

Guide to the S. Griswold Flagg Collection

MS 216



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

May 1982

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 216

CREATOR: Flagg, S. Griswold

TITLE: S. Griswold Flagg collection

DATES: 1825-1938

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.5 linear feet (2 boxes, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Materials relating to the Civil War including correspondence of military leaders on both sides, military documents, commissions, orders, inventories and administrative records, and private correspondence of important figures in the war. There are also letters from soldiers in the field and citizens viewing the progress of the war. In addition there are many autographs and memorabilia including Confederate war bonds, patriotic stationery and about a dozen photographs. In all some 120 names are represented.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0216>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0216>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Flagg estate, additional material transferred from the Confederate States of America Collection.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown, though much of the material in this collection is likely in the public domain. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

S. Griswold Flagg Collection (MS 216). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Scope and Contents

The S. Griswold Flagg Collection is a collection of materials related to the Civil War. It fills four boxes with nearly 500 manuscripts, documents, and photographs, most of which were part of the estate of the donor.

There were three main sources for the materials that now make up the complete collection, and the character of these sources suggests fairly accurately the structure of the collection's thematic unity. Actually, only two of these sources were part of the Flagg estate. The estate included two large sets of books: the ten-volume *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, by Johnson and Buel (1887); and the ten-volume *Abraham Lincoln*, by Nicolay and Hay (1917). These volumes were interleaved with over 300 letters and documents related to their subject matter, and it is these interleaves which comprise the original Flagg collection. In addition, however, the collection includes the materials of the Confederate States of America Collection, which, transferred completely to the Flagg boxes, constitutes a third major source of related material. There are individual items from other donors, but these are relatively few, and all conform to the thematic division represented by the first three sources.

The chronological scope of the materials ranges from 1825 to 1937, but the bulk of the letters and documents date from the years of the Civil War and its immediate aftermath. Well the majority of the items in the collection concern the military aspects of the war. Probably most of these are the papers taken from *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*. They include numerous military documents — commission, orders, inventories, and administrative records — along with general correspondence of important military leaders on both sides. The papers taken from *Abraham Lincoln* lend a second emphasis to the collection. These are, besides some more military correspondence, mostly government documents and private correspondence that constitute elaborate autographs of figures of national prominence during the Lincoln administration. Similar papers signed by leaders of the Confederate government complete the collection's representation of important figures in all aspects of the war history.

In all, these papers represent an impressive list of important names, over 120 of which are listed in this register. Many of the letters refer to major events, and some appear to be of some considerable value for their informational content. But while the Flagg materials as a collection reflect a certain unifying theme, the correspondence lacks depth, the documents are seldom meaningfully related, and the papers in general do not lend themselves to categorical grouping relative to particular events, persons, or issues. The Flagg collection is essentially a collector's collection. Materials are included entirely according to their individual relation to one of the sources described above. Only broad generalization can express what subjective unity the collection possesses.

It is in accordance with this characteristic of the collection that all materials are filed individually in chronological order through all four boxes. All items are individually catalogued, and must be evaluated on the basis of their individual merit.

It should be noted that there are a few instances of continued series correspondence which possess certain chronological depth. But these are letters from soldiers in the field and citizens viewing the progress of the war. Since these are by no means the work of famous personages, and because their value rests consequently in their eyewitness descriptions of chronologically oriented events, these too have been filed individually in chronological order.

The collection includes, in addition to signed documents and letters, some sixteen unused Confederate war bonds, a dozen photographs, and some patriotic stationery of the war years. These are for the most part undated and are included in the last three folders in the file boxes.

As a collection, the Flagg Collection is a valuable general source on Civil War history, containing materials relating to a broad range of aspects of the conflict and its times. But the collection lacks the depth for concentrating research within its own scope, and its particular value must reside ultimately in its function as a repository of individually interesting miscellanea of Civil War history.

Collection Contents

Inventory, 1825-1938

b.1	1825-1864 March	1825-1864 March
b.2	1864 April-1938, undated	1864 April-1938, undated
b.2	Photographs	Undated
b.2	Miscellaneous	Undated
b.3	Oversize	1845-1883

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Geographic Names

Confederate States of America
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Names

Ackerman, Amos Tappan, 1821-1880
Anderson, Robert, 1805-1871
Arthur, Chester Alan, 1829-1886
Bartlett, John Russell, 1805-1886
Beauregard, G. T. (Gustave Toutant), 1818-1893
Blaine, James Gillespie, 1830-1893
Breckinridge, John C. (John Cabell), 1821-1875
Breckinridge, William Campbell Preston, 1837-1904
Buchanan, James, 1791-1868
Buckingham, William A. (William Alfred), 1804-1875
Buckner, Simon Bolivar, 1823-1914
Burnside, Ambrose Everett, 1824-1881
Butler, Benjamin F. (Benjamin Franklin), 1818-1893
Butterfield, Daniel, 1831-1901
Chase, Salmon P. (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873
Clay, James B. (James Brown), 1817-1864
Cobb, Howell, 1815-1868
Cooper, Samuel, 1798-1876
Crapo, Henry Howland, 1804-1869
Dalton, Edward Barry, 1834-1872
Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889
Dix, John A. (John Adams), 1798-1879
Douglas, Stephen A. (Stephen Arnold), 1813-1861
Flagg, S. Griswold
Force, Peter, 1790-1868
Frémont, John Charles, 1813-1890
Fry, J. Reese (Joseph Reese), 1811-1865
Graham, Charles Kinnaird, 1824-1889
Grant, Frederick Dent, 1850-1912
Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885
Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872
Hale, John P. (John Parker), 1806-1873
Halleck, H. W. (Henry Wager), 1815-1872
Hamlin, Hannibal, 1809-1891
Hampton, Wade, 1818-1902
Hooker, Joseph, 1814-1879
Ingalls, John James, 1833-1900
James, D. A.
Jordan, Thomas, 1819-1895
Judson, George Earl, -1864
Kearny, Philip, 1815-1862
King, Horatio C. (Horatio Collins), 1837-1918
Latham, A., 1839-1900
Lender, N.F.
Letcher, John, 1813-1884
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865
Lincoln, Robert Todd, 1843-1926
Lockman, John T., 1834-1912
Longstreet, James, 1821-1904
Mahone, William, 1826-1895
Mason, J. M. (James Murray), 1798-1871
May, John B.
Meade, George Gordon, 1815-1872
Meagher, Thomas Francis, 1823-1867
Mitchel, O. M. (Ormsby MacKnight), 1809-1862
Morris, Charles Jewett
Murray, Henry Spencer
Orr, J. L. (James Lawrence), 1822-1873
Paine, Halbert Eleazer, 1826-1905
Parsons, Charles Baldwin, b. 1835
Parton, James, 1822-1891
Patrick, Marsena Rudolph, 1811-1888
Pendleton, George H. (George Hunt), 1825-1889
Phelps, J. W. (John Wolcott), 1813-1885
Pickens, F. W. (Francis Wilkinson), 1805-1869
Pope, John, 1822-1892
Reagan, John H. (John Henninger), 1818-1905
Schenck, Robert Cumming, 1809-1890
Schurz, Carl, 1829-1906
Scott, John Reed, 1869-1942
Seward, William H. (William Henry), 1801-1872
Sheridan, Philip Henry, 1831-1888
Sherman, John, 1823-1900
Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891
Sprague, William, 1830-1915
Stanton, Edwin M. (Edwin McMasters), 1814-1869
Stearns, Geo. L. (George Luther), 1809-1867
Stephens, Alexander H. (Alexander Hamilton), 1812-1883
Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874
Thomas, Lorenzo, 1804-1875
Thompson, Meriwether Jeff, 1826-1876
Toombs, Robert Augustus, 1810-1885
Toucey, Isaac, 1796-1869
Welles, Gideon, 1802-1878

Wheeler, Joseph, 1836-1906
Whittlesey, Charles, 1808-1886
Wilkinson, Leonard L.
Winslow, B. F., b. 1810
Wool, John Ellis, 1784-1869