

John M. Godown collection

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1848-1978

Title Statement

John M. Godown collectionJohn M. Godown collection WLU.Coll.0209

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

WLU.Coll.0209

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/564

Unit Date

1848-1978

Language

English

source

Batista, P. R., Mrs.

Extent

0.41 Linear Feet 1 half-size document case, 1 oversize folder

Repository

Washington and Lee University, University Library Special Collections and Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. P. R. Batista, granddaughter of John and Fannie Godown.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], John M. Godown Collection (WLU Coll. 0209) Special Collections and Archives, James G. Leyburn Library, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va.

Biographical Note

John McPherson Godown was born on March 25, 1832 in Pennsylvania. He graduated from Washington College (now Washington and Lee University) in 1849. Godown served in the Union army during the American Civil War under Generals Grant and Sherman.

John Godown was an 1849 graduate of Washington College. He served in the Union army as a member of the Indiana Infantry, 12th Regiment Company K during the American Civil War under Generals Grant and Sherman. He participated in 28 battles, including Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Mission Ridge, and Sherman's March to the Sea.

He died on December 20, 1911 in Indiana.

Fannie Fairbanks Godown was born on April 20, 1833 in New Hampshire. She married John Godown in Lowell, Massachusetts in November 1866. According to her obituary, her "belief in political and religious liberty was strong" in her mind since childhood. At the time of her death in 1935 at the age of 102, she was the oldest registered voter in Marion County, Indiana.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes diaries (mostly typescripts), letters (mostly typescripts), and photographs of the Godown family. There are original letters, primarily written to Godown's wife Fannie during the American Civil War by Union officers. The subjects of the diaries include the railroad, Honduras, and the American Civil War.

Keywords

Photographs

Correspondence

Diaries

Godown, John M.

Batista, P. R., Mrs.

Description of Subordinate Components

Biographical Information

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/765

Unit Date 1911-1912, 1973

Mixed Materials [35101206266111] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Vital Documents

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/766

Mixed Materials [35101206266111] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Diary

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/767

Unit Date 1853

Mixed Materials [35101206266111] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Additional Information

Folder includes both the original diary and a typescript. The diary was kept while Godown taught school in Belvidere, NJ near Easton, Pa. Also included are three postcards. One of Washington and Lee University, one of Center Square and Monument in Easton, Pa., and one of Pequest Creek in New Jersey. The NJ postcard was written on and sent to Godown's wife in 1913.

Typescript of Diary kept 1857-1858 about Honduras

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/768

Mixed Materials [35101206266111] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Additional Information

Folder contains only a typescript and not the original diary.

Typescript of Diary kept 1859-1861

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/769

Mixed Materials [35101206266111] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Additional Information

Folder contains only a typescript and not the original diary.

Typescript of Letters from 1861

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/770

Mixed Materials [35101206266111] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Additional Information

Folder contains only typescripts. Subjects of the letters include encampment at Harpers Ferry, Point of Rocks, Maryland, Camp Antietam

Typescript of Letters from 1862

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/771

Mixed Materials [35101206266111] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Additional Information

Subjects include ferrying Southern women across the Potomac, Sharpsburgh and Williamsport, Maryland, Battle of Bull Run, Washington and "Old Abe," General Grant

Typescript of Letters from 1863

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/772

Mixed Materials [35101206266111] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Additional Information

Subjects include Grant's Army, Tennessee, Col. Humphrey, sickness, John Loomis stockade, Mississippi, Messinger's Fery, General Sherman, and opium

Typescript of Letters from 1864-1865

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/773

Mixed Materials [35101206266111] 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Additional Information

Subjects include Alabama, analysis of officers, change in command, General John M. Course, Battle of Resaca, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, prison, letter to Lincoln, fall of Richmond

Original Letters (some from Civil War officers)

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/774

Unit Date 1863-1865

Mixed Materials [35101206266111] 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Additional Information

September 27, 1863: Special Order No. 50 from Brig. Gen. John M. Corse, October 12, 1863: document signed by Major Gen. J. B. McPherson, Jan. 16, 1864: Special Order No. 12 leave of absence for Godown and signed by J. M. Snyder, January 20, 1864: request by Godwon to E. B. Harlan for leave of absence, April 14, 1864: note to Godown from H. Klosterman, November 22, 1864 letter to Fannie Fairbank from H. or A. Junsen or Jansen, December 5, 1864: letter to Fannie Fairbank from Louis Pelonze, December 6, 1864: letter to Fannie Fairbank from Steward Woodford, December 9, 1864 letter to Fannie Fairbank from Steward L. Woodford, 1865 note to Godown from wife, February 8, 1865: letter to Fannie Fairbank from John A. Rawlins, February 21, 1865: letter to Fannie Fairbank from Louis H. Pelonze, March 25, 1865: letter to Fannie Fairbank from Henry Hitchcock

**Fannie Fairbank married John M. Godown in November 1866.

General Henry Lawton

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/775

Unit Date 1866, 1886-1899, 1907, 1978

Mixed Materials [35101206266111] 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Additional Information

Includes original November 25, 1866 letter to Mrs. Bass describing the wedding of John M. Godown to Fannie Fairbank in Lowell, Massachusetts on November 22. Lawton served as best man. A typescript is available. Also included are facsimile and typescripts of Lawton letters, two photographs, a ribbon, and a 1978 publication which mentions Lawton.

"My Services as an Engineer Officer in the Army of the Tennessee 1863-1864" read at the reunion of the 12th Indiana Infantry

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/776

Unit Date 1894 August 30

Mixed Materials [35101206266111] 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Additional Information

original and typescript

Scrapbook and photographs

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/777

Unit Date circa 1873-1910, 1935

Mixed Materials [35101206266111] 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Additional Information

The album pages were housed in a binder with rusty fasteners. The binder was removed for conservation reasons. Subjects include Fannie Fairbank, John M. Godown, Fannie and John's children Charlotte, George (who died at age 7), Mary, and Kate, and newspaper clippings.

GAR reunion ribbons and badges

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/778

Mixed Materials [35101206266111] 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Cased ambrotype of John M. Godown at age 16

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/36316

Unit Date 1848

Mixed Materials [35101206266582] 1 (Item)

Washington College diploma**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/36318**Unit Date** 1849 June 20**Mixed Materials** Manuscripts Oversize Box 1 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)**Additional Information**

Godown's diploma includes the original ribbon and seal

Vicksburg, Mississippi newspaper "The Daily Citizen" printed on wallpaper**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/36319**Unit Date** 1863 July 2**Mixed Materials** Manuscripts Oversize Box 1 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)**Additional Information**

According to a handwritten note on the newspaper side of the item, "John M. Godown was with Grant when he captured Vicksburg & brought this paper away." The one page issue was printed on the back of wallpaper. The Library of Congress has more information available here: <https://guides.loc.gov/noteworthy-newspaper-issues/daily-citizen>.