

George Washington Nelson PapersWLU.Coll.0643

George Washington Nelson Papers
1863-1903

Title Statement

George Washington Nelson PapersWLU.Coll.0643

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

WLU.Coll.0643

Unit Date

1863-1903

Unit Date

1863-1865

Text

1 (box)

Container

1-16 (folder)

Language

English

Creator

Nelson, George Washington , Jr. (G. Washington "Wash" Nelson), 1840-1903

Creator

Scollay, Mary (Mary "Mollie" Scollay Nelson), 1850-1923

Extent

16 Item

Repository

Washington and Lee University, University Library Special Collections and Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research use.

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

The collection is a gift to Washington and Lee University Special Collections from Rockbridge County, Virginia resident Peter O'Shaugnessey in 2016. Peter is a descendant of the correspondents.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], George Washington Nelson Papers, WLU Coll. 0643, Special Collections and Archives, James G. Leyburn Library, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA

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Scope and Contents

This collection consists of letters primarily between George Washington "Wash" Nelson, Jr., of Hanover County, Virginia and his cousin and future wife Mary "Mollie" Nelson Scollay of Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Nelson commanded the Hanover Light Artillery (Va.) and was a staff officer of General William Nelson Pendleton, the Chief of Artillery of the Confederacy's Army Northern Virginia, during the American Civil War. Nelson was captured in October 1862 and spent the remainder of the war in Union prisons at Camp Chase, Johnson's Island, Morris Island, Fort Delaware., and Point Lookout. Nelson's final letter is sent on May 23, 1865 within weeks of his release from prison. The bulk of the collection are twenty letters between George and Mollie. Also included are seven wartime letters from George to "Charlotte" who we believe is Charlotte Cazenove Massie, wife of William O. Massie, and of Alexandria, Va. The wartime letters describe prison life, details of fellow prisoners, updates on home and family, and George and Mollie's courtship.

Related Materials

This collection is related to Virginia Tech Special Collections Department's "Nelson Family Papers, 1783-1872, N.D.", with the collection number "MS1989-021." See: Finding Aid

Keywords

Johnson Island Prison

Delaware -- Fort Delaware

Prisoners of war -- Biography

Personal narratives -- Confederate

West Virginia--Shepherdstown

Confederate States of America. Army of Northern Virginia

Confederate States of America. Army . Virginia Artillery. Hanover Light Artillery

South Carolina--Morris Island

Massie, Charlotte Louise Cazenove, 1841-1914

Arrangement

The letters in this collection are arranged chronologically throughout. Folders including letters to "Charlotte" from George Nelson are noted in folder level description.

Description of Subordinate Components

Control Folder

Text 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English.

Correspondence

Unit Date 1863-08-17-1863-12-25

Text 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English.

General

This folder contains the earliest letter, dated August 1863, shortly before Nelson was captured.

Correspondence

Unit Date 1863-12-26-1864-01-19

Text 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English.

General

This folder contains a letter from G.W. Nelson to Charlotte Cazenove.

Correspondence

Unit Date 1864-01-29-1864-02-06

Text 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English.

Correspondence

Unit Date 1864-02-14-1864-02-23

Text 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English.

Correspondence

Unit Date 1864-03-05-1864-03-07

Text 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English.

Correspondence

Unit Date 1864-03-14-1864-04-09

Text 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English.

Correspondence

Unit Date 1864-04-30-1864-05-04

Text 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English.

Correspondence

Unit Date 1864-05-08-1864-06-14

Text 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English.

General

This folder contains a letter from G.W. Nelson to Charlotte Cazenove.

Correspondence

Unit Date 1864-07-04-1864-07-07

Text 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English.

General

This folder contains letters from G.W. Nelson to Charlotte Cazenove.

Correspondence

Unit Date 1864-08-11-1865-04-10

Text 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Language English.

General

This folder contains a letter from G.W. Nelson to Charlotte Cazenove.

Correspondence

Unit Date 1865-04-22-1865-04-25

Text 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Language English.

General

This folder contains a letter from G.W. Nelson to Charlotte Cazenove.

Correspondence

Unit Date 1865-05-11-1865-05-16

Text 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Language English.

Correspondence

Unit Date 1865-05-19-1865-05-23

Text 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Language English.

General

This folder contains a letter from G.W. Nelson to Charlotte Cazenove.

Correspondence

Unit Date 1872-04-22

Text 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Language English.

Letter, Charlotte Cazenove (Massie) Berryman to Cassie Nelson

Unit Date 1903-08-27

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

A letter to Cassie Nelson, the daughter of G.W. Nelson and Mollie Scollay, concerning the correspondence between the couple during G.W. Nelson's imprisonment. Also included is a small spool of red twine.