment, 11th
Bull Run, 2nd Battle of, Va., 1862
Soldiers--Virginia-- Correspondence
Lexington (Va.)--History-- Civil War, 1861-1865
Virginia Military Institute--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865-- Home life

Arrangement

Arrangement

Arranged by date.

Organization

The papers are filed in one manuscript box.

Contents List

Correspondence 1860

Folder 1

Extent 6 items

Letter 1860 August 4

Folder 1

Scope and Content

Initiation of new cadets: early reference to term "rat" as a name for a new cadet; complains of homesickness; comments on living in camp.

Letter 1860 August 25

Folder 1

Scope and Content

Describes daily routine of cadets; life in camp; difficulty of studies.

Letter 1860 September 1

Folder 1

Scope and Content

Describes dismantling summer camp; moving into Barracks.

Letter 1860 September 20

Folder 1

Scope and Content

Discusses family matters, including court summons.

Letter 1860 December 22

Folder 1

Scope and Content

To his parents. Discusses examinations, Christmas at VMI; the secession of South Carolina.

Letter 1860 December 22

Folder 1

Scope and Content

To his brother. Mentions examinations; secession of South Carolina.

Correspondence 1861 January-March

Folder 2

Extent 5 items

Letter 1861 January 9

Folder 2

Scope and Content

Informs his parents that he did well on his examinations and gives his class standing; mentions secession of Florida and other states.

Letter 1861 February 1

Folder 2

Scope and Content

Discusses the family's runaway slave, Jesse; mentions willingness of cadets to fight to "save Virginia."

Letter 1861 February 8

Folder 2

Scope and Content

General news, including invitation to a party; comments on his studies; requests money.

Letter 1861 March 10

Folder 2

Scope and Content

Squad drill; general news; speculates about Virginia secession/war.

Letter 1861 March 25

Folder 2

Scope and Content

Needs new summer pants; cloth costly.

Correspondence 1861 April-June 7

Folder 3

Extent 9 items

Letter 1861 April 2

Folder 3

Scope and Content

General news; is tired of living in barracks and is anxious to return to summer camp in July.

Letter 1861 April 15

Folder 3

Scope and Content

Describes the "flag raising incident," a confrontation between Lexington secessionists (including cadets) and pro-Union citizens.

Letter 1861 April 18

Folder 3

Scope and Content

Excitement among VMI cadets as Virginia decides to secede; suspension of academic duty; cadets prepare for war.

Letter 1861 April 20

Folder 3

Scope and Content

Informs his parents that the Corps of Cadets will be ordered to Richmond, probably to drill recruits.

Letter 1861 April 28

Folder 3

Scope and Content

Describes the cadets' journey from Lexington to Richmond; more news of drilling new recruits.

Letter Early May

Folder 3

Scope and Content

Gatewood is now in Richmond, VA; informs his parents that he is drilling a company of new recruits; hopes for a commission.

Letter 1861 May 11

Folder 3

Scope and Content

Has been transferred to the Ashland Camp of Instruction to drill army recruits.

Letter 1861 May 29

Folder 3

Scope and Content

Has returned to VMI to drill new cadets and University of Virginia students who are at VMI to receive training. Complains that he is not paid for his services and is still expected to pay room and board; hopes to get a furlough.

Letter 1861 June 7

Folder 3

Scope and Content

Written from Mountain Grove; is preparing to serve as drillmaster with 81st regiment.

Correspondence 1862-1863

Folder 4

Extent 3 items

Letter 1862 September 3

Folder 4

Scope and Content

To his sister; a description of the second Battle of Manassas.

Letter 1863 March 16

Folder 4

Scope and Content

In camp with the 11th Virginia Cavalry; thinks he will soon be sent to Harrisonburg; mentions victory at Vicksburg.

Letter 1863 March 26

Folder 4

Scope and Content

In camp; general news.

Correspondence 1864

Folder 5

Extent 5 items

Letter 1864 April 9

Folder 5

Scope and Content

The regiment is encamped at Falling Springs Church, Rockbridge County, VA.

Letter 1864 April 16

Folder 5

Scope and Content

In camp; Gatewood's regiment presented the VMI Corps of Cadets with a captured flag; review of troops by General Smith.

Letter 1864 April 27

Folder 5

Scope and Content

In camp at Waynesboro; orders to march and battle expected.

Letter 1864 April 29

Folder 5

Scope and Content

Brigade ordered to Eastern Virginia.

Letter 1864 August 9

Folder 5

Scope and Content

General News from camp.

Additional items, not in numbered folder

"History of the Bath Squadron." partial manuscript in Gatewood's hand, reproduction of newspaper articles as they appeared in the Bath News; and typescript with annotations by Gatewood's grandson, John M. Dunlap, Jr.

Confederate veterans reunion publications

Extent 5 items

Cadet Gatewood's VMI Account Book