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Civil War collection

Title: Civil War collection
Collection No: MSS.48
Extent: 3.5 cubic feet

Abstract: This collection of American Civil War materials includes letters, diaries, official documents and other published items.

Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: Civil War collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: 2022 June
Scope and contents

The collection of American Civil War materials includes manuscript and copied letters, diaries, United States War Department forms, printed General Orders from the United States Army Department of the Gulf and regimental documents, and prints. There are some publications also.

Provenance

This is an artificial collection of materials of varied provenance, some unknown.

Related materials


Subject terms

Confederate States of America. Army.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States. Army.
United States. Army. Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, 35th (1864-1866)
Inventory

Box 1

Folder

1 Letter: Unsigned and unaddressed from Grand Junction, Tenn., 1861 April 19, reporting on General Gideon J. Pillow's recent speech urging Tennesseans to arm themselves against the Northern threat.

2 Letter (copy): William Hy. Smith, Quartermaster Clerk, Polk's Brigade, Cleburne's Division, Tunnel Hill, Ga., 1863 December 17, to his wife. News of conditions, relatives encountered in the service, and instructions on sending mail to him by way of Fortress Monroe, Va., and the “Flag of Truce” system.

3 Letter: John Skellie, Elk River Railroad Bridge, Tenn., 1864 February 2, to his cousin. Skellie, in an unidentified Federal unit, writes of the superb weather and of socializing on a nearby plantation. Refers to “old colonel” who has taken five companies to Fayetteville, and mentions receiving a letter from Cambridge yesterday.

4 Pocket diary (copy): 53 pp., possibly kept by Thomas Cahill, Company G, 3rd Regiment of Engineers, Army of Tennessee. In several hands, with references to Engineers and to the 1st Confederate Cavalry Regiment of Wheeler's Corps, 1864-1865.

5 General Orders, Headquarters, Department of the Gulf (printed orders, originally parts of bound sets):
   No. 2-9, Ship Island, 1862 March 20-April 10.
   No. 11, Ship Island, 1862 April 14 (findings of Courts Martial); No. 12, Ship Island, 1862 April 15 (Findings of Courts Martial).
   No. 13, Ship Island, 1862 April 15 (George Shepley appointed commander)
   No. 14, Head of the Mississippi Passes, 1862 April 24 (transportation of troops to Fort St. Philip)
   No. 20, New Orleans, La., 1862 May 3 (sets conditions for importation of provisions the city).
   No. 21, New Orleans, 1862 May 4 (safe conduct pass for two steamers to bring provisions to city).
   No. 24, New Orleans, 1862 May 10 (Shepley made Military Commandant of the city).
   No. 46, New Orleans, 1862 June 26 (sequesters property of General David E. Twiggs and son).
   No. 47, New Orleans, 1862 July 2 (allows sale of Army provisions to alleviate destitution).
   No. 50, New Orleans, 1862 July 19 (requires the banks of the city to make monthly reports of condition)
   No. 54, New Orleans, 1862 August 4 (similar to No. 50).
   No. 59, New Orleans, 1862 August 16 (consolidates Louisiana companies into
First Infantry Regiment and gives officer and staff appointments).

No. 62, New Orleans, 1862 July 21 (Shepley promoted and replaced by Henry Birge).

No. 70, New Orleans, 1862 September 10 (breaks up regimental bands).

No. 72, New Orleans, 1862 September 15 (forbids officers from remaining in city without certification by Medical Director).

No. 87, New Orleans, 1862 November 1 (tightens up pass system, and requires loyalty oath of adults who pass in from Confederate territory).

No. 100, New Orleans, 1862 November 21 (allows Bank of New Orleans to resume business).

No. 77, New Orleans, 1863 October 27 (General Banks now commander; recruiting for Corps d'Afrique undertaken).

No. 81, New Orleans, 1863 December 8 (orders 100-gun salute in honor of recent victories in Tennessee and Georgia).

No. 90, New Orleans, 1863 December 30 (findings of Courts Martial).

No. 1, New Orleans, 1864 January 6 (regulates sutlers' trade).

No. 3, New Orleans, 1864 January 18 (findings of Courts Martial).

No. 6, New Orleans, 1864 January 21 (constitutes Provost Court of Texas).

No. 11, New Orleans, 1864 January 25 (regulations for transfer to Invalid Corps);
No. 12, New Orleans, 1864 January 28 (regulations for Hospital & Ambulance flags);
No. 13, New Orleans, 1864 January 27 (Courts Martial);
No. 14, New Orleans, 1864 January 27 (Courts Martial);
No. 15, New Orleans, 1864 January 25 (regulations for Invalid Corps);
No. 16, New Orleans, 1863 [sic] January 25 (Invalid Corps);
No. 17, New Orleans, 1864 January 26 (Escorts and orderlies not to be detached from other commands);
No. 18, New Orleans, 1864 January 26 (to report on occupation of civilian property);
No. 19, New Orleans, 1864 January 26 (On organizing Veteran Volunteer units);
No. 20, New Orleans, 1864 January 29 (On Act of Congress restricting transfers of claims against the U.S.);
No. 28, New Orleans, 1864 February 23 (Regulations for rendering honors to naval and foreign officers).

No. 51, Grand Ecore, La., 1864 April 19 ('Corps d' Afrique' regiments renamed 'Colored' and given new numbers).

No. 54, Alexandria, La., 1864 April 29 (Disposition of Confederate bills, notes, and bonds).

No. 132, New Orleans, 1864 September 18 (General Hurlbut is commander; findings of Courts Martial).

Headquarters, Army of the Ohio, General Field Orders No. 38, Knoxville, Tenn., 1863 December 11 (Burnside's Farewell).

Headquarters, Army of the Ohio, General Field Orders No. 39, Knoxville, Tenn., 1863 December 11 (Foster assumes command).

Headquarters, Army of the Southwest, General Orders No. 23, Batesville, Ark., 1862 May 31 (Curtis announces capture of Corinth, and thanks several cavalry officers.
for their heroic conduct).

6 War Department, Adjutant General’s Office, General Orders No. 62, Washington, D.C., 1862 June 8 (Adjusts military department boundaries).

War Department, Adjutant General’s Office, General Orders No. 191, 1863 June 25; No. 304, 1863 September 10; No. 305, 1863 September 11 (concern Veteran Volunteers and Invalid Corps).

War Department. Ordnance Office:
Circular No. 17--Series of 1863, 1863April 3 (Instructions and form for exchanging unserviceable arms)
Circular No. 58--Series of 1863, Nov 13, 1863 ("Issues of Horse Equipments to Officers").
Circular No. 10--Series of 1864, March 28, 1864 ("Revision of Ordnance Blank Forms")
Form No. 1(a.) For Infantry and Heavy Artillery ("Quarterly Return of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores"). (2)
Form No. 2(b.) ("Invoice of Stores").
Form No. 7(a.) ("Receipt for Issues to...")
Form No. 9(a.) ("Abstract of Expenditures ").(2
Form No. 10 & 11(b.) ("Inventory and Inspection Report of Unserviceable Ordnance Stores").
Form No. 12 ("Statement of Charges on Muster and Pay Rolls").
Form No. 22 ("Requisition for Ordnance Stores").
Form No. 47--1863. ("Company History").
Form No. 47--1864. ("Company History").

Two pre-addressed envelopes for mailing reports to Brigadier General George D. Ramsay, Chief of Ordnance, Washington, D.C.

7 List: “Mitglinder Ins Kanken Kassen Vereins May 1862” (Subscribers to Hospital Union, i.e. Health/Burial Insurance Fund, with 96 German names); newspaper clipping: late 19th century, "Muster Roll Of Company H, 11th Miss. Regt. Volunteers, C.S.A.” with details of service, deaths, and wounds; bill: W.J. Wilson to L.F. Morris, 1864 April 4, for carpentry work in Baltimore (?)

8 Letters (copies): Soldier named T.C.(?) Baggett to wife Lindsay(?) and children, 1863 March 22, May 12/16. March 1863 letter from near Mobile, Alabama, mentions availability of food and prices, a measles epidemic, and "old Ginrel Butler " talking some hungry regiments out of stacking arms and refusing to drill; May 1863 letter from near Tullahoma, Tennessee, mentions general conditions and his longing for home. See Appendix 1 for transcriptions.


10 Letter: Unsigned (John Elliott?), 111th Illinois Infantry, Pulaski, Tenn., to Lizzie Elliott, Salem, Marion County, Ill., 1863 December 12. The writer of the letter is a bandsman who describes life in camp. Notes the band is living in a hole in the ground with a tent covering it but it has a chimney. They have a black servant
who cooks for them and “often asks me if he can go up to Yankey dum with me”. Notes their duties are few compared to regular soldiers. He has ordered a new instrument from Cincinnati and boasts that after he leaves the army his band could be one of the best in the country because they know 100 pieces and can play almost anything. Notes the farms in the area have mostly been stripped of crops and animals by the armies. He believes the rebels are exhausted and the war will be over by next Fall. States that soldiers who have served a year cannot have any sympathy for the rebels and describes his regiment’s involvement with the hanging of a spy (Sam Davis?) and the lack of sympathy for him. Says the Colonel will not allow any band member to have leave and the only way he will get to Salem is if he is sick.

Note: There is no name on the letter but the envelope has a name and address. There are only two soldiers named Elliott recorded in the 111th Illinois and only one was from Salem. John Elliott, 5 feet 2 inches tall from Salem, Illinois, was born in New York City around 1844 and enlisted on August 12, 1862. He was mustered into Company D of the 111th Illinois Infantry at Camp Marshall on September 18, 1862. The regiment moved to Kentucky and was in Paducah from June to October 1863. It was ordered to Alabama and then to Pulaski, Tennessee, in November and remained there until late February 1864. The regiment fought in Georgia and the Carolinas until it was disbanded in June 1865. Elliott is recorded as being mustered out in Washington, D.C. on June 6, 1865, though he was listed as absent because he was wounded.

Letter: Frank (signed first name only), 11th New York Cavalry, Camp, Collierville, Tenn., to parents, 1865 June 25. Notes he has been busy because as the senior officer on duty he has been in command of the company. Suggests if his parents are agreeable he might re-enlist to fight in Mexico to drive the French from the continent. Refers to sister Emma, and Hollis who was wounded. Notes the local farmers have good crops and have cut wheat, rye, barley and oats. The cotton and corn should give a good return after some hard years. Some had to bury their cotton for three years to prevent the Confederates from destroying it. Records a fight between a corporal from his regiment and a black corporal who was a guard on one of the trains. Both were shot and the balls hit three others: a black soldier, a white soldier, and a former Confederate colonel. All were still alive though the colonel lost an arm. Frank comments: “I believe a person is in more danger now than in active service.”

Application for the Confederate States of America Roll of Honour, Confederate Museum, Richmond, Va., by George B. Borah, Imboden, Arkansas, 1908 December 11. Borah served in Company F, 45th Arkansas Mounted Infantry, June 1864-June 5, 1865. He was born in Kentucky, and was living in New Hope Church, Ark., and aged 17 when he enlisted.

Stout letters, 1860-1863:

Scope and contents:

The collection comprises correspondence from three Louisiana soldiers from the Civil War period and an 1860 call to offer assistance to the widow of a freemason. Nine letters are from Daniel Stout of Delhi, Carroll Parish (later Richland Parish), Louisiana, to his wife Isabella A. Curry Stout, whom he married in 1857. The first dates from 1861 but the others were written in March and April 1862 when he was a private in Captain Thomas M. Cochran’s Macon Cavalry. The Macon Cavalry was organized at Vicksburg, Mississippi, on February 27, 1862, and enlisted in Confederate service at Delhi on March 6, 1862. It was attached to the 28th Mississippi Cavalry and then assigned to the 6th Battalion Arkansas Cavalry. On April 20, 1862, the Macon Cavalry was consolidated with Company D, the Brierfield Rebels, of Carroll Parish and on May 15 the new company became Company C, 2nd Regiment Arkansas Cavalry. Daniel Stout wrote letters from Memphis and Corinth which mentioned service life but mostly expressed a desire to see his family.

One letter is from Daniel’s brother George, who was stationed in Vicksburg in April 1863. George may have been in Company C, 31st Louisiana Infantry, who was captured at Vicksburg and paroled on July 4, 1863.

There is also a letter from Private S.A. Stinson, Company H, 9th Louisiana Infantry, who enlisted July 7, 1861, at Camp Moore, Louisiana, at age 20. A farmer from Louisville, Louisiana, he died in hospital in Richmond, Virginia, on August 17, 1862.

Daniel Stout to wife 1861 January 29. Asks her to tell Sally to go to Mr. Newsom so Daniel can discuss some business with her.

Daniel Stout, Vicksburg, Miss., to wife, 1862 March 22. "The news came in this morning that there was fifty thousand federal troops in Mississippi but the Lou boys wants to go a head and whip them back ....We are ordered to Island No 10 and we are to start on Wednesday next."

Daniel Stout, Memphis, Tenn., to wife, 1862 March 30. “I started to memphis the same day I left you and landed at Memphis at ten oclock Sunday night...the same night we landed at memphis it was one thousand texas raingers landed: we order to cook plenty of provitian for five or six Days for we expect to leave here in A few Days to Corrinth they expect A Big Battle there ever Day.”

Daniel Stout, Memphis, Tenn., to wife, 1862 April 3. “I have sean A grate many Boys that I know...there is A bout five thousand mens in this place Huney I think So much A bout you that it amast kil me I hope that you wil not Studdy Somuch A Bout me and think A bout your little child for god Sake if you never Sea me any more have my child takend care of dont you never give up to any boddy elce like you have bin to me for you have bin like A negro to me ...The health of our company is bad we sent three of fore to the Hospittle to day…”
Daniel Stout, Camp Corinth, Miss., to I.A. Stout, Delhi, Carrol Parish, La., 1862 April 12.
“Dear wife I am in very bad health at this time...we have had a terrible battle here and we have whip them and taking five thousand prisoners we expect another battle here every day and we will be in it”

Daniel Stout, Corinth, Miss., to I.A. Stout, Delhi, Carrol Parish, La., 1862 April 20. “at this present time I have been very sick with the bloody flux but I am improving a little....I have been sick about two weeks and I haven had any thing to eat only beefe and flour bread made up with coal water and water wasn't fit for a hog.”

Daniel Stout, Corinth, Miss., to I.A. Stout, Delhi, Carrol Parish, La., 1862 April 25. Notes Bud is sick with pneumonia. “my Darling I have got some money for you if I could get it change my health is so bad that I am bound to keep a little with me”

Daniel Stout, Corinth, Miss., to I.A. Stout, Delhi, Carrol Parish, La., 1862 April 26. “…I am well all except the dire are very bad...we are traveling and moving every two or three days right round Corinth.....I am just turning what hard living is…”

Daniel Stout, Corinth, Miss., to I.A. Stout, Delhi, Carrol Parish, La., 1862 (April?) 8. “I know our company is getting quite small we have sent fifteen or twenty to holy spring hospital…” Notes he does not have paper and ink to write regularly.

George Stout, Vicksburg, Miss., to Mrs. Isabela Stout (sister-in-law), Delhi, La., 1863 April 5. “There is not a pair of cotton cards in town. About a week before I got your letter there was a about six pairs but now they are all sold. The people are moving back in town and pinning with new supplies I think before long they will have cards times here is very hard and dull no prospects of a fight at this place”

S.A. Stinson (Company H, 9th Regiment, Louisiana Volunteers), General Hospital, Richmond, Va., to John Stinson (cousin), Louisville, La., 1861 December 9. “…I am still sick. About three weeks ago I believe I was in better health than I ever was before. I was heavier than I ever was before...there is a great deal of sickness in camps. the weather being so very cold and we having to lie on the ground. it causes them to take the pneumonia and it is very bad…”

Lewis Zinn, Secretary of Warren Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, Winnsborough, La., 1860 September 21. Request to fellow masons to assist Mrs. Haytor, the widow of Thomas B. Haytor. Accompanying envelope has Confederate symbolism, is addressed to Mrs. I. Haytor, Delhi, La., “Written by Private McLung, Macon Cavalry, T.M. Cochran Capt.”

Box 2

M.D.L. Stephens diary, 1862:
1 M.D.L. Stephens diary, 1862 March 24-August 31. For selected excerpts see Appendix 2.
2 Photocopy of diary; handwritten transcription.

Scope and contents:
The diary is a daily record of Stephens’ activities with the 31st Mississippi Infantry Regiment from March through August 1862. The 31st Mississippi was not at Shiloh, but formed part of the defenses of Corinth against the Union advance, guarded railroad bridges, and operated around Vicksburg before being sent to Louisiana, where Stephens
left them on sick leave. Weather and water conditions, officer elections, individual and unit health matters, problems of supply and movement, camp locations, and a few brushes with the Union forces make up the bulk of the entries.

**Biographical information:**

Marcus D. Lafayette Stephens was born November 9, 1829, in Williamson County, Tennessee, the son of Dennis Stephens (b.1796) from Nashville and Jane Hudson Stephens. He was one of four children. His family moved to a small farm on Pigeon Roost Creek, Marshall County, Mississippi, in 1838. Stephens taught school and then studied medicine in Kentucky before joining a practice in Banner and, later, Sarepta, Calhoun County, Mississippi. He represented the county at the Mississippi Secession Convention and then joined the Magnolia Guards in April 1861 as a 2nd lieutenant. Stephens served with the 17th Mississippi Infantry Regiment in Virginia in 1861. In 1862 he joined Company D (Dixie Rebels) of the 6th Battalion raised by J.A. Orr, which then became Company D of the 31st Mississippi Infantry Regiment which served near Corinth and Vicksburg. He was elected lieutenant colonel, and in 1864 became colonel, serving under generals Johnston and Hood in Georgia and Tennessee, before being badly wounded at the Battle of Franklin. After the war, Stephens returned to Mississippi, and lived in Water Valley, Yalobusha County. With partners, he opened a store but lost it in the economic downturn in 1878. He had been elected to the state legislature in 1863 and to the state senate in 1866 but was removed during Reconstruction. He was elected to the Mississippi legislature again in 1879. He later served as chancery clerk and recorder of Water Valley. Stephens married Mary Jane Duff (b. 1840) in 1856 and they had nine children. Stephens died on April 15, 1911.

**Sources:**


3

**Correspondence: Edwin F. Redfield to family, 1861-1865.**

**Scope and contents:**

Seven letters written by Edwin F. Redfield to his family between 1861 and 1865. The earliest talks about a book store he had established before he joined the Confederate army. It also notes that while the family is from the North, he sympathizes with the South. The later letters are mostly about how much he misses his family and his hopes for reestablishing their home in Tennessee since it appears his mother and brother left their home in Jasper. Two letters are from Edwin while he was serving in Tennessee and one discusses how he and his brother can profit from the rising price of tobacco. See Appendix 4 for transcriptions.

**Biographical information:**

Edwin Forbes Redfield was born on April 22, 1842, in Eden, Erie County, New York. He was the son of physician Horace Linzy Redfield (1809-1849), originally from Vermont, and Clarissa Jane Forbes Redfield (b.1816), who married in 1838. After Horace’s early death, Clarissa and her two sons, Edwin and Horace Victor Eugene (1845-1881) moved to Jasper, Marion County, Tennessee. Edwin opened a store there. He enlisted in the Confederate army in June 1861 and was mustered into Company G of the Third
Confederate Cavalry Regiment, serving until April 27, 1865. The regiment served during the greater part of the war in Wheeler's cavalry, and fought throughout the campaigns in Kentucky and Tennessee in numerous raids and skirmishes at Murfreesboro, Triune, Hoover's Gap, Chickamauga, Bridgeport, Trenton, McAfee's, and Noonday Creek. The regiment was used repeatedly for picket duty and scouting. After the war Redfield returned to Tennessee and in 1866 married Adelia S. Craighead (1846-1935) and had two children: Hal Linwood (1868-1928) and Maud F. (1869-1954). Edwin later moved to Texas. He was admitted to Camp Nicholls "Old Soldiers Home" in New Orleans, Louisiana, in February 1908 for "paralysis" and died there on December 31, 1909. He was buried in vault 16 of the Soldiers Home Tomb in Greenwood Cemetery, New Orleans. Adelia was buried in Dallas, Texas, where her children lived.

Sources:

Robert S. Anderson collection:
Scope and contents: Correspondence, a diary and photographs documenting Robert Anderson’s service with the 81st Ohio Volunteer Regiment and the 59th U.S. Colored Infantry during the Civil War. There is also a letter from Mary Brown that refers to Anderson during this period, and a payment order from 1889 from Anderson to his brother in Kansas. A songbook published in 1882 has some genealogical notes by Grace Brown.

Biographical information:
Robert S. Anderson was born circa 1838 and was living in Brush Creek Township, Scioto County, Ohio, at the beginning of the Civil War. He had a brother James R. and possibly a sister, Mary Brown. Anderson enlisted on August 30, 1862, and Company H of the 81st Ohio Volunteer Infantry was organized in Adams and Scioto Counties in September. Anderson was made sergeant and his company was among five that joined the regiment in October in Corinth, Mississippi. He served in Mississippi and Alabama until mid-1863 and then in Tennessee near Pulaski until April 1864. On May 18 he was discharged from the 81st Regiment and joined Company K of the 59th U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment in Memphis as a sergeant. The regiment fought at Brices Cross Roads and Tupelo, Mississippi, and Anderson was mustered out as a 1st lieutenant on January 1, 1866. After the war he rented a plantation in Mississippi and later may have moved to Kansas where his brother lived.

Correspondence:
Robert Anderson, Corinth, Miss., to mother, 1863 March 7. Reports he is well, though
many in the company have measles and two soldiers have died.

Mary Brown, Mt. Joy, Penn.?, to sister, 1864 May 26. Informs sister of the death of their father. Met a man from Robert Anderson’s company and the mother of another man from the same company. Learned that Robert had left his regiment “and is gone into a black Regiment”.

Robert Anderson, Camp of the 59th U.S. Colored Infantry, Memphis, Tenn., to brother, 1863 (1864?) November 14. Notes they are building their winter quarters and he and the captain are building a wooden room of 12 feet square to be shared by both. Is sure President Lincoln, “Father Abraham”, will be re-elected.

Robert Anderson, Camp of the 59th U.S. Colored Infantry, Memphis, Tenn., to brother, 1865 August 18. Notes he had been visiting family in Pittsburgh. Experienced an earthquake the previous day in Memphis which caused some inhabitants of the city to rush out into the street in panic.

Robert Anderson, Anderson’s Plantation, Austin, Tunica County, Miss., to brother, 1866 July 21. Anderson is renting a plantation from Major J.H. Anderson. Notes that he may not be able to work the crop because labor is scarce, which allows weeds to grow and will affect the value of the crop. James Anderson is apparently living near Sedalia, Kansas, and Robert asks many questions about his situation.

Payment order: Notarized order for $2.15 to be paid by Lt. Robert Anderson to James Anderson from his back pay, dated Kansas City, 1889 January 28, written by Mrs. M. Brown.

Diary: Pocket diary kept by Robert Anderson, 1862-1864. Entries covering his enlistment and service between August 1862 and officially joining the 59th Colored Infantry Regiment in September 1864. Scattered references to combat. On December 20, 1862 he records: “Great excitement about the Rebels advancing under Gen Bragg. all necessary preparations were made to receive them expected them for dinner on Christmas”. On May 15, 1863 notes speech by Adjutant General Thomas where reference was made to arming African Americans which caused “great dissatisfaction”. On November 29, 1863, records disagreeable task in cold weather of “ferrying our train…big drunk among officers and men considerable fighting but no body hurt Bachus done the fighting”. On April 28, 1864 he wrote: “Remained in camp the Troops at this Post was Paraded to witness the hanging of sergt. Myers 7th Ill. Infty for shooting his Captain “Dec 1862””. Also includes notes on money owed him, the roll of Company K, 59th Colored Infantry Regiment among other information related to his service.

Photographs: Cartes de visite:
Robert Anderson in military uniform, undated. Photographer: Cargo’s, 69 Fifth Street, Pittsburgh, Penn.

5 Davis-Bills correspondence, 1861-1878 (copies):
  Scope and contents:
The collection contains copies of correspondence from the Davis and Bills families of
Tennessee. Most of the letters (33) are from John J. Davis of the 47th Tennessee Infantry
Regiment to his wife in Friendship, Tennessee, from soon after his enlistment in 1861 to
just before his death in 1864. They document the life and concerns of an enlisted man,
conditions in camp and in the field, rumors and news from other fronts, and arrangements
for communicating with family in Union-held territory. Three letters concern Davis’
death outside Atlanta in August 1864. The remainder includes letters and miscellany
between Davis’ daughter Frankie and John H. Bills during their courtship in the 1870s,
and a letter possibly from a relative in Erath County, Texas. For excerpts from the
letters see Appendix 5.
  Biographical information:
John J. Davis was born in 1838 in Owen County, Kentucky. He married Malinda S.
Parrish (1832-1898) from Owen County in 1847. They had six children: Benjamin James
(1849-1912), Nelson Parrish (1851-1898), Molly Elizabeth (1853-1912), Frankie (1855-
1926), Susan J. (1858-1900), William D. (1860-1928), and John J. (b. 1861). Around
1854 the family moved to Dyer County, Tennessee. Davis enlisted as a private in
Company D of the 47th Tennessee Infantry Regiment, C.S.A., which was organized in
December 1861 at Camp Trenton, Gibson County. For a time it remained at Camp
Trenton, and then was involved in the conflicts at Shiloh and Richmond. Later it was
attached to P. Smith's, Vaughan's, and Palmer's Brigade, and during October 1862
consolidated with the 12th Regiment. The unit participated in the campaigns of the Army
of Tennessee from Murfreesboro to Atlanta. Davis, who was promoted to First Sergeant,
was wounded in the arm near Atlanta on July 26, 1864, and died in Flewellen Hospital at
Barnesville, Georgia, on August 14. Davis’ daughter Frankie married John H. Bills
(1848-1921).

Correspondence: John J. Davis to wife, Malinda S. Davis, Friendship, Dyer County,
Tennessee, 1861-1864:
  1-17. 1861 December 11-1862 April 5, Camp Trenton, Tenn.
  18. 1862 April 18, Corinth, Miss.
  19, 20. 1862 May 16-23, Corinth, Miss.
  21. 1862 June 30, camp near Tupelo, Miss.
  22. 1862 December 21, near Murfreesboro, Tenn.
  23-25. 1863 January 8-April 1, near Shelbyville, Tenn.
  26. 1863 August 1, in camp near Chattanooga, Tenn.
  27. 1864 February 6, camp near Dalton, Ga.
  28. 1864 February 25, bivouacked near Demopolis, Ala.
  29. 1864 April 24.
  30. 1864 May 6, Atlanta, Ga.
  31. 1864 June 2, in line of battle near Hope Church, Ga.
  32. 1864 July 13, in line of battle near Atlanta, Ga.
33. 1864 July 14.
Correspondence, 1864-1866 referring to John J. Davis’ death:
34. 1864 August 18, Mrs. Sarah D. Greenwood, Barnesville, Ga., to Mrs. J.J. Davis, Friendship, Tenn.
35. 1864 August 18, W.T. Bennett (chaplain), on the front near Atlanta, Ga., to Mrs. J.J. Davis, Friendship, Tenn.
36. 1866 August 23, Will D. Somers, M.D., Collierville, Tenn., to Mrs. John J. Davis.

Correspondence and miscellany, 1876-1878 and undated:
37. “Compliments of J.H. Bills to Miss Frankie Davis I would be pleased to call this evening at 2 o'clock. April the fourth 1876.” Reply: April 4th /76. Mr Bills my daughter is not at home. M.S. Davis.”
38. 1877 November 11, unidentified author (woman?), Morgan Mill, Erath County, Tex., to Frankie Davis.
39. 1878 April 7, J.H. Bills, Friendship, Tenn., to Frankie Davis.
40. 1878 April 14, Frankie Davis to J. H. Bills.
41. 1878 April 22, John H. Bills, Friendship, Tenn., to Frankie Davis.
42. 1878 September 13, J.H. Bills to Frankie Davis.
43. 1878 October 14, J.H. Bills to Frankie Davis.
44. Undated and incomplete, J.H. Bills to Frankie Davis.
45. Undated, “Take Me Home to Die”. Handwritten lyrics to song “Take Me Home to Die or The Last Request” by I.B. Woodbury, published 1850.

Box 3

Gilliland letters, 1863, 1865:
The collection comprises copies of correspondence from Confederate soldier William Brasier Gilliland (1825-1863) to his wife Martha “Marthy” Jane Webb Gilliland (1827-1913) between April and September 1863, a letter from William’s brother, H. Franklin Gilliland (b. 1838), in 1865, and a record of weather from 1863.

William Gilliland, the son of John and Sara Brasier Gilliland, was a farmer from Bennettsville, St. Clair County, Alabama, who with his wife Martha had five children: Sarah Jane (1845-1942), Nancy E. (1847-1933), John M. (1850-1939), James M. (1859-1934) and Lewis Franklin. William served in Company E of the 22nd Alabama Infantry, which was organized in Montgomery, Alabama, in November 1861. The regiment was sent to Mobile and then fought in the Battle of Shiloh. It later fought at Perryville and Murfreesboro. On September 20, 1863, the regiment was part of an assault on General Rosecrans’ army at Chickamauga and lost almost two-thirds of its men. William Gilliland was one of those who died that day.

William’s brother, H. Franklin Gilliland (born 1838), enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1861 and later was in the 58th Alabama Infantry, serving in Companies A and H. After serving in Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama, he was discharged from the army in April 1865.

The letters mention briefly William and Franklin’s service but are mostly concerned with how Martha’s family was coping and expressing a strong desire to return
It appears that William, and possibly Franklin too, could not write and thus dictated their letters home. See Appendix 6 for transcriptions.

Correspondence:
13. Short account of weather for months January to July, 1863. Author unknown.

Tennessee Infantry Regiment, 10th, United States Army, 1863-1865:
Collection includes copies of general orders, special requisitions and equipment inventories, and some correspondence pertaining to Company F. The U.S. Army’s 10th Tennessee Infantry Regiment was formed in May-August 1862 in Nashville and mustered out in May-June of 1865. Service included: post and garrison duty at Nashville, Tenn., until September, 1863; ordered to Bridgeport, Ala., September 24, 1863; guard duty on Nashville & Northwestern Railroad, and garrison and guard duty at Nashville, Tenn., until April, 1865; ordered to Greenville April 24, 1865, and duty in District of East Tennessee until June.

General Orders: No. 6, 1864 February 2; No. 13, 1864 March 1, No. 16 Extract, 1864 March 23, from Headquarters, 10th Tennessee Infantry, Sullivan’s Branch, Tenn. Transfers and promotions.
Correspondence between Captain Robert H. Clinton of Co. F and the Property Returns
Division, Ordnance Office, War Department, 1864 January 15, 16; March 2, 24; July 16; November 23.

Letter: Headquarters, 10th Tennessee Infantry, Ft. Gillem, Tenn., to Captain R.H. Clinton ordering him to "make out a Roll of absentees of last Muster and also one of all men who are in the Qr Mr Dept Comsy Dep Med Dep Etc... ", 1864 May 6.

Letter: Captain R.H. Clinton, Nashville, Tenn., to Assistant Adjutant General, 1864 May 15. Requests seven days leave, with endorsements and approvals.

Special Requisitions by Captain R.H. Clinton, 1863 May-1864 March. (8)

Form No. 27, Abstract E: List of Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equipage, received by Captain R.H. Clinton , 1864 April- October. (4)

Form No. 51, Monthly Return of Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equipage, received by Captain R.H. Clinton, 1864 October.

List of arms and accoutrements, undated.

Form No. 4, Abstract M: List of Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equipage transferred to 10th Tennessee Infantry quartermaster, Fort Gillem, Tenn., 1865 April 1.

Form No. 27, Abstract E: List of Quartermaster's Stores, &c., transferred by Captain R.H. Clinton, Fort Gillem, 1865 February 4.

Form 2- (b): Invoice of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores, turned over by Captain R.H. Clinton to First Lieutenant James S. Tucker, Co. F, 10th Tennessee Infantry, Nashville, 1865 March 29.


Form No. 51, Monthly Return of Clothing, Camp & Garrison Equipage by Captain R.H. Clinton, 1864 June, July.

Form No. 52, Receipt Roll for Clothing received from Captain R.H. Clinton, 1864 March 30, November.

Form No. 52, Receipt Roll for Clothing received from Lieutenant James L. Tucker, undated.

Form No. 57, Inventory and Inspection Report, 1865 June 26.

Manuscript: Gardner, Elizabeth McKinne (ed.), “Memoirs of Brigadier-General William Montgomery Gardner”, undated. Typescript copy of memoirs compiled by Gardner’s daughter and published in the Commercial Appeal newspaper in 1912. William M. Gardner (1824-1901) served in the Mexican-American War with the U.S. Army and was a captain when he resigned in 1861 to join the Confederate army. Appointed major in the infantry, he served at the First Bull Run and was badly wounded in the leg. He was subsequently promoted to brigadier-general and commanded the District of Middle Florida. In 1864 and 1865 he was chief of prisons in various states and was commandant of the post at Richmond, Virginia. After the war, he lived in Georgia and then moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where he died.

James A. Rogers papers, 1861-1863:
1. Maj.-General Leonidas Polk, Fort Pillow, Tennessee, to J.A. Rogers, 1861 August 24. Authorizes Rogers to get hands for construction of the fort. Polk states that he will use martial law to get enough laborers if need be. "This I hope, for the credit of our great and glorious cause, will not be found necessary in a land of freemen & patriots."

2. J.M. Brett by order of Col. Lewis P. Williamson, General Superintendent of Labor, Fort Pillow, Tennessee, 1861 October 25. Appoints E.B. Lawson to summon half of the "effective male force of each Planter in Coahoma County, Mississippi, for fifteen days." The men are to bring their own tools and provisions.

3. Maj.-General Leonidas Polk, Columbus, Kentucky, to J.A. Rogers, Brownsville, Tennessee, 1861 December 16. Re: securing 1,000 laborers from planters of Washington and Issaquena Counties, Mississippi, to complete the fortifications at Fort Pillow. "...in view of the emergency now upon us, I can hardly believe the patriotic people of that section will refuse to furnish it..."

4. A.M. Rafter, Fort Pillow, Tennessee, to Col. J.A. Rogers, 1861 December 17. Re: above, says there are plenty of hands. "The planters of Issaquena and Washington Counties are rather contrary arid you will have to talk to them."

5. J.A. Rogers, Memphis, Tennessee, to James L. Mayfield or B.R. Freeman, 1862 January 9. Authorization to notify the Issaquena County, Mississippi planters that they are to send 50% of their slaves to work at Fort Pillow for 15 days.

6. Attached to above. Mayfield and Freeman, Issaquena County, Mississippi, 1862 January 23. Lists names of planters and number of slaves.

7. A.C. Jamison, Carroll Parish, Louisiana, 1862 January 23. List of planters and number of slaves each holds to work at Fort Pillow.

8. A.M. Rafter, Fort Pillow, Tennessee, to Col. James A. Rogers, Brownsville, Tennessee, 1862 February 2. List names of planters and the number of laborers he took from each in Washington and Issaquena Counties, Mississippi, Carroll Parish, Louisiana, and Chicot County, Arkansas, 535 in total.

9. A.M. Rafter, Fort Pillow, Tennessee, to James A. Rogers, Brownsville, Tennessee, 1862 February 11. Re: construction. Rafter is glad he did not get any more hands. "The weather has been most unpropitious and many of the Negroes as well as whites have been very sick here." Roads have been built but the ground is very wet. Notes difficulties of sending the slaves home. Another requisition will probably be made in the Spring, which will be a test of the planters’ patriotism.

10. Telegram: Leonidas Polk, Columbus, Kentucky, to James. A. Rogers, 1862 February 13. Polk wants 500 to 1000 slaves to work on Island No. 10.

11. J.P. Wood, Memphis, to James A. Rogers, 1862 April 16. Re: General Beauregard's need for a detailed map or drawing of the area around Fort Pillow. Rogers and General Conner were requested to go to Fort Pillow and draw up the map.


14. Thomas I. Blackman to Col. James A. Rogers, Brownsville, Tennessee, undated. List of parties notified on Deer Creek, Washington County, Mississippi. Gives names of slaveholders including those who refused to send any laborers. Stephen Barefield "swears he will not send a hand until compelled by force has larger wealth and has never aided the Confederacy to the amount of $100 dollars....I regret to say that I found no disposition upon the part of the majority to respond...."

15. Robert J. Turnbull, Issaquena County, to J.A. Rogers, undated. List of planters in the Deer Creek area and “his neighborhood” notified.

16. Robert J. Turnbull, Issaquena County, to J.A. Rogers & A. M. Rafter, undated. List of planters who had been notified to send 50% of their workforce to Fort Pillow. Notations in pencil besides names who had sent slaves.


Confederate records, National Archives, 1861-1863, typescript copies:

18. James Rogers, Brownsville, Tennessee, to Maj. General Leonidas Polk, 1861 October 23. Contacted slave owners in West Tennessee on procuring slaves to build fortifications at Fort Pillow. Notes 1500 hands are working at the fort from Marshall County, Mississippi. No requisition so far from Dyer and Gibson Counties but these are tobacco growers. "Lauderdale County in which Ft. Pillow is situated has disbanded the “minute men”...there is no way of reaching or detecting spies that may be prowling around Ft. Pillow." Rogers suggests that Polk appoint five to ten Rangers to do this and offers to lead them.

19. Telegram: James A. Rogers, Fort Pillow, Tennessee, to Maj. General Leonidas Polk, 1861 October 31st. Steamer “Marrs” arrived this morning with 211 hands. "If martial law were declared in Phillips, Desha, Chico, Bolivar, Tersonza & Cohoma counties the number of hands to finish the work could at once be obtained.” General Pillow is not allowing his hands to be sent. “Marrs” will return to Memphis today with hands that have worked their time out.

20. James A. Rogers, Fort Pillow, Tennessee, to Maj. General Leonidas Polk, Columbus, Kentucky, 1861 November 2. Have only received 211 hands from Coahoma, Tunica and Phillips Counties. General Gideon Pillow will not allow slaves in his jurisdiction to come. General Lewis P. Williamson is sick and Rogers is at Fort Pillow to take charge. Had to send slaves back to Memphis at the end of their 15-day assignment. Has sent agents to Coahoma and Phillips to try to get more hands and suggests sending them to Desha and Chico Counties. If 1,000
hands could be obtained in next two weeks, the rear fortifications could be completed.


5 Fort Pillow, Tennessee, 1864 (copies):
   1. Members of Bradford’s Battalion At Fort Pillow.

6 Nathan Bedford Forrest papers, 1862-1877 (copies):
   1. N.B. Forrest, Corinth, Mississippi, to D.C. Trader, Memphis, Tennessee, 1862 May 28. Forrest refers to his dues for a lodge membership and mentions a small skirmish. He expects a battle soon and suggests that Trader join him in time for it.
   2. N.B. Forrest, 20 miles west of Gadsden. Forrest is pressing Federal cavalry and has killed 300 of them.
   4. N.B. Forrest, Memphis, to N.W. Walters, 1866 August 14. Walters has offered to be an attorney in Forrest’s treason trial.
   5. N.B. Forrest, Last will and testament, 1877 August 27.

Box 4

Miscellaneous records of Union Army regiments from 13 states: The bulk of these records deal with Company A, 7th Rhode Island Volunteers, and Company G, 21st Missouri Volunteers.

The Union Army assigned form numbers to various documents and report forms. These form numbers are used to identify the documents in the container list as follows:

A.G.O. No. 40. Regimental Return, including commissioned officers and enlisted men
   A.G.O. No. 93. Volunteer Descriptive List of Pay and Clothing (enlisted personnel only used this form)

Form 1. Return Ordnance and Ordnance Stores
Form 1-(a), (b), (h). Quarterly Return of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores
Form 2. Invoice of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores
Form 3. Pay Voucher (officers only used this form)
Form 3-(a). Receipt for Issues
Form 7-(a). Receipt for Issues
Form 9. Abstract of Materials
Form 10. Pay Roll of Veteran Volunteers
Form 22. Requisition for Ordnance and Ordnance Stores
Form 27. List of Quartermaster Stores
Form 51/ILCOGE. Inventory List of Clothing, Camp & Garrison Equipage
Form 52. Clothing List

Return of Unit. Return of Unit to superior headquarters.
1 Connecticut:
   Certificate of residence: James P. Hall issued by Provost Marshal, 2nd District,
   New Haven, Conn., 1864 July 15.
2 Illinois:
   3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 16th C., Abbeville, Miss., Form 22, 1864 August 16.
   13th Infantry Regiment, Muster-In Roll, Capt. A. A. Buck, 1863 November 19.
   46th Infantry Regiment, Form 2- (b), 1864 June 15.
3 Indiana:
   53rd Regiment, Near Washington, Form 51, 1865 May 25.
4 Iowa:
   14th Infantry Regiment, Waterford, Miss., Form 7-(a), 1864 August 18; Form 22,
   1864 August 18.
   27th Infantry Regiment, Form 7-(a) (handwritten), 1864 December 6, December
   11 (2 copies), December 12.
   32nd Infantry Regiment, Form 7-(a), 1864 December 6.
5 Massachusetts:
   2nd Heavy Artillery, Form 3, 1st Lt. John S. Allanson, 1863 December 5.
   2nd Artillery, Form 3, 1st Lt. F. A. Dyer, 1864 October 15.
   25th Volunteers, Form 3, Capt. J. W. Denny, 1864 February 29, April 30; 1st Lt.
   27th Volunteers, Form 3, 1st Lt. Peter F. Bailey, 1863 September 17.
   44th Volunteers, Form 3, 1st Lt. James C. White, 1863 April 17; 1st Lt. James S.
   Cumston, 1863 April 17.
   26th Volunteers, Ship Island, Miss., Return of Unit, February 1862.
   2nd Cavalry, Return of Unit, 1862 February.
6 Missouri: 21st Volunteers, Company G, 1861-1864:
   Form 2, 1863 July 1, 1864 October 27.
   Form 3-(a), 1864 July 1.
   Form 7-(a), 1863 May 23 (handwritten), 1864 June 20 (2 copies), July 14, August
   18, September 24, 27 (handwritten).
   Form 27, 1864 June 1.
   ILCOGE, 1863 July 21 (handwritten), 1864 May 12.
   Return of Unit, 1863 May, June, July, September 10, September; 1864 April, 
   May, November.
   Return of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores, 1862 December 31.
   Form 1-(a), 1863 March 31, June 30 (3 copies), 1864 September 30.
   Muster and Descriptive Roll, 1864 December 22.
   Form 10, 1863 November-1864 February.
   Muster Roll, 1862-1863.

Missouri: 21st Volunteers, Company G, 1865-1866:
Muster Roll, 1865-1866.
Form 52, 1865 February, September, November, undated.
Muster-Out Roll, 1863-1865.
A.G.O. No. 40, 1865 March, September; 1866 March.

Morning Report, 1865 August 10.
Form 3-(a), 1866 April 18 (2 copies).
Form 1-(b), 1865 December 31.
Form 2, 1865 February 3, May 31, undated (handwritten).
Receipt of Ordnance, 1865 March 5 (handwritten).
Form 9, 1865 December
Medical Certificate, Pvt. Chauncy Murch, 1865 November 27.
Register of Camp and Garrison Equipage, 1865 October 1 (handwritten).
Pay Record, Pvt. Reuben Talley, 1865 August 12.
ILCOGE, 1865 May 3 (2 copies), July 11 (handwritten).
Inventory and Inspection Report of Camp and Garrison Equipage, 1865 February 5.

OS2 Missouri: 1st NE Missouri Volunteers, 1861 July.

8 New York:
17th Regiment, Form 2, 1864 July 2, August 18, December 13.
8th Volunteers, Form 7, 1864 August 16.
92nd Infantry, Form 3, Cpt. A. G. Bice, 1863 May 2.
85th Infantry, Form 3, Cpt. Fredrick Cocken, 1863 April 15.

9 Pennsylvania
47th Volunteers, Form 3, 1st Lt. George A. Deal (Diehl), 1865 June 3.
171st Volunteers, Form 3, 1st Lt. Hiram Black, 1863 May 2.
58th Volunteers, Form 3, 1st Lt. Thomas Birmingham, 1863 October 3.

Rhode Island: 7th Volunteers, Co. A:
10 1862-1863: receipts, returns of unit.
11 1864-1865: Form 51/ILCOGE (includes unsigned reports from Company C, 1865), returns of units, Form 52, Form 2-(b), receipts.

List of property, 1864-1865.
Form 52, 1864-1865.

12 Other:
New Hampshire: 8th Volunteers, Form 2-(b), 1865 April 20.
Vermont: 8th Infantry, Company D, Form 1, 1866.
Wisconsin: 1st Heavy Artillery, re: muster-in of 1st Lt. Ogden A. Southmayd, 1864.

OS2 Wisconsin: 1st Heavy Artillery, Muster Roll, 1864 October.

13 Court-martial, Camp Nelson, Ky., 1863 December:
   Record of proceedings and sentence of Private George B. Albro (Co. A, 7th Rhode Island Infantry) for desertion, 1863 December.

14 Tax receipt: $44.46 paid by Fleming Morgan to Sheriff of Richmond, 1862. Morgan owned 6 slaves.

Miscellaneous:

   “Memorandum of the 100th Regiment, Ill[inois] Vol[unteer]s in the Battle of Chickamauga the 19th & 20th days of Sept. 1863”, by Uncle Sam’s boy (copy).
   Account of the battle possibly written by a member of the Dax or Blim family of Illinois. The letter was found in the family records of Webster S. Dax, Chicago, Illinois. Includes transcription.

16 George W. Gordon letters, 1862:
   The collection includes 10 letters from 1862 related to Confederate Captain George W. Gordon of Company E of the 48th (Voorhies’) Infantry Regiment. The 48th Regiment of the Tennessee Infantry was organized at Camp Maury, near Nashville, Tennessee, in December 1861. Sent to Fort Donelson, Tennessee, around 360 men from the regiment were captured after its surrender in February 1862. The captured field officers were sent to Fort Warren, Massachusetts; the line officers firstly to Camp Chase, Ohio, and then in May to Johnson’s Island in Lake Erie; the enlisted men to Camp Douglas, Illinois. In September 1862, the Federal government agreed to an exchange and the officers and men of the 48th Regiment were released at Vicksburg, Mississippi.
   George Washington Gordon (1808-1862) was born in North Carolina and became a lawyer and planter in Maury County, Tennessee, owning an estate called “Boxwood” of 600 acres. He also owned the Gordon Springs resort in Walker County, Georgia. Gordon married Elizabeth Bradshaw (1811-1858) from Tennessee. After Gordon volunteered to join the Confederate army, he was elected captain of Company C (later E), a unit raised in Maury County. He survived incarceration at Johnson’s Island and was part of the exchange in September 1862. The boat carrying him and others docked at Memphis, where
Gordon’s sister, a nurse, tried to get him off the boat due to his health, but her request was denied. The day after the boat reached Vicksburg, however, Gordon was dead.

3. (1861 (sic) May 15. G.W. Gordon, Prisoners Depot, Johnsons Island near Sandusky, Ohio, to daughter.
10. August 7. G.W. Gordon, Johnsons Island, Sandusky, Ohio, to daughter.
For excerpts from the letters see Appendix 7.
17 Letter: Sergeant Benjamin Hirst, Company D, 14th Connecticut Volunteers, Camp, Harpers Ferry Bolivar Heights, West Virginia, 1862 October 5 (copy). Hirst relates his regiment’s activities after leaving Hartford on August 25, 1862, including the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862. Hirst was born in Stockport, England, in 1828. His family worked in the textile industry and, when the Hirsts emigrated to the United States in 1847, they again found work in textile manufacturing, and lived in the area of Chester, Pennsylvania. In 1852, Hirst married Sarah Quinn. Hirst enlisted July 16, 1862, and was mustered as a sergeant. His service with was cut short at Gettysburg, when he was wounded in the shoulder during the repulse of Pickett’s charge. He was transferred to the Veterans Reserve Corps until his discharge on July 9, 1865, because of medical disability. Hirst died in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1909. Also copy of marriage certificate of William Hirst and Anna Bower, Leiperville, Pennsylvania, 1849 December 25.
18 Loyalty oath: Sworn before George Faust, Justice of the Peace, by Johnathan D. Smith, District 7, Sullivan County, Tenn., 1865 July 14.
19 Letter: Unidentified author, David McComb & Co’s, 141 Main Street, Memphis, Tenn., to Brother Washington, 1863 April 30. Re: abolition, Lincoln administration and eventual Confederate victory. See Appendix 8 for transcription.
20 Letter: Samuel Milligan, Greeneville, Tenn., to President Andrew Johnson, 1865 July 10. Former U.S. Congressman and justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, Milligan (1814-1874) asks his friend Johnson to consider a pardon for Robert L. Caruthers (1800-1882), also a former Tennessee Supreme Court justice, who as a Confederate nominee was elected governor in 1863 but never took office.
21 Letter: Royal French, Bolivar, Tenn., to brother, 1862 October 18. Describes the recent Battle of Matamora or Hatchie’s Bridge, Tennessee, fought on October 5. French was from Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and enlisted in the 15th Independent Battery, Ohio Light Artillery, on December 7, 1861 and mustered out on December 18,
1864. The 15th Battery served in Mississippi, Tennessee and Georgia.

Letter: James McDonald, Henderson Station, Tenn., to friends, 1861 December 15 (copy). Notes he has enough to eat and that John McDonald and Hugh had gone to Trenton to join a regiment there. James McDonald may have been with the 51st Regiment, Tennessee Infantry. Original letter owned by Bringle family.

**John Linfor letters, 1861-1864:**

The collection comprises 35 letters sent by Private John Linfor of the 26th Illinois Infantry Regiment and the Cavalry Battalion of the Mississippi Marine Brigade (MMB) to his future wife Martha E. Patten between November 1861 and August 1864. The first two letters are from Salt River Bridge in Shelby County, Missouri, but the others cover the period of his service with the MMB along the Mississippi and Tennessee Rivers from October 1862 until it was disbanded in August 1864. John Linfor was born in Norfolkshire, Britain, on August 22, 1837, the son of William (b. 1811) and Dinah Isaba Linfor (1805-1879), one of four surviving children, including a brother, Robert, born in 1846. The family moved to the United States in 1849, settling in Ottawa, LaSalle County, Illinois, in October. William became the sexton of the West Cemetery. In 1856, John and his mother began to develop a farm on the prairie at Allen in the southeast of the county and the rest of the family joined them in 1857. John Linfor enlisted in Company E of the 26th Illinois Infantry Regiment on August 2, 1861. He served for 18 months before illness during the second battle of Corinth, Mississippi, required hospitalization in St. Louis for three months. He then enlisted in Company A, a cavalry unit of the Mississippi Marine Brigade. He was discharged at Vicksburg, Mississippi, on September 23, 1864. After returning to the family farm, he married Martha E. Patten of Putnam County, Illinois, on February 21, 1865. Martha was born on November 16, 1845, the daughter of David and Catherine Patten. The couple had two daughters, Flora E. and Ida L. In 1873, John is recorded as the Collector of Allen township (Ransom) in LaSalle County.


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John Linfor letters, 1861-1864. (35) **See Appendix 9 for transcriptions.**

John Linfor letters (copies), 1861-1864. (35)

Diary: Unnamed soldier from 32nd Illinois Infantry, 1863 March-November. Pocket in back of the diary contains 5 locks of hair, a piece of embroidery “To one I Love”, and a tithe envelope for the Central Christian Church, Jacksonville, Illinois. The diary documents the daily activities of an enlisted man (possibly a clerk) among the Union troops in West Tennessee and the Vicksburg, Mississippi, area. The author received a medical discharge in September 1863 and the latter portion concerns his trip home. **See Appendix 10 for transcription.**

The diary may have belonged to Private Atherton Van Winkle, of Franklin, Morgan County, Illinois, who enlisted in the 32nd Illinois Infantry on August 29, 1861, and served in Company A. He was discharged as disabled on September 24, 1863. Van Winkle was born on August 2, 1841, married Tabitha Ellen Luttrell
In 1866, and died on March 2, 1870. Atherton’s brother, Alexander (1831-1914), also served in the 32nd Illinois.

Diary: Martha “Mattie” Morgan Tipton (1844-1906) of Horn Lake, Mississippi. Mattie was the daughter of Isaac (1801-1853) and Elizabeth Anderson Tipton (1806-1885). She married Joel Phillips Walker (1840-1918) of Hernando, Mississippi. The first entry in the 114-page typescript copy with annotations is August 22, 1862, and the last is December 1864 but the form is more that of a narrative than a diary. She describes visits to Memphis and to friends in Hernando and notes the goings and comings of soldiers as well as commenting on the war news. A Union officer mentioned is Captain Samuel Patterson Tipton of Illinois, the great-grandson of Colonel John Tipton of Tennessee. Samuel Tipton was born in Carter City, Tennessee, in 1816 and died in St. Clair City, Illinois, in 1875.

Box 5

DeBenneville Randolph Keim notebook, 1862-1864:
De Benneville Randolph Keim was born on January 1, 1841, to John H. and Martha Elizabeth Randolph Keim. A native of Reading, Pennsylvania, Keim became a correspondent for the New York Herald during the Civil War. After the war, Keim continued to report to the Herald from the American Plains. His experiences were compiled in one of his books Sheridan’s Troopers on the Borders: A Winter Campaign on the Plains. He was sent by President Ulysses S. Grant as a special agent to the U.S. consulates in China, Asia, Egypt, and South America in 1870. Keim was present at the assassination of President William McKinley in Buffalo on September 6, 1901. Keim died in Washington, D.C., on May 24, 1914, and was buried in Reading.

The notebook by Keim, correspondent for the New York Herald, covers events in the Western Theater from October 1862 to June 1864; in particular, coverage of Grant’s attempts at Vicksburg and Sherman's Meridian Expedition of 1864. When the Herald inadvertently printed a confidential message from Keim on the Confederate signal code, he was arrested by Sherman on June 30, 1864, and accused of being a spy which resulted in his being banished from the Army of the Tennessee. This is presumably why the notebook ceases on June 24. Keim was a frequent steamboat and railroad traveler in the Mississippi Valley and the North. The notebook contains many references to people and places, but unfortunately seldom in great detail as their purpose was only to assist his memory for pieces he wrote for the newspaper.

See Appendix 11 for transcription of selected excerpts.

1 DeBenneville Randolph Keim notebook, 1862-1864.
2 Loose items.
3 DeBenneville Randolph Keim notebook, 1862-1864 (photocopy).
Microfilm: Keim notebook.
4 William T. Avery letters, 1861-1865:
1. Alpheus Baker, Montgomery, Alabama, to General Braxton Bragg, 1861, October 17. Letter of introduction for Lt. Col. William T. Avery. "...he is now without a command and wishes to serve his country under your direction."
2. William T. Avery, Fort Pillow, Tennessee, to his wife, 1862 January 25. “We have a most monotonous every day sort of life up here." He had hoped the Mason and Slidell affair would have hastened the war's end, "but that seems to be fixed up now by giving them up." He mentions General Felix Zollicoffer's death; "it cast a gloom upon this part of the army…" He is serving under Colonel Baker; "you have no idea how much work writing drilling granting furloughs settling little camp troubles and a thousand other little annoyances…"

3. William T. Avery, Fort Pillow, Tennessee, to his wife, 1862 February 9. Still monotonous. He mentions his duties as officer of the day and states that he has just heard the bad news about Federal gunboats going up to Florence. “I do wish we had guns we need them now more than any thing else.”

4. William T. Avery, Island No. 10, Madrid Bend, Mississippi River, to his wife, 1862 April 2. "We are still fighting off the gun boats who throw shells at us every once and a while but dont do any harm. We can hold this place without we are cut off by a superior force crossing the river or coming out around us on the side…our regiment is called the 1st Alabama Tennessee & Mississippi Regiment...I do not think our generals attach importance enough to this place. it is certainly the most important in my opinion in the Confederacy but I trust we can hold it any how."

5. William T. Avery, Camp McCowan, Tennessee, to his wife, 1862 March 18. He states that he is twelve miles above Aunt Lizzie Meriwether’s on the river. They evacuated New Madrid at night during a storm since they were surrounded by overwhelming numbers. Avery thinks the Confederate troops will be safe where they are “although the enemy are fortifying in great numbers on the other side of the river Number 10 above us is pretty strong and we think it can be held.”

6. William T. Avery, Camp Chase near Columbus, Ohio, to B.B. Waddell, Memphis. April 19, 1862. Avery, now a prisoner of war, expects to be sent to Fort Warren, Massachusetts. His family is in Holly Springs, Mississippi, and he asks Waddell to honor any bank drafts from them and to look after his affairs.

7. William T. Avery, Johnson's Island, near Sandusky, Ohio, to his wife, 1862 June 28, 1862. Since the Federal Army now holds Holly Springs, Avery wonders why he does not receive more letters from his wife. "I see Genl McClernand is in command at Jackson. I cannot help wishing it had been he at Holly Springs as I would have been less uneasy he knowing you and me so well and you liking his wife so much - she is dead." Avery has sent his Black servant, Tom, home. About the prison routine, he comments, "now wouldn't you laugh to see me (whom you know never was in the kitchen a half dozen times in my life) yielding a willing obedience to our head cook "Genl Dawson as we call him…" as dining room servant. While he was in Camp Chase, Mrs. James (Charlotte ‘Lottie’ Moon) Clark visited him often and got him and others a parole for a few days in the city.

9. W.T. Avery, Memphis, to Brig. General Davis Tillson, Superintendent of Refugees Freedmen etc., 1865 August 10. In his statement, Avery describes his Confederate service for which "the president saw fit to grant me a full and free pardon." Avery states that he had not served in the Confederate Army since he had been exchanged and his regiment was reorganized. He was, however, later in the employ of the Confederate government as a "special agent of the PO Department…"

Box 6

**William McComb memoir:**

Typescript copy of Confederate Brigadier General William McComb’s memoir titled “Recollections of the War, 1861-1865”, undated.

William McComb (1828-1918) was born in New Castle, Mercer County, Pennsylvania. He was educated at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, where he studied civil engineering. He moved to Clarksville, Tennessee, in 1854 and was involved in flour milling. When the Civil War broke out, McComb enlisted as a private in the 14th Tennessee Infantry Regiment. Soon after his enlistment, McComb was elected second lieutenant, then major of his regiment. The 14th Tennessee was part of Brig. Gen. James Archer's brigade in A.P. Hill's "Light Division" of the Army of Northern Virginia. McComb became colonel of his regiment in September 1862. McComb was wounded in several battles, including Gaines' Mill, Antietam, and Chancellorsville. In August 1863, he took command of Brig. Gen. Cadmus M. Wilcox's old Alabama brigade. He commanded this unit through the Overland Campaign and on through the Siege of Petersburg. He was finally promoted to brigadier general on January 20, 1865. He was paroled at Appomattox Court House. After the war, McComb lived in Alabama and Mississippi, eventually settling in Gordonsville, Louisa County, Virginia, where he was a farmer for nearly fifty years. He married Nannie M. Quarles in 1868. McComb died on his plantation. He was buried in Mechanicsville Cemetery in Boswells, Virginia.

**Carl Bernhardt diary, 1865:**

Diary (photocopy), 1865.
Translation of diary (photocopy).
Biographical notes by Emma L. Bernhardt.

Carl William Bernhardt was born in Minden, Prussia, circa 1821 and died circa 1899. Family lore states that he was a builder and/or architect and may have emigrated to the United States after the failed revolution of 1848, possibly in 1853. He was living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, when he enlisted. He served as a private with the 1st Wisconsin Regiment, April 18-August 21, 1861, and fought in Virginia. When he re-enlisted in the 35th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment in Milwaukee in February 1864, he was described as a mason. Bernhardt fought at Mobile, Alabama, March-April 1865, and then in June the regiment was sent to Texas, where he was hospitalized at Brazos Santiago from June to December. Mustered out in March 1866 at Brownsville, he returned to Milwaukee. He had two sons, Carl William and Maximillian Ferdinand (1848-1925), who also served
in the war.
The original two-volume diary was deposited with the United States Army
Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania (Bernhardt-Campbell
family papers, 1853-1898), by Emma L. Bernhardt, the great-granddaughter of
Carl Bernhardt. A translation was made by the staff of the Institute and copies of
the diary and translation were sent to Miss Bernhardt who gave one to the Special
Collections Department.

5 Letter: Lt. D. Winters, Fort Harris, Tennessee, to Wood and Perot, Philadelphia, Pa.,
1861 April 29. Notes he is building a fortification to defend Memphis and,
because of his sympathies with the Confederacy, he can no longer assist
Northerners. This letter was written before Tennessee seceded from the Union.
Includes envelope with "Stars and Bars" and names of the Confederate president
and vice-president. The letter reads as follows:

“[page 1] Fort Harris April 29th, 1861
Mssrs Wood & Perot.
Gents.
I am just building an fortification for our defence – I am
sorry, that I cannot do anything for you but am bound to do everything against
you – whenever peace will be closed, I shall do everything for you – but in these
times I am against you.

D. Winters
Comdg Fort Harris”

The partnership of Robert Wood and Elliston Perot were manufacturers of
ornamental iron work between 1857 and 1865. Fort Harris, named after
Tennessee Governor Isham G. Harris who ordered fortifications erected on the
Mississippi River, was built at Mill’s Plantation on the third Chickasaw Bluff
between April and June 1861. It was an earthwork fortification designed to
command the river below with 14 to 16 guns. The fort was abandoned in 1862
just before Memphis was occupied by Union forces.

6 Letter: J.C. Baker to Mrs. J.C. Baker, care James Hannah Esq, at C.J. Seldon & Co,
Memphis, Tenn., 1862 November 12. Baker was a civilian, possibly living in
eastern Tennessee, who was a merchant before the war. His wife, Lou, and their
children were in Memphis but it is unclear whether this was their permanent
home. In the letter, he notes he is “connected” with the CSA Quartermaster’s
Department. He is critical of General Sherman’s retribution against civilian
Confederate sympathizers in the Memphis area. He also notes the high prices of
goods in his area. See Appendix 12 for transcription.

Stephen D. Lee letters, 1864-1902:
Stephen Dill Lee (1833-1908) was born in Charleston, South Carolina, and served in the
U.S. army until resigning in 1861 to join the Confederate States army, rising to the rank
of lieutenant general. After the war, he settled in Columbus, Mississippi, and became a
Mississippi state senator in 1878. He was the first president of the Agricultural and
Mechanical College of Mississippi (later Mississippi State University) from 1880 to
1899.
Correspondence:


2. Maj. General Oliver Otis Howard, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, War Department, Washington, D.C., to S.D. Lee, 1865 July 26. Acknowledges Lee’s letter that raised the possibility of a pardon and says he will see the Attorney General about it. He notes that while he does not harbor “personal acrimony” towards his friends who supported the Confederate cause, his feelings towards those men have changed.

3. George Washington Custis Lee, President, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va., to S.D. Lee, Brookville, Miss., 1872 January 15. Thanks Lee for his letter of sympathy after Robert E. Lee’s death and apologizes for the delay in replying. Says he has a memento of his father’s for Stephen Lee and will try to get it to him as soon as he can.

4. John Bell Hood, New Orleans, La., to S.D. Lee, 1874 January 17. Discusses the use of entrenchments and suggests they had a demoralizing effect on the soldiers in them and greatly assisted their enemy, using the example of Petersburg. States he never even used temporary breastworks as a commander though he acknowledges there may be a need for such fortifications in certain circumstances. Requests Stephen Lee’s views on the subject.

5. Varina Davis, Hotel Gerard, 123 W. 44th Street, New York, N.Y., to S.D. Lee?, 1902 February 6 (copy). Jefferson Davis’ widow expresses appreciation for invitation to visit but her health will be tested by her travel to Jackson, Mississippi, regarding the proposed sale of “Beauvoir” and then having to return to New York. She is upset by claims by an unnamed individual that Jefferson Davis proposed the use of guerrilla warfare and asks for Lee’s assistance in countering this falsehood.

6. Letter: Henry Thompson, Co. L, 7th Illinois Cavalry Regiment, La Grange, Tenn., to Orlando Spangler, 1863 February 18. Thompson says that he is recovered from the wound he received at Pontotoc, Mississippi, the previous December. Many in the regiment are dying from the smallpox epidemic. He is dismissive of the idea that the army is fighting for the emancipation of slaves. He also does not hold a high opinion of southerners, or Republicans for sending soldiers to fight this war. Thompson was from Abingdon, Illinois and was mustered in on September 25, 1862, as the regiment was deployed in Mississippi and fought at Corinth and Iuka. After marching and fighting for the month of December, the regiment reached La Grange in early 1863. It operated in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana throughout the year and was in West Tennessee in late 1863 engaging Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Thompson died in Memphis on
May 5, 1864.

11 Booklet: “Confederate Portrait Album: Civil War 1861-1865, undated. Features images of Confederate government figures and military commanders. Also includes an invitation from Thomas D. Osborne, Major-General, Kentucky Division, United Confederate Veterans, and Secretary of the Jefferson Davis Home Association to dedication of Jefferson Davis memorial at Fairview, Kentucky, on June 7, 1924. The volume was sent to Ralph Millett by Osborne after the national reunion of the UCV in Memphis in 1924.


13 Letter (copy): Robert Y. Jones, Pike County, Missouri, to Thomas Noah Maddox (nephew), 1862 October 12. Maddox is serving in the Union Army, possibly in the 29th Regiment of the Missouri Militia, and Jones urges him “never forsake the Star and Strips [sic].” Notes war continues in Missouri and no prospect for peace.

Box 7

Frank M. Guernsey letters, 1862-1864:
Frank Marion Guernsey was born in Mt. Upton, New York on February 22, 1839. His family moved to Almond, Wisconsin, in the mid-1850s. He attended commercial college in LaPorte, Indiana, and was studying the law in Berlin, Wisconsin, when the Civil War began. He did not enlist until August 1862 when he joined the “Truesdell Rangers”, Company C of the 32nd Wisconsin Infantry. The regiment trained at Camp Bragg in Oshkosh and then joined the XVI Corps at Memphis, Tennessee, in November 1862. Guernsey spent the bulk of his career in garrison duty in the western theater, including over a year in west Tennessee and northern Mississippi. Between October 1862 and April 1865, he was promoted four times to become a captain. His regiment left Memphis in February 1864 to participate in General Sherman’s Mississippi campaign, spent time in Alabama, and then was part of XVII Corps in Sherman’s campaign in Georgia. Guernsey returned to Wisconsin in June 1865 and married Frances Eugenia “Fannie” Doty (1843-1921) of Weyauwega. They lived for several years in Almond but then moved to Clintonville, Waupauca County. Guernsey practiced law and had other business and civic interests. His surviving daughter Ella had moved to California and Guernsey and his wife followed around 1914, settling in Santa Barbara in 1918. Frank Guernsey died on June 24, 1919.

The collection includes transcript copies of 45 letters written by Frank Guernsey to Fannie Doty during his war service. The transcriptions were made by their granddaughter, Myrna Willoughby Henderson. The larger collection of original letters is held by the University of Virginia. The letters contain information on Guernsey’s activities, relations with the local civilian population, incidents that occur during his regiment’s provost duty in Memphis, and his changing feelings toward the war and possible re-enlistment.

See Appendix 13 for transcription of selected excerpts.

1 Transcripts: Letters: Frank Guernsey to Fannie Doty, 1862-1864 (copies).
2 John M. Coski (donor) notes.
Smith’s manuscript comprises a preface, an introductory chapter and Chapters 7 and 8 which discuss General James Longstreet’s activities at the Battle of Chickamauga in September 1863 and questions the praise of his actions there by some contemporary commentators. Chapters 2-6 are not included, according to the preface, as unnecessary for the purposes of the article. It is unclear if they were ever written. According to an obituary published in Twenty-Eighth Annual Reunion of the Association of the Graduates of the United States Military Academy, June 10th, 1897, this was one of several papers Smith wrote that he hoped to publish but had not done so before his death. Born in Kentucky, Gustavus Woodson Smith (1821-1896) was a career United States Army officer who fought in the Mexican-American War, and then became a civil engineer in New York from 1858 to 1861. After the Civil War began, Smith joined the Confederate Army and was commissioned as a major-general. In 1862 he was briefly commander of the Army of Northern Virginia after Joseph E. Johnston was wounded and before Robert E. Lee’s appointment. Later that year, he took command of the defenses of Richmond until he resigned in February 1863. He was commissioned a major-general in the Georgia state militia in 1864. After the war, Smith was involved in several businesses and also wrote on the war.

1. General Orders No. 105, Headquarters, Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, 1864 August 1. States the pay, uniform and equipment and bounty provided to Black servicemen shall be the same as White servicemen.

2. General Orders No. 280, Headquarters, Department of the Cumberland, Chattanooga, Tenn., 1863 November 19. States execution of Private Franklin Bratcher, Company F, 5th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry is suspended awaiting decision of the U.S. President, and John A. Spooner is appointed agent to recruit Black soldiers in Chattanooga.

OS1 Broadsheet: “The Sixth Corps”, Danville, Va., Vol. 1, No. 1., 1865 April 27; No. 2, 1865 April 28. Published after occupation of Danville by the Sixth Corps of the Army of the Potomac commanded by Maj. General Horatio Wright.

Resolutions, Presbytery of New Orleans, 1861 July 9. Resolve to dissolve connection with General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church and to join the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the Confederate States of America.

Correspondence: Gibson family, 1864-1865. Five letters to Rachel M. Gibson (1839-1924) living in Linden, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, from her brothers John, who was working in Constantine, St. Joseph County, Michigan, and Asher Davidson Gibson, serving with the 104th Illinois Regiment in Tennessee. Asher was born on January 9, 1823, in Susquehanna, Pennsylvania, and later moved to LaSalle County, Illinois, where he married Silvia Lucina McNett (1843-1916). He became postmaster of Northville in 1859. Asher enlisted in August 1862 and was mustered in as a corporal, and later was promoted to quarter master sergeant, serving in various campaigns in Tennessee and Georgia. He was mustered out in June 1865 and returned to Mendota, Illinois. Later he moved to San Bernardino County, California, where he died on June 15, 1896. Asher’s letters mainly deal with family matters but he does note the siege of Nashville by Hood and his
retreat in face of Thomas’ army in December 1864, and reinforcements sent to Nashville in March 1865. See Appendix 3 for transcriptions.


Broadsheet: “Great Battle! Gen. Ord Defeats the Enemy on the Hatchie!”, 1862. Contains two dispatches to Union General Ulysses S. Grant on October 5, 1862, regarding the Battle of Hatchie Bridge or Davis Bridge in Tennessee. One is from General Edward Ord detailing the engagement with the forces of Confederate General Earl Van Dorn in retreat from Corinth, Mississippi. The second is from General William Rosenerans declaring Van Dorn’s army to be routed and that Rosencrans was in pursuit. Grant ordered the pursuit to be abandoned and Van Dorn’s army was able to escape with few losses.

Maps (photocopies):


Prints:

Matthews, George Bagby, “Lee and his Generals”, 1907.

OS3 Newspaper:


The following material was separated from the collection and disposed of as follows:

Confederate States of America currency:
- $10 bill, Richmond, Va., 1864 February 17.
- $20 bill, Richmond, Va., 1864 February 17.
- $100 bill, Richmond, Va., 1864 February 17.

Separated to Special Collections currency collection.