Library Company of Philadelphia

McA MSS 024

CIVIL WAR MANUSCRIPTS

1854-1868

.42 linear feet, 1 box

Series I. Papers of Individuals (1854-1867)

Series II. Miscellaneous Papers (1861-1868)

Series III. Confederate States of America Papers (1861-1864)

Descriptive Summary

Repository

Library Company of Philadelphia 1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5698

Call Number

McA MSS 024

Creator

McAllister, John A. (John Allister), 1822-1896.

Title

Civil War Manuscripts

Inclusive Dates

1854-1868

Quantity

.42 linear feet (1 box)

Language of Materials

Materials are in English.

Abstract

The collection holds disparate letters and documents pertaining to both military and naval officials, soldiers, sailors, and civilians, active during the Civil War. Much of the material was removed from office files during the war and sent to the Philadelphia collector John A. McAllister.

Administrative Information

Restrictions to Access

The collection is open to researchers. It is on deposit at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and should be accessed through the Society's reading room at 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA. Visit their website, http://www.hsp.org/, for reading room hours.

Acquisition Information

Gift of John A. McAllister; forms part of the McAllister Collection.

Processing Information

The Civil War Manuscripts were formerly housed in two folio albums that had been created after the McAllister Collection arrived at the Library Company. The material was removed from the albums sometime before 2005; it was arranged and described in 2007, under grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the William Penn Foundation. The collection was processed by Sandra Markham. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this finding aid do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Preferred Citation

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Online Catalog Headings

Subject Names

Pillow, Gideon Johnson, 1806-1878

Rousseau, Lovell Harrison, 1818-1869

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891

Burbridge, Stephen G. (Stephen Gano), 1831-1894

Williams, John S. (John Stuart), 1818-1898

Whipple, William D. (William Denison), 1826-1902

Speed, James, 1812-1887

Slemmer, Adam J., 1824-1868

Davis, W. W. H. (William Watts Hart), 1820-1910

Terry, Alfred Howe, 1827-1890

McClelland, James, 1810-1877

Moore, J. Ridgway, d. 1901

Croxton, John Thomas, 1837-1874

Benjamin, J. P. (Judah Philip), 1811-1884

Ashby, Turner, 1828-1862

Johnston, Joseph E. (Joseph Eggleston), 1807-1891

McDonald, A. W. (Angus William), 1799-1864

Evans, Nathan George, 1824-1868

Jackson, Henry R. (Henry Rootes), 1820-1898

Stoneman, George, 1822-1894

Donaldson, James Lowry, 1814-1885

Farragut, David Glasgow, 1801-1870

Faulkner, Charles James, 1806-1884

Stockton, William Tennent, 1812-1869

Rush, James, 1786-1869

United States--Army--Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, 104th (1861-1865)

Colorado (Steam screw frigate)

United States--Army--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Sources

United States--Navy--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Sources

Subject Topics

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Prisoners and prisons, Confederate

Soldiers--United States--Correspondence

Prisoners of war--United States--Correspondence

Subject Places

Morris Island (S.C.)

Gloucester Point (Va.)

Camp Morton (Ind.)

Fort Warren (Mass.)

Camp Chase (Ohio)

Document Types

Military records.

Letters.

Orders (military records) -- United States.

Related Collections

W.W. H. Davis Papers are held by the Bucks County Historical Society, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, the University of South Carolina, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Collection Overview

The Civil War Manuscripts span the period from 1854 through 1868, and includes material documenting people who participated directly in the war as well as well as civilians living during wartime. The collection both predates and postdates the war, but remains together as it was assembled at the Library Company in the late nineteenth century. It is arranged in three series: Papers of Individuals (1854-1867); Miscellaneous Papers (1861-1868); and Confederate States of America Papers (1861-1864). With the exception of Series III, the material concerns the Union side of the war, and the content is largely administrative in subject. Primarily collected for their autographs, most of the papers in all three series were pulled individually from office files and sent to John A. McAllister in Philadelphia. Therefore, for the most part the letters and documents lack their original context and, with the exception of the material in Series I, their contents do not relate to each other in any meaningful way beyond the current artificial groupings created when the collection was processed in 2007.

However disconnected the papers have become, they do present some of the few items in the McAllister Collection that can be directly connected to a particular source. Frederick Webber, working in the Transportation Department of the Assistant Quartermaster's Department in Louisville, wrote to John A. McAllister on December 3, 1863, "I duly received your favour yesterday – tho I had not written I had not forgotten my promise. I had laid by some things for you & was waiting till I had time to hunt up more." Webber wrote again on December 7, "I enclose you some specimens – let me know how you like them more of same sort can be had with a little collecting." McAllister received another shipment in November 1864: "I enclose you 6 Reb. Letters will send you more before long." Webber annotated a number of the pieces with his name, and occasionally added a statement such as "Presented to Jno A. McAllister Esq by his friend Fred Webber." Most of these papers are now filed in Series II, Division of Kentucky.

Webber's most remarkable contribution to McAllister's collecting effort was a small group of letters written by Confederate prisoners of war. In his letter of December 3, Webber mentioned, "I have a collection of Southern prisoners letters written to their friends from Camp Morton – how would you like a few of them?" He wrote again on December 31, "I enclose [for] you [a] collection of Autographs etc. The letters in the small envelope were from Rebel prisoners." The letters, which were written by prisoners in 1862 and 1863, quite clearly never made it to their intended recipients, and are now filed in Series III with other Confederate material. Webber's letters to John A. McAllister are in McAllister's papers (McA MSS 001).

<u>Series I, Papers of Individuals (1854-1867)</u> holds five groups of material related to the experiences of five Union men who functioned at various levels in the war: an army colonel, William Watts Hart Davis; a navy surgeon, James McClelland; a soldier, J. Ridgway Moore; an army general, Lovell Harrison Rousseau; and a Union spy, Richard Wilcox. The first three groups consist of military correspondence and documents, Moore's papers are personal correspondence, and Wilcox's provide a straightforward narrative account.

William Watts Hart Davis Papers (1862-1864) has four folders of documents and letters. Davis (1820-1910) was a Doylestown native, a lawyer, and newspaper publisher, who served in two Pennsylvania regiments during the war. His second and most notable assignment was with the 104th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, a unit which he organized in September 1861. Davis was stationed at Gloucester Point, VA, and at Morris Island in Charleston Harbor, SC; the collection holds paperwork from both places. The material is arranged in four groups: Announcements to General Officers; Correspondence; Countersigns; and Telegrams and Passes.

The first folder contains nearly twenty orders sent to Davis, most of which regard troop movements, and many of which are the orders of Brigadier General Alfred Howe Terry (1827-1890) signed by Adrian Terry as Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General. The second folder holds a dozen letters written to, or by Colonel Davis, which discuss routine military concerns.

The third folder has nearly fifty countersign slips that were sent to Davis between 1862 and 1864. These papers record time-sensitive secret passwords that were issued by a commanding general, and were folded into a triangle, sealed, and delivered to Davis. The first group was issued at Yorktown and received by Davis at Gloucester Point across the York River; the second was both issued and delivered at Morris Island. A folder of Telegrams and Passes has a dozen military telegrams sent to Davis, again covering routine matters such as announcing vessels set to depart, personnel movements, and news of payroll, along with five passes allowing Davis to move through military checkpoints.

James McClelland Papers (1854-1867) is a single folder of documents related to his career as a naval surgeon. A Pittsburgh native, McClelland (1810-1877) was an 1837 graduate of Jefferson Medical College. He was appointed as assistant surgeon in the U.S. Navy in 1838, promoted to surgeon in 1853, and from July 1858, served on the frigate *Savannah*, the flagship for the Navy's

Home Squadron. In 1862 he was appointed to the Philadelphia Navy Yard, and by mid-1864 was a surgeon on the receiving ship USS *Princeton*, stationed in Philadelphia. In September of that year McClelland was assigned to the USS *Colorado* and remained affiliated with that ship through at least 1867. As part of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron during the Civil War, the *Colorado* saw action off the North Carolina coast. In mid-June 1865, it became the flagship of the European Squadron and spent the next two years cruising the Mediterranean and Adriatic seas. From 1867-1868 McClelland was fleet surgeon on the South Pacific Squadron. The papers in the collection range from orders and directions from McClelland's terms of duties to reports on sailors he examined. The documents are signed by various officers, including secretaries of the Navy Isaac Toucey and Gideon Welles, Dr. William Whelan (1808-1865) the chief of the Navy's Bureau of Medicine, Dr. Francis M. Gunnell (1827-1922), who was with the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron during the war, and Admiral David D. Porter.

J. Ridgway Moore Papers (1862-1864) consists of ten letters and two receipts relating to the military life of a Philadelphia-born recruit who served with 116th Regiment of Pennsylvania Infantry. Moore (1842-1901) was the son of Carlton Ridgway Moore (1818-1905) and Mary H. McClure, and the grandson of Samuel French Moore (1793-1827) and Rachel Matlack Haines (1796-1851). Samuel Moore was a prominent land speculator and close friend of Philadelphia merchant Jacob Ridgway (1767-1843). The letters were written to Moore by his mother and father in Philadelphia, his aunt, the noted author Clara Jessup (Mrs. Bloomfield H.) Moore (1824-1899) in Newport, RI, and his friend and fellow soldier "Graves" encamped at Point-of-Rocks, VA, in 1864. There are four letters written by Moore to his parents while he was stationed in Virginia with Gen. David Bell Birney in 1862 and 1863, which describe Moore's whereabouts, activities, and news. After the war, J. Ridgway Moore managed the New York office of the Jessup and Moore Paper Company, a firm founded by his uncle, and spent the final decade of his life in Europe.

Lovell Harrison Rousseau Papers (1864-1865) is a small collection of letters and documents received by Gen. Rousseau in Tennessee. A lawyer and career soldier, Rousseau (1818-1869) was born in Kentucky and served in his state senate before the war. When Secession movement began, he remained a supporter of the Union, and held positions as a colonel, brigadier general, and major general in the Union Army. From November 1863 through November 1865, when he resigned from the Army, Rousseau was the district commander for Nashville and middle Tennessee.

Rousseau's folder contains sixteen letters written to him (several with enclosures), and a single note written by him. Chief among them are two letters and a transcribed telegram from Gen. William T. Sherman. One dated June 21, 1864, encloses a copy of a five-page order from Sherman to Gen. Stephen Burbridge, commander of the District of Kentucky, asking Burbridge to take decisive action against Confederate guerillas in the state. In the cover letter, Sherman instructed Rousseau to follow the same orders. The other letter was written on September 23, 1864, just after Sherman had taken Atlanta and as he was planning his infamous "March to the

Sea." Sherman thanks Rousseau for the words of kindness recently received in a letter, saying that he hopes that he does "possess the military sagacity & skill you attribute to me." Of his Macon-Augusta-Savannah campaign, he writes that it "cuts off all the South" from Richmond."

The remaining letters are a mix of topics and senders. They include a May 1865 letter from CSA Gen. John S. Williams to Gen. William D. Whipple that had been forwarded to Rousseau; in it Williams argues for the return of his men's horses so they could be put to agricultural use. Other items are: a letter of introduction from Felix Constantin Alexander Johann Nepomuk, Prince Salm Salm, a German citizen and colonel in the 68th New York Volunteers; an appeal from a Confederate soldier seeking reparations; and miscellaneous letters from Union generals Burbridge, R. H. Milroy, William S. Rosecrans, Horatio P. Van Cleve, Thomas J. Wood, and Whipple. Two "civilian" letters include one from a Louisville lawyer named Mundy, and one from Kentucky state senator James Speed, written in October 1864, just prior to his appointment as United States attorney general, which carries an extensive critical assessment of Gen. George McClellan.

A series of five related letters in Rousseau's file partially document CSA Gen. Gideon Johnson Pillow's loss of personal property. A Tennessee lawyer, Pillow had served with distinction in the Mexican War, and ran unsuccessfully for vice president in the 1852 and 1856 elections. His part in the Confederate loss of Fort Donelson in February 1862 resulted his being assigned administrative duties through the end of the war, including commander of the Volunteer and Conscription Bureau of the CSA's Army of Tennessee. From northern Alabama, Pillow wrote letters in late October 1864 to both the commander of the Union Army in Tennessee and to Gen. Rousseau, asking for help in guiding his family safely away from his estate near Columbia, TN, which had been confiscated by the Federal forces. Pillow requested that he be allowed to enter Tennessee and escort his wife, seven children, and servants ("as may choose voluntarily to come with them") to Alabama. In support of his case, Pillow reminded Rousseau that in 1861, while he was in command at Columbus, KY, he had prohibited the seizure of Gen. Crittenden's estate. These letters were carried to Rousseau by the aide-de-camp to CSA Gen. Philip D. Roddey, whose cover letter is in the file. Completing the set are two letters from "Mrs. Genl Pillow" (Mary Elizabeth Martin Pillow, died 1869) written from Clifton Place, Pillow's estate, on November 3, 1864. The first was addressed to her husband, and described how kind General Rousseau had been to the family, and how sorry he seemed to be that he couldn't agree to Pillow's request. She completed the letter with news of the children and wrote that they were safe though "accustomed to doing without many things that we all ways had heretofore." The second, addressed to Gen. Rousseau, asked him to deliver the first letter to her husband. The fact that these are today together with other administrative letters suggests that Mary Elizabeth Pillow's letters did pass beyond Rousseau.

The single item in the collection written by Rousseau is an endorsement of Mrs. Ellen Ward, attesting to her loyalty and affirming her entitlement to protection by the U.S. authorities. Additional administrative material from the Department of Tennessee can be found in Series II.

Richard Wilcox's document is a four-page manuscript transcription of a published account of Wilcox's activity as a Union informant. Wilcox was a Northerner employed as a watchman at the Navy Yard in Pensacola, Florida. The Federal government had reinforced Fort Pickens, on Santa Rosa Island in Pensacola harbor, before Florida seceded from the Union and the Navy Yard went under the control of the Confederates. Wilcox spied for Adam Slemmer (1824-1868), commander Fort Pickens, and kept him informed of activities within the Navy Yard. When opportunities for communication were eventually cut off, Wilcox joined the Confederate army, marched to Norfolk, and made his escape north from there. This transcription may have been published in a Philadelphia newspaper, but the manuscript does not carry a citation. Further information on Wilcox can be found in Edwin Fishel's, *The Secret War for the Union* (1996).

<u>Series II, Miscellaneous Papers (1861-1868)</u> is largely a collection of unrelated letters and documents. The material is arranged in two subseries: Correspondence, and Documents. The Correspondence is divided into three parts: Military, Personal, and United States Navy.

Military correspondence is arranged in four sections: Department of Tennessee, Division of Kentucky, Philadelphia Home Front, and Miscellaneous Letters and Envelopes.

Department of Tennessee has a variety of disparate letters that were addressed to military administrators assigned to that state. Gen. George Stoneman wrote four of the letters, and two of those were addressed to Gen. Augustus L. Chetlain in Memphis. Stoneman ordered Chetlain to watch gambling establishments in both private and public places in the city, and arrest any officers found there. Two letters were sent to, and one sent from, Brevet Brig. Gen. James Lowry Donaldson, quartermaster in the Department who raised a regiment from his division's employees. Additional Tennessee material can be found in the folder of Gen. Lovell H. Rousseau's papers in Series I.

District of Kentucky has a group of eight unrelated letters pulled from office files in Louisville by Frederick Webber. Among the more notable are two letters from Indiana governor Oliver P. Morton asking for favors from Gen. William T. Sherman, and one from Gen. Jeremiah T. Boyle to the quartermaster's department in Louisville. Two letters were sent to Gen. Robert Anderson, one from Gen. William Nelson (then a lieutenant), and one, a letter of introduction, was sent from three men in Frankfort. In addition, there are four letters written to Capt. J. H. Ferry, assistant quartermaster in Louisville (1863), which concern the shipment of rations.

Philadelphia Home Front has nine minor letters and documents regarding wartime concerns in Philadelphia, such as a draft notice and a discharge notice, a letter asking for a donation for a new ambulance being purchased, a character endorsement, and a letter of introduction.

Among the **Miscellaneous Letters** is one written in August 1864 by Union brigadier general John Thomas Croxton to an unidentified general. Scribbled in pencil on two cropped pieces of

paper, it describes military activities and troop movements in the area between Burnsville, MS, Decatur, GA, and Nashville, TN. One of the more interesting texts in that folder is in a letter from Gen. George S. Greene in Virginia to Gen. Robert C. Schenck, the commander in Baltimore, dated February 2, 1863. Greene asked help in the release of a black man, John Cooper, from a Baltimore jail. Cooper had enrolled in the Confederate army as a substitute for his master James Beasley, and had been arrested as an escaped slave while passing through Baltimore. Also in the folder are five envelopes found with the letters in the collection but do not match up with any in particular. One of the envelopes was mailed to McAllister & Brother Opticians from Louisville, and bears a postmark "South Letter" with postage due. The McAllister Autograph Collection (McA MSS 022) holds many Civil War-era envelopes sent from government officials, including a number sent to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, upon which the sender's signature served as franking. Neither collection holds, however, the correspondence that had been enclosed in the envelopes.

The **Personal Letters** folder holds thirty-three letters written during the war years, but do not necessarily have any content relating to the war (they had been included in the "Civil War"themed album (5787.F) created at the Library Company after John A. McAllister's death). Several are only partial letters, being just the first sheet and lacking a conclusion and a signature. Four of the letters were written from southern states and contain references to either the war or the Secession movement, in particular an 1860 letter from Isaac Lyons, a former Philadelphian living in Columbia (state undetermined). There are four letters and one military pass sent to James Rush, a Philadelphia physician. The letters include one from a local resident asking for money to outfit himself so he could enlist in the army and one from a Boston woman who was sending him a pamphlet. The other two letters were written by William T. Stockton and Emma Moore. Stockton (1812-1869) was a Philadelphia native who graduated from West Point, served in the second Seminole War and became a resident of Florida. He cited "Noblesse oblige" as his reason for joining the Confederate Army when the war broke out. His letter asking for financial support was written from Johnson's Island, a Union prisoner of war camp in Ohio. Stockton's papers include other letters from this period, and are held by the State of Florida's Bureau of Archives & Records Management. The remaining letter is from Emma M. Moore, a cousin of Dr. Rush who was also having financial problems due to the war.

United States Navy holds letters and forms that document minor administrative actions taken at the Navy yards in Philadelphia and New York, primarily granting leaves of absence, requesting medical surveys, etc. The signatures of Navy secretary Gideon Welles and Admiral David Farragut appear on some of the letters.

The **Documents** subseries is arranged in three folders: Orders; Passes; and Miscellaneous. The first has just a few manuscript and printed orders, including one in the hand of Secretary of War Edwin Stanton (as identified on the verso by McAllister); that order concerned the relief of the wounded on the field of battle at Centreville, VA. Passes holds more than a dozen printed forms and manuscript slips that were issued to citizens and military personnel during the war. They

vary widely in style and format, but served the same function: allowing for passage around Washington, DC, a trip to Philadelphia and Annapolis, movement around a hospital, etc. They were issued in places including Washington, Memphis, Cambridge, St. Louis, Annapolis, and Gettysburg. One pass was made out to L. Montgomery Bond (1820-1882), the Philadelphia tea merchant who was a committee chairman during the Great Central Fair for the United States Sanitary Commission; his pass allowed him to travel from Washington, DC, to Alexandria, VA, in January 1863. The Miscellaneous folder has six unrelated documents: three regarding payments for military service; one recruiting note from Allentown, PA; a requisition for blanks for use of Ohio volunteers station at Camp Jackson, OH; and one "descriptive list" for a private in the 104th Pennsylvania Volunteers documenting his service and pay.

<u>Series III, Confederate States of America Papers (1861-1864)</u> contains correspondence and a few minor documents created by officers, enlistees, and diplomats of the short-lived confederation. It is arranged in three subseries: Administrative Material; Prisoners-of-War Letters; and Charles J. Faulkner.

The first subseries primarily contains letters sent to Col. Angus W. McDonald, which were sent to McAllister by Benjamin F. Kelley (in a letter to McAllister (McA MSS 001), dated April 1, 1862, Kelley writes: "I send you...autograph letters of rebel officers which I capturd from Col McDonald commanding the confederate forces at Romney Va on the 26th Oct last"). Their contents describe some of his military activities; included are one letter each from CSA generals Joseph E. Johnston, Nathan G. Evans, and Henry R. Jackson, CSA minister James M. Mason, and acting secretary of war Judah P. Benjamin. There is one letter from McDonald to Johnston, dated July 17, 1861, and is most likely McDonald's retained copy. Also in the file are two papers related to Turner Ashby, the Confederate brigadier general; they are minor items from early in his career when he was a member of McDonald's regiment. Additionally, the folder holds six documents: a hospital surgeon's ticket for the CSS *Atlanta*; a report of blankets needed in Johnson's division; an 1864 estimate of clothing needed for Beauregard's artillery; an 1861 regimental report form signed by Maj. O.K. Funston; an invoice for rations; and a pass. Additional Confederate letters from and about Gen. Gideon Pillow can be found in the Rousseau folder in Series I.

Prisoners-of-War Letters holds ten narratives written by Confederate soldiers being held in Indiana and Ohio. Nine of the men were held at Camp Morton, Indianapolis, a prison constructed on a former fairground that had been converted to a military training facility at the start of the war. In early 1862, it was transformed into a prisoner-of-war campus that included housing and temporary hospitals. Following the Confederates' mid-February 1862 defeat at Fort Donelson, thousands of Southern soldiers were taken to Camp Morton; most of the men were farmers from Mississippi, Kentucky, and Tennessee, and had never seen the north or experienced such cold weather. The letters in the folder were written just after their arrival and were meant to assure their families at home that they were being kept safely and treated well. One letter still has its mailing envelope, which was annotated by the censor, "Mark your

reply/Prisoners letter/Exm'd." In addition to the letters from Camp Morton, there is one written from Camp Chase, in Columbus, OH, by Private J. S. Harris of Arkansas in February 1862.

The third folder has a single six-page prisoner-of-war letter written by Charles J. Faulkner on November 18, 1861. Faulkner served as a senator from Virginia from 1851 until 1859 when James Buchanan appointed him United States minister to France. Upon his return to the United States in 1861, Faulkner was arrested and held on charges of negotiating arms sales for the Confederate States of America while in Paris. Faulkner was incarcerated at Fort Warren, on Georges Island in Boston Harbor, between August and December 1861. The prison was notable for housing both military and civilian Confederates captured by the Union, including their vice-president Alexander Stephens and foreign ministers John Slidell and James M. Mason. Faulkner's letter was written just days before Slidell and Mason were returned to Boston after being intercepted while on their way to Britain. In it, he supposed that the two diplomats "will shortly form a part of our Society here."

McA MSS 024	12
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Box	Folder

		SERIES I. INDIVIDUALS PAPERS	1854-1867
		Arranged alphabetically.	
		Davis, W.H.H.	
1	1	Announcements to General Officers	1862-1864
	2	Correspondence	1862-1863
	3	Countersigns	1862-1864
	4	Telegrams and passes	1863-1864
	5	McClelland, James	1854-1867
	6	Moore, J. Ridgway	1862-1864
	7	Rousseau, Lovell Harrison	1864-1865
	8	Wilcox, Richard	undated

Box Folder

SERIES II. MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL

1861-1868

Arranged in two subseries: Correspondence, and Documents.

Correspondence

Military

[1]	9	Department of Tennessee	1861-1865
	10	District of Kentucky	1861-1864
	11	Philadelphia Home Front	1861-1864
	12	Miscellaneous letters and envelopes	1861-1865
	13	Personal Letters	1861-1865
	14	United States Navy	1864-1868
	D	ocuments	
	15	Passes	1861-1864
	16	Orders	1861-1862, undated
	17	Miscellaneous	1861-1865

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>older</u>			
		Series III. CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA	1861-1864		
		Arranged in three subseries.			
[1]	18	Administrative material	1861-1864		
	19	Prisoners-of-War Letters	1862-1863		
	20	Charles James Faulkner	1861 Nov 11		