

MS-13 Civil War Collection MS-13

Civil War Collection

1860-2012

Title Statement

MS-13 Civil War Collection MS-13

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Series Statement

Arranged in 8 Series

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-10-16 07:02:52 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Revision Description

2023 Updated subject terms. Revised by Elena Solé Rodríguez.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS-13

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/18

Unit Date

1860-2012

Language

English

Abstract

This collection contains a sampling of Civil War correspondence referencing both Union and Confederate soldiers fighting throughout Virginia at various points during the Civil War. Individually acquired, the collection was created by a private collector, so the items were brought together as a collection by his design.

Extent

1.5 Linear Feet

Repository

University of Richmond

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was purchased from a private collector in 2012.

Processing Information

The collection was removed from the binders it was initially stored in and organized in acid-free folders. The decision was made to maintain all the printed research and reference materials given with the collection as part of the collection itself and can be located within each individual series.

Processed by Erica Johnson.

Preferred Citation

[Box Number, Folder Number], MS-13, Civil War Collection, Book Arts, Archives, & Rare Books, Boatwright Memorial Library, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Also known as the First Battle of Cold Harbor or the Battle of the Chickahominy River, the Battle of Gaines' Mill was the third in the 7-Days Battles of the Peninsula Campaign. Taking place on June 27, 1862, in Hanover County, Virginia, Gaines' Mill pitted the troops of General Robert E. Lee against those of Union Brigadier General Fitz John Porter. The battle was a critical juncture in saving the city of Richmond for the Confederacy during the early years of the Civil War.

Born in 1839, William Weldon Bentley was an 1860 graduate of VMI who studied under Thomas J. Jackson. As a VMI cadet, Bentley was present at the execution of John Brown. He joined the Confederate Army at the outbreak of the war and served in the 24th Virginia Infantry Regiment, leading a battalion during Pickett's Charge. Bentley died on July 23, 1924, and was buried in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia.

Trained as a wheelwright, Albert M. Hayward enlisted in the Massachusetts 7th Infantry as a private in late August 1862. In this service, Hayward participated in and was wounded at the Battle of Fredericksburg, from December 12-15, 1862. He mustered out in June 1864, when the term of service for the company expired.

William McKinnon was a North Carolina resident who enlisted with the North Carolina 26th Infantry as a Private in June 1861. He wrote a brief note to his father, Daniel McKinnon, on June 22, 1862, from Petersburg, Virginia, noting that he and some others were quite ill. McKinnon was later in the battles at Gettysburg in July 1863, where he was wounded and taken prisoner. He was later transferred to Point Lookout, Maryland, where he died in the hospital on December 6, 1863.

A printer by trade, William C. Morgan of Cornville, Maine, enlisted in the Maine 3rd Infantry on October 19, 1861. He was promoted to captain in September 1861 and Major in 1864. The 3rd Maine saw action at Bull Run in 1861 and 1862, as well as later involvements at Fair Oaks and Gettysburg as well as engagements throughout Virginia, including the 1864 Battle at North Anna, where Morgan was killed on May 23, 1864. Amanda (McClure) Morgan was born on June 14, 1835. The widow of Oliver Case and mother of one child, Amanda and William were parents to two children, Frank born in 1860, and Emma in 1862. Amanda passed away May 10, 1908.

Born in 1834 in Pennsylvania, Thomas McCormick Walker served as an officer with the 111th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. Beginning as a Major in 1861, Walker led the regiment at Cedar Mountain and Antietam, where he was wounded. He went on to command at Gettysburg and eventually joined the Sherman's Atlanta campaign, earning his promotion to Colonel and eventually Brigadier General by 1865. The 111th Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment was known as a powerful fighting unit throughout the Civil War and was the first to enter both Atlanta and Savannah under General Walker's command. In late May 1865, the 111th completed a march from Raleigh, North Carolina, to Richmond, Virginia. Walker mustered out on July 19, 1865.

A young gentleman from Germantown, Pennsylvania, John Barnes joined the 71st Pennsylvania Infantry, Company B (California Regiment) in June 1861. During Spring 1862, the regiment took part in the Peninsular campaign, including fighting at Fair Oaks, Chickahominy, Savage Station, and White Oak Swamp, among others. Barnes was killed in action during the battle of White Oak Swamp on June 30, 1862.

Scope and Contents

Series I, the Battle of Gaines' Mill, contains a handwritten battle report dated July 7, 1862. A direct copy from the original draft, the document is signed by Lt. Robert P. Wilson, who served as AGG for General Joseph J. Bartlett, Brigade Commander, and by Charles Ellis, Bartlett's clerk. In addition to a detailed description of the battle itself, the document also contains several specific listings of casualties and injuries. A transcription

and research materials are also included.

Series II, William W. Bentley, contains a four-page handwritten letter from William W. Bentley to his mother, dated July 15, 1863. In the letter, Bentley describes the events of the battle in some detail. The series also contains a transcription of the letter as well as additional research materials on Bentley, including service and census records, and about Pickett's Charge and the 24th Virginia Cavalry. Also included are a reproduction of a photograph of the Pulaski County Confederate Veterans and a published book on a later relative of Bentley's.

Series III, Carte de Visites, contains 2 items. The first photograph is a memorial depiction of Robert E. Lee, from Mosher's Historical Photography, Chicago, Illinois. The second item is a photograph labeled "Confederate Commanders" and copyrighted 1885. From the Notman Photo Co., Boston, MA., the back of the photograph is stamped "with compliments of the Travelers Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn."

Series IV, Albert M. Hayward, contains a letter written by Hayward to his sister, Martha. Written from camp near Fredericksburg and dated December 19, 1862, Hayward documents the battle describing movements in some detail. A transcription of the letter is included. Of additional interest is a file containing copies of Hayward's service and pension records, including statements documenting his blindness in one eye as a result of his Civil War injuries.

Series V, William McKinnon, contains a short letter written by McKinnon to his father in June 1862. A confederate soldier, McKinnon briefly documents his illness and need for money. A year later, McKinnon would be wounded and captured in the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, dying in a Maryland hospital later that year. The series also contains a transcription of the letter as well as research materials on McKinnon, other individuals he mentions (especially Noah Deaton), and general information about the 26th North Carolina.

Series VI, William C. and Amanda Morgan, contains three letters exchanged between husband and wife. Amanda's letters, most likely from late 1863, talk of daily events to her husband. William's letters to Amanda were written on May 9 and 13, 1864, just days before he was killed on May 23. Also included are transcriptions of William's letters, printed copies of the letters, and research materials on Morgan and the 3rd Maine.

Series VII, Thomas M. Walker, contains a letter written by Brigadier General Thomas McCormick Walker to his mother on June 1, 1865, just after the march through Richmond towards Washington, D.C. In the letter, he describes his feelings about his military service and the war in general as well as documenting the conditions he saw around them. In the letter, he also describes the battlefield scenes of Chancellorsville and Spotsylvania. Also in the series are a transcription of the letter and additional reference material on Walker and the 111th Pennsylvania Infantry.

Series VIII, John Barns, is the largest series of the collection. A period scrapbook contains 21 letters, the majority sent by Barns to his brother, and document most of Barns' career as a soldier. Also included in the series are transcriptions of the letters and additional reference materials on Barns and the 71st Pennsylvania Infantry.

Separated Materials

One oversize photograph is stored in Oversize Drawer #1.

Related Materials

MS-4 Lt. Henry L. Kinsey Collection MS-26 Civil War Era Naval Correspondence Collection

Keywords

Virginia
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
Personal correspondence
Research
Communications, Military

Accruals

Additional items may be added to this collection.

Alternative Form Available

Transcriptions of most letters are available within the corresponding series. In some cases, prints created from digital images are also included.

Custodial History

Items in this collection were collected by and purchased from a private collector.

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Items in this collection were collected by and purchased from a private collector who also supplied transcriptions and research materials included.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 8 series:

Series I: Battle of Gaines' Mill Series II: William W. Bentley Series III: Carte de Visites Series IV: Albert M. Hayward Series V: William McKinnon Series VI: William C. and Amanda Morgan Series VII: Thomas M. Walker Series VIII: John C. Barns

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Battle of Gaines' Mill

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1435

Unit Date 1862

Unit Date 2009

Battle of Gaines' Mill Battle Report

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1436

Unit Date July 7, 1862

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Battle of Gaines' Mill report transcription

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1437

Unit Date undated

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Material Specification 2 copies.

Battle of Gaines' Mill Research Materials

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1438

Unit Date November, 2009

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Series II: William W. Bentley

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1439

Unit Date 1863

Unit Date 2009-2010

William W. Bentley letter to his mother

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1440

Unit Date July 15, 1863

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

William W. Bentley letter transcription

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1441

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Material Specification 2 copies, plus printed images of letter.

William W. Bentley military and census records

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1442

Unit Date December, 2009

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

William W. Bentley research materials

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1443

Unit Date 2009-2010

Unit Date undated

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Reproduction photograph of Pulaski County Confederate Veterans (with Bentley)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1444

Unit Date undated

Graphic Materials 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Physical Location Located in Oversize Drawer 1.

The Touch of Greatness: Colonel William C. Bentley Jr., USAAC/USAF; Aviation Pioneer by Stewart W. Bentley, Jr., Ph.D.

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1445

Unit Date 2010

Books 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

24th Virginia Infantry research materials

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1446

Unit Date December, 2009

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Battle of Gettysburg and Pickett's Charge research materials

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1447

Unit Date December, 2009 - January, 2010

Unit Date undated

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Series III: Carte de visites**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/1448**Unit Date** 1876**Unit Date** 1885**Carte de visite of Robert E. Lee and Confederate Commanders****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/1449**Unit Date** 1876**Unit Date** 1885**Text** 1 MS-13 (box)**Container** 12 (folder)**Series IV: Albert M. Hayward****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/1450**Unit Date** 1862**Unit Date** 2009**Alber M. Hayward letter to his sister****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/1451**Unit Date** December 19, 1862**Text** 1 MS-13 (box)**Container** 13 (folder)**Albert M. Hayward letter transcription****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/1452**Unit Date** undated**Text** 1 MS-13 (box)**Container** 14 (folder)**Albert M. Hayward research materials****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/1453**Unit Date** December, 2009**Text** 1 MS-13 (box)**Container** 15 (folder)**Albert M. Hayward service and pension records****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/1454**Unit Date** undated**Text** 1 MS-13 (box)**Container** 16 (folder)**Language** English**Material Specification** Copies.**Series V: William McKinnon****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/1455**Unit Date** 1862**Unit Date** 2009**William McKinnon letter to his father****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/1456

Unit Date June 22, 1862

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

William McKinnon letter transcription

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1457

Unit Date undated

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

William McKinnon research materials

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1458

Unit Date December, 2009

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Series VI: William C. and Amanda Morgan

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1459

Unit Date 1864

Unit Date 2009-2010

William C. Morgan letters to Amanda Morgan

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1460

Unit Date May, 1864

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Amanda Morgan letters to William C. Morgan

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1461

Unit Date October - November, 1864

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

William C. Morgan letters transcription

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1462

Unit Date undated

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

William C. Morgan research materials

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1463

Unit Date December, 2009 - January, 2010

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Series VII: Thomas M. Walker

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1464

Unit Date 1865

Unit Date 2009

Thomas M. Walker letter to his mother

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1465

Unit Date June 1, 1865

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Thomas M. Walker letter transcription and information

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1466

Unit Date undated

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Thomas M. Walker research

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1467

Unit Date October - November, 2009

Text 1 MS-13 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Series VIII: John C. Barns

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1468

Unit Date 1861-1862

Unit Date 2009-2010

John C. Barns scrapbook of letters to his brother

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1469

Unit Date 1861-1862

Text 2 MS-13 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

John C. Barns scrapbook of letters transcription and information

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1470

Unit Date undated

Text 2 MS-13 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

John C. Barns research materials

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1471

Unit Date 2009-2010

Text 2 MS-13 (box)

Container 3 (folder)