

Testerman, Louise, Papers

Louise Testerman Papers

1862, 1904



Title Statement

Testerman, Louise, Papers Louise Testerman Papers, 1862, 1904 Ms.1986.008

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1986.008

Unit Date

1862, 1904

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The Louise Testerman Papers contains two photographs collected by Testerman: one of John P. Donaldson and Noyes Rand, 22nd Virginia Regiment Infantry soldiers in the Confederate Army of the American Civil War; and another of John S. M. Parker, also a soldier. The collection also includes a copied postwar description of the encounter between John Donaldson, his brother Francis, and Rand. The description relates the story of the brothers, Francis' capture and parole, and the postwar meeting between Francis and the author, Noyes Rand. The other soldier appears to be unrelated, but the photograph was taken in the Donaldson's home town of Philadelphia.

Creator

Testerman, Louise

Creator

Rand, Noyes, 1840-1911

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Louise Testerman Papers were donated to Special Collections and University Archives in 1986.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Louise Testerman Papers was completed in January 2024.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Louise Testerman Papers, Ms1986-008, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Historical

John Plankenhorn, Jr., (1838-1901) and Francis Adams (1840-1928) Donaldson originated from Philadelphia, brothers of a well established family there. On the eve of the American Civil War, John was living in Charleston, Virginia (now West Virginia), running a general store. Integrated with Southern society, he joined the local Kanawha Rifles militia and befriended Noyes Rand (1840-1911), the author of the description in the collection. The Kanawha Rifles merged into the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Confederate Army, and both men became officers of this unit. Francis joined the Union Army as an officer of the 71st Pennsylvania Volunteers (1st California).

Francis was captured at the Battle of Ball's Bluff on October 21st, 1861, and imprisoned in Libby Prison in Richmond. Thanks to personal connections with Governor John Letcher, the Confederate governor of Virginia, Rand and John Donaldson were allowed to secure the parole of Francis several weeks later. It was during the mission to secure Francis' release when the daguerrotype was taken. John Donaldson and Rand were later captured by Union forces themselves. Rand relocated to El Paso, Texas after the war, while the Donaldsons apparently returned to Philadelphia. Rand travelled to Philadelphia in 1904 and reconnected with Francis.

The photograph of a sergeant in a post-Civil War uniform is apparently of a John S. M. Parker, taken in the Pinero Studio, 2204 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA. The relationship between this person and the Donaldsons or Rand is unclear.

External Sources:

"John P. Donaldson," FindaGrave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/9584011/john-plankinhorn-donaldson>

"Francis A. Donaldson," FindaGrave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12875/francis-adams-donaldson>

"Noyes Rand," FindaGrave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/16549071/noyes-rand>

Donaldson, Francis A. *Inside the Army of the Potomac : the Civil War experience of Captain Francis Adams Donaldson*. Ed. by J. Gregory Acken. Mechanicsburg, PA : Stackpole Books, [1998] (available in Spec Civil War E527.5 118th .D66 1998)

Scope and Content

The Louise Testerman Papers contains two photographs collected by Testerman: one of John P. Donaldson and Noyes Rand, 22nd Virginia Regiment Infantry soldiers in the Confederate Army of the American Civil War; and another of John S. M. Parker, also a soldier. The collection also includes a copied postwar description of the encounter between John Donaldson, his brother Francis, and Rand. The description relates the story of the brothers, Francis' capture and parole, and the postwar meeting between Francis and the author, Noyes Rand. The other soldier appears to be unrelated, but the photograph was taken in the Donaldson's home town of Philadelphia.

Related Materials

In the Rare Book Collection is a book about Francis Donaldson's life and experiences:

Donaldson, Francis A. *Inside the Army of the Potomac : the Civil War experience of Captain Francis Adams Donaldson*. Ed. by J. Gregory Acken. Mechanicsburg, PA : Stackpole Books, [1998] (call number Spec Civil War E527.5 118th .D66 1998)

Keywords

Civil War

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

Donaldson, Francis Adams, 1840-1928

Donaldson, John Plankenhorn, Jr., 1838-1901

Parker, John S. M.

Rand, Noyes, 1840-1911

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Description of Subordinate Components

Papers

Unit Date 1862, 1904

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