

A Guide to the James Henry Reid Papers, 1862-1867

James Henry Reid Papers 1862-1867
1862-1867

A Collection in Virginia Military Institute Archives mss 00222
Virginia Military Institute Archives
2002

History

Processed by: Virginia Military Institute Archives Staff
Funding: Web version of the finding aid funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Title Statement

A Guide to the James Henry Reid Papers, 1862-1867

Subtitle: Reid, James Henry, papers

Collection: mss 00222

Author: Diane B. Jacob

Sponsor: Web version of the finding aid funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Publication Statement

Date: © 2002 Virginia Military Institute

Publisher: Virginia Military Institute Archives

[Conditions of Use](#)

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from HTML. Machine-readable finding aid created by Diane Jacob. Date of source: 2002

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

Feb 16, 2004 PUBLIC "-//Virginia Military Institute::Preston Library::Archives//TEXT (US::ViLxV::vilxv00028::A Guide to the James Henry Reid Papers)//EN" "vilxv00028.xml" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).
Feb 26, 2004 converted to conform to eadVIVA.dtd by vivastrict.xsl
2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Collection number

mss 00222

Language

English

Physical Characteristics

The collection consists of 18 items.

Repository

Archives, Preston Library, Virginia Military Institute

Administrative Information

Access

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Preferred Citation

James Henry Reid Papers, mss 00222, Virginia Military Institute Archives, Lexington, Virginia.

Alternative Form

The bulk of the James Henry Reid Papers are available in full-text format on the VMI Archives website at:

<http://www.vmi.edu/archives/manuscripts/ms0222.html>

Biographical/Historical Information

James Henry Reid, Jr. was born at Brentsville, Prince William County, Virginia in 1845. His parents were James Henry Reid, Sr. and Amy Ann Tolson. Reid entered the Virginia Military Institute in 1862 and resigned in January 1864 to join the Confederate Army. He served in 1864-1865 as a private in Company A, 13th Battalion Virginia Light Artillery (Otey's Battery) and was paroled at Appomattox.

During the post-war years Reid engaged in many professions, including that of teacher, justice of the peace, notary public, bookkeeper, banker, and farmer. He married Beulah Reese on December 10, 1868, at Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia. They had several children; living in 1921 were J. Henry, Jr., William, David, Beulah, and Amy. Much of Reid's life was spent in Prince William County, Virginia, where he died in 1921. He is buried at Manassas, Virginia.

Scope and Content Information

The collection consists of the Civil War correspondence (18 items) of James Henry Reid. Included are 13 letters from Reid to his parents written while he was a fourth classman at the Virginia Military Institute, August - November 1862. This correspondence contains many references to wartime cadet life, including use of the term "rat" as a name for new cadets, hazing, uniforms, food, guard duty and other aspects of life at VMI during the Civil War. The papers also contain one letter (1864 March 7) written while Reid was serving with the 13th Virginia Light Artillery Regiment, Confederate Army; and 4 miscellaneous letters, 1865 and 1867.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in chronological order.

Contents List

Correspondence, 1862-1867

Letters written from the Virginia Military Institute, 1862

Scope and Content

Written to his parents, regarding his experiences as a new cadet, or "rat." Many references to Civil War cadet life.

1862 August 10

1862 August 14

1862 August 18

1862 August 26

1862 August 28

1862 September 14

1862 September 27

1862 September 30

1862 October 5

1862 October 12

1862 October 18

1862 October 26

1862 November 1

Scope and Content

"We get up every morning at 5 o'clock to Rev (before day), go on Squad drill at 5 1/2 & drill til 6 1/2 (You may imagine how cold is is especially our hands which rests against the butt of the stock which is covered with Iron), after we come off to find no fire in our room which is considered the coldest in Barracks"

13th Virginia Light Artillery

1864 March 7

Scope and Content

Written from Camp at Carter's Station.

Correspondence, Miscellaneous 1864; 1867