

Preston, Robert Taylor, Papers

Robert Taylor Preston Papers

1849-1871



Title Statement

Preston, Robert Taylor, PapersRobert Taylor Preston Papers, 1849-1871 (Bulk 1861-1862) Ms.1992.003

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Profile Description

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Revision Description

2023-01-18 LM Rozema updated notes to new standards, added FA author, updated links in related note, deleted EAD Location, and added classification.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1992.003

Unit Date

1849-1871

Unit Date

1861-1862

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection consists of 218 letters, military orders, notes, certificates of military appointments, and other items, collected or created by Preston between 1849 and 1871, with the majority from the period between May 1861 and December 1862.

Extent

0.2 Cubic Feet 1 box; 1 oversize folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Robert Taylor Preston Papers were donated to Special Collections in July 1994.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Robert Taylor Preston Papers commenced and was completed in April 1996. Additional description was completed in October 2009.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Robert Taylor Preston Papers, Ms1992-003, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Robert Taylor Preston was born at Smithfield Plantation in Blacksburg, Virginia, in 1809 to James Patton and Nancy Ann Taylor Preston. He was a student at Hampden-Sydney College from 1825 to 1828. He qualified as a captain of the 75th Regiment of the (Virginia?) Militia in 1830 and was commissioned as Justice of the Peace of Montgomery County in 1837. In 1833, Robert married Mary Hart (1802-1882) and they had three children: Virginia Ann Emily (1834-1898), Benjamin Hart (1836-1851), and James Patton (1838-1901). Robert Taylor Preston built his residence "Solitude" in the early 1830s.

At the start of the American Civil War, he was appointed a colonel of the volunteers in the Provisional Army of Virginia. In July 1861, he was appointed a colonel of the 28th Virginia Infantry, Confederate States of America, where he served until the infantry's reorganization in April 1862. Beginning in August 1864 he served as a lieutenant colonel and then a colonel of the 4th Virginia Reserves, and surrendered with the troops of General J. E. Johnston in North Carolina in April 1865. In 1872, he sold the land to the state to establish the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Virginia Tech) on the condition he and his wife could live in the house until their deaths. Robert Taylor Preston died in 1880. Mary Preston died in 1881.

Scope and Content

The Robert Taylor Preston Papers consists of 218 letters, military orders, notes, certificates of military appointments, and other items, collected or created by Preston between 1849 and 1871, with the majority from the period between May 1861 and December 1862 during the American Civil War. The materials include several military orders signed by such members of the Confederate Army as Jubal Early, John B. Floyd, and George E. Pickett, as well as orders written by Preston himself. Also included is a manuscript draft of a broadside written by Preston from Solitude on May 13, 1863, as a call to arms to the men of Roanoke and Montgomery County to repel the Union Army which was in the immediate vicinity; and a pardon signed by President Andrew Jackson on September 10, 1865, granting Preston amnesty for his offenses committed in the recent rebellion.

Related Archival Materials

See the following collections also at Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives:

Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, Montgomery County Branch Papers, Ms1962-001

John Preston Deed, Ms2005-014

John Preston Papers, Ms1994-034

Preston Family (Alice Preston Moore Collection) Papers, Ms1962-004

Preston Family (Charles Peale Didier Collection) Papers, Ms1985-020

Smithfield Preston Foundation Papers, Ms1997-002

William Preston Land Grant, Ms1994-027

Willard Preston Genealogy, Ms2009-121

George Green Shackelford Papers, Ms1983-008

Keywords

Blacksburg (Va.)

Civil War

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Montgomery County (Va.)

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

Preston, Robert Taylor, 1809-1880

Preston family (Solitude, Blacksburg, Va.)

Existence and Location of Copies

This collection has been digitized and is available online.

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Unit Date 1829-1849

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Appointment of Preston to rank of Captain in the 5th Militia of the Commonwealth, signed by William B. Giles, Governor,

Unit Date November 3, 1829.

Appointment of Preston to rank of Lieutenant Colonel in Virginia Militia, signed by David Campbell, Governor,

Unit Date May 26 1837.

Appointment to rank of Colonel in the Virginia Militia, signed by John M. Patton, Lieutenant Governor,

Unit Date May 25, 1840.

Invitation to Miss Virginia T. Preston to the Grand Inauguration Ball of Zachary Taylor (U.S. President) and Millard Filmore (Vice-President),

Unit Date March 5, 1849.

Unit Date May 1861

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Certificate by Governor John Letches regarding the commission to Colonel for Robert Preston,
Unit Date May 5, 1861.

Special Requisition for ten Kettle Drums and two fifes for use in the 28th Regiment of the Virginia Volunteers to Major Gorgas, Chief of Ordinance,
Unit Date 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Va. Forces, Special Order No. 45, Order assigning Robert Preston to duty at Lynchburg. By order of Major General Lee,
Unit Date May 11, 1861.

From: Lynchburg, Statement of assumption of command of the Virginia Volunteers mustered into service in Lynchburg. Col. R.C.W. Radford will take charge of the companies of cavalry and Col. Robert T. Preston will take charge of the companies of infantry. Signed: JA Early, Colonel Commanding,
Unit Date May 17, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Va. Forces, Orders for organization of local companies under Preston. Signed: JA Early,
Unit Date May 18, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Va. Forces, Order placing Lieutenant Col. R. S. Brinks under the command of Robert Preston. Signed: JA Early,
Unit Date May 18, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Va. Forces, Order No. 4, List of eight rules to be observed in camps and quarters of the Va. Volunteers. Signed: JA Early, Colonel Commanding,
Unit Date May 18, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Lee, Order appointing Sergeant Thomas Lewis to Sergeant Major. By order of Robert Preston,
Unit Date May 19, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Lee, Order, Private Gillian M. Burwell is assigned to the position of secretary. By order of Robert Preston,
Unit Date May 19, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Lee, Order, Lt. Edmund Goods is appointed to captain of the Regiment. By order of Robert T. Preston,
Unit Date May 19, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Virginia Volunteers, Lynchburg. Orders, Collection of the votes of all persons in the military service of the State regarding the ratification or rejection of the Ordinance of Secession as well as the amendment to the Constitution of Virginia upon the subject of Taxation. Signed: JA Early, Colonel Commanding,
Unit Date May 20, 1861.

From: Camp Lee, Virginia Volunteers, Orders, All company officers of the regiment will take rank in several grades according to the date when each company was mustered. Levels A - K,
Unit Date May 20, 1861.

From: Camp Lee, Reminder to those applying to at the Head Quarters of the commandant, Regiment is reminded office hours are strictly limited to times noted on order of the day.

Signed: R. C. Allen,

Unit Date May 23, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Va. Volunteers, Order No. 8, Instructions that Capt. Jordan's and Hughes' companies are no longer attached to Col. Robert Preston's regiment and must move to Richmond by railroad. Capt. Kent's and Capt. Williams' companies will move in place of the two listed above. Also included are instructions for Robert Preston to move troops to Manassas Junction. Miles Baxton of Capt. Williams company is to be discharged from service and stricken from rolls. By order of JA Early, Col. Commanding,

Unit Date May 25, 1861.

Order No. 10, Instructions for the camp to be ready to march out at 4 o'clock tomorrow morning. By order of Col. Robert T. Preston,

Unit Date May 26, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. General Order: List of eighteen general orders to be followed. Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date May 28, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Special Order: List of men temporarily detailed on extra duty in the Quarter Masters. Department. Includes Col. Preston and some of his regiment. By order of General Bonham, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date May 28, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. General Orders: List of eighteen regulations observed in this camp without variation until otherwise directed. By order of Brig. General Bonham, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date May 28, 1861.

From: Camp Pickens. Order No 11: Instructions regarding men firing guns and pistols within the encampment. By order of Robert T. Preston,

Unit Date May 28, 1861.

From: Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Instructions for men. Signed: Sam. W. Melton,

Unit Date May 28, 1861.

From: Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Instructions for Col. Preston to detail some of his men to 8 o'clock guard duty. By order of Brig. General Bonham, Signed: Sam. W. Melton,

Unit Date May 28, 1861.

From: Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. General Order: Detailed instructions and expectations of companies during the 8 o'clock AM guard duty patrol. By order of Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date May 28, 1861.

From: Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Letter to Robert T. Preston regarding his commission. Signed: Sam. W. Melton,

Unit Date May 28, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Order instructing Col. Preston to detail his men for general guard duty. By order of Brig. General Bonham, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date May 29, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria. Request that Preston amend the Regiment Report. Signed: W. C. Morgan,

Unit Date May 30, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Announcement that Major Bount is Provost Marshall. By order of Brig. General Bonham, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date May 30, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Order instructing Col. Preston to detail his men for general guard duty. By order of Brig. General Bonham, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date May 30, 1861.

From: Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Order No. 12: Announcement of inspection. By order of Col. Robert T. Preston,

Unit Date May 31, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Col. Preston will detail one intelligent private to act as orderly until further orders. By order of Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date May 31, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Special Order: An accurate Report must be made as to the exact strength of each regiment. By order of Brig. General Bonham, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date May 31, 1861.

Unit Date June 1-7, 1861

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. General Order: Announcement that Hon. William Smith of Virginia, of this department has become a volunteer. By order of General Bonham, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 1, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. General Order: There will be firing exercises with the artillery tomorrow. By order of General Bonham, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 1, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Order instructing Col. Preston to detail his men for general guard duty. By order of Brig. General Bonham, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 1, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Col. Preston will detail at once and daily thereafter a work party to report to Major Thomas H. Williams on for work in the trenches. By order of General Bonham, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 1, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. General Order No. 1: Instructions that all members of the command will help entrench camp for defense against all assaults. By order of General Bonham, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 1, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. General Order: In accordance with Special Order No. 149 of the Head Quarters of Virginia Forces, Richmond assigning me to the command of the Alexandria line. I have relieved Brig. General. M. L. Bonham of said command. Signed: G. T. Beauregard, Brig. General. Commanding,

Unit Date June 2, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Order No. 35: Col. Preston will detail from his command a party to serve as General Guard for the day. By order of Brig. General Beauregard, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 2, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Order No. 34: Orders for Col. Preston's men to escort a supply train to Fairfax station. Signed: Thomas Jordan. 1861, June 2: From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Order No. 33: Inquiry into cartridge and bayonet scabbard requisitions. Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 2, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Order No. 36: Notification of command switch to General Beauregard from General Bonham. Signed: Brig. General. M. Bonham,

Unit Date June 2, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. General Order No. 5: Major Thomas Rhett assigned to duty as Acting Inspector General. By order of Genl. Beauregard, Signed: Ferguson,

Unit Date June 3, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. General Order No. 3: Annuling of the Provost Marshall position. By order of Brig. General Beauregard, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 3, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, 5th Brigade, Centreville. Letter of request of a regiment inspection report. Signed: Col. Phillip Geobocke,

Unit Date June 3, 1861.

From: Camp Pickens, Quarter Masters Office. Order No. 37: Col. Preston will furnish a detail of six men for two days to aid the Quarter Masters Dept. in necessary labor. By order of Brig. General Beauregard, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 3, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. General Order No. 7: Orders of changes in the command of various companies. By order of Brig. General Beauregard, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 4, 1861.

From: Camp Pickens. Order No. 42: Orders to detail for Guard duty. By order of Brig. General Beauregard, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 5, 1861.

From: Quarter Masters Office. Request for two carpenters equipped with tools to report to the Quarter Masters office. Signed: John Gilme,

Unit Date June 5, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Orders 42-45: Orders concerning the Post Master and Postal concerns as well as officer of the day. Signed: Col. Preston,

Unit Date June 6, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Two soldiers, private Thomas Wood, and private McCormick are to be discharged for disability. By order of General Beauregard, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 6, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Order No. 4: Order for the transfer of Capt. Shipord to Col. Preston's command. By Order of Col. Terrett,

Unit Date June 7, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Order to detail eight men to report to the Quarter Master's Department. By order of Col. Terrett,

Unit Date June 7, 1861.

Unit Date June 8-15, 1861

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Special Order No. 2: Contains reassignment of two companies, Craig Mountain Boys and Patty Lagne Rifles. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J Rhett,

Unit Date June 8, 1861.

From: Camp Pickens, Department of Alexandria. Order: Promotion of Lieut. Henry Allen to instructor. By order of Col. R. T. Preston,

Unit Date June 8, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. General Order No. 1: Redirection of the Regimental Manning Reports. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 8, 1861.

From: Camp Pickens, Department of Alexandria. Order: Order assigning Craig Mountain Boys to Company K. By order of Col. R. T. Preston,

Unit Date June 8, 1861.

From: Camp Pickens, Department of Alexandria. Request issued by Col. Preston for cartridge caps. To Col. S. Jones, Chief of Ordinance. Signed: Col. R. T. Preston,

Unit Date June 9, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Order to send men to assist Col. Moore. By order of Sam. Britchell,

Unit Date June 10, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Order for General Guard duty. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Sam. Britchell,

Unit Date June 10, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. General Order No. 4: Issuance of additional drills for commissioned and non commissioned officers. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 10, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Order for men to be detailed for General Guard duty. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Sam. Britchell,

Unit Date June 11, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Request for the dates of commission of two men in Col. Preston's Company. Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 11, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Special Order No. 3: Order for all regiments to be ready at a moments notice. Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 11, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Special Order No. 4: An orderly sergeant from each regiment will report for guard duty. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 11, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Col. Preston, Strange, Moore & Garland will relieve their pickets. By order of Col. Terrett, signed Samuel P. Mitchell,

Unit Date June 12, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Manassas Junction. General Order No. 10: Orders regarding the Army regulations concerning ambulances and shipping wagons. By order of Brig. General Beauregard, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 12, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp at Manassas Junction. General Order No. 12: Orders regarding the large number of applications for leave of Absence. Commanders are expected to approve no applications hereafter. By order of General Beauregard, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 12, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Special Order: All fatigue duty on the trenches are hereby stopped. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 12, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. To: Col. Preston, Detail troops from your regiment to Whittington Railroad Depot. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 12, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens, General Order No. 5: Acting Inspector General will commence his inspection tomorrow at 8 o'clock AM. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 12, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Manassas Junction. General Order No. 14: Authorization of weapons target practice between 11 and 12 noon daily, under supervision of an officer, By order of General Beauregard, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 13, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. To: Col. Preston. Detail from your men a group to report at Eight and one half AM for General Guard duty. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: by Davis Mitchell,

Unit Date June 13, 1861.

From: Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. Regimental Order: No officer in command of a company will grant leave to more than five privates to be absent at one time. By order of Col. Preston,

Unit Date June 13, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Detail W. C. Porter of the Guard. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Davis Mitchell,

Unit Date June 14, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Col. Preston will Detail one Captain, two Corporals, and twenty men to report to Capt. Mitchell tomorrow at eight and one half AM for General Guard duty. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Davis Mitchell,

Unit Date June 14, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp Pickens. General Order No. 16: The General is disturbed by the careless discharge of firearms which slaughter men, therefore, No firing will be allowed except between the hours of 11AM and 12PM. It is the duty of commanding officers to observe and punish all. By order of Brig. General Beauregard, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 14, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. General Order No. 6: Colonels will see that their regiments be furnished with the colors of the Confederate States. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 14, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Special Order No.7: The following detail will report at 6 o'clock tomorrow morning to Capt. Harris, One from Col. Strange's and one from Col. Preston's command. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 14, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. To: Col. Preston. Detail 45 men to report at three o'clock PM. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 14, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. To: Col. Preston. Your regiment will not be inspected tomorrow. Signed: Thomas Rhett,

Unit Date June 15, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. To: Col. Preston. Detail a Blacksmith from Capt. Wingfield's company to report to Major Cabell. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Davis Mitchell,

Unit Date June 15, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. To: Col. Preston. Detail one sergeant two corporals and twenty men to report to Capt. Mitchell at eight and one half AM for General Guard duty. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: by Davis Mitchell,

Unit Date June 15, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. To: Col. Preston. Detail three men to report to Doctor Fisher at the Meazles hospital for fatigue duty. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 15, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Special Order No. 8: The three following named officers will comprise a Board of Survey to meet in Col. Preston's regiment to examine and report on spoiled beef. Capt. Adam Clement, Lieut. W. S. Goggin Jr., Lieut. M. J. Kemper. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 15, 1861.

From: Committee of Survey. Report: The examination of the beef found it to be entirely unfit for use, being very much fly brown. The company did right to refuse it. Signed: A. Clement, Wm. S. Goggin Jr., M. J. Kemper,

Unit Date June 15, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. The Colonel approves of the proceedings of the Board of Survey (regarding food spoilage) and orders that the beef be thrown away and other issued in it's place. Signed: Thomas Rhett,

Unit Date June 15, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Manassas Junction. Special Order No. 36: By authority from Head Quarters of the Virginia Forces, execute the following transfers involving Wm. D. Robertson, Charles F. Myers, E. Bausbery, and Hugh M. Laughlin. By order of Brig. General Beauregard, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 15, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Special Order No. 9: The Colonels will see that transfers are made. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 15, 1861.

Unit Date June 16-22, 1861

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. To: Col. Preston. A party of your men, yesterday, fired their weapons at an embankment. Several of the balls hit the hospital. Use stringent measures in putting a stop to this neglect of orders. Signed: Thomas Rhett,

Unit Date June 16, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria, Camp at Manassas Junction. General Order No. 17: All officers of the Quarter Master's department, prepare to advance at short notice. All troops will be furnished with ten days rations and forty rounds of ammunition. By order of Brig. General Beauregard, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 16, 1861.

From: Camp Pickens. Detail for fatigue duty. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 16, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. General Order No. 8: All unattached regiments see that the requirements of General Order No. 17 be completed. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 16, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. General Order No. 7: The Commander directs that General Order No. 12 of Head Quarters, Department of Alexandria be published at evening parade. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 16, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. To: Col. Preston. Detail for tomorrow. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Davis Mitchell,

Unit Date June 16, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Special Order No. 12: Detail a party to inspect the guard pickets on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 18, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Special Order No. 13: Strict orders will be given to the general guard to prevent the sale of ardent spirits in camp. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 18, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. To: Col. Preston. Directions for transfers. Signed: Thomas Rhett,

Unit Date June 18, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. General Order No. 9: The Colonel commanding regrets that it has been found necessary to reiterate General Order No. 16 of Head Quarters, Dept. of Alexandria. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 18, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. To: Col. Preston. Transfers to be places into effect tomorrow. Signed: Thomas Rhett,

Unit Date June 18, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Dept. of Alexandria, Camp at Manassas Junction. General Order No. 19: Transfer and Dispositions of Companies. By order of Brig. General Beauregard, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 18, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Detail for tomorrow. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 19, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. General Order No. 10: General Order No. 19 of Head Quarters, Dept. of Alexandria will be carried into effect today. By order of Col. Terrett, Signed: Thomas J. Rhett,

Unit Date June 20, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Army of the Potomac, Manassas Junction. General Order No. 20: Organization of the First Corps. of Army of the Potomac. By order of Brig. General Beauregard, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 21, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, 5th Brigade. Marching Instructions with respect to Special Order No. 20: By Order of Phillip Cocke,

Unit Date June 21, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Pickens. Marching Instructions. Signed: Phillip Cocke,

Unit Date June 21, 1861.

Unit Date June 23-30, 1861

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

From: Head Quarters, Army of Potomac. Manassas Junction. General Order No. 25: Ordered changes in leave application process. By order of Col. Cocke,

Unit Date June 23, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Advanced Forces, Army of the Potomac, Fairfax Co. Ho. Special Order No. 18: Report forthwith to the Head Quarters, Army of the Potomac Requisitions for ammunition needs for service in the face of the Enemy. By order of Genl. Bonham,

Unit Date June 23, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, 5th Brigade To: Col. Preston. Make requisitions for ammunition. By order of Col. Cocke,

Unit Date June 24, 1861.

From: Head Quarters of the VA. Forces, Richmond. Personal Order No. 29: Information regarding the first periodical muster for payment of the Virginia Volunteers. By order of General Lee, Signed: Col. Cocke,

Unit Date June 24, 1861.

From: Camp Cocke, Head Quarters The 28th Regiment, 5th Brigade will report forthwith for supplies. By order of Col. Preston,

Unit Date June 24, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Army of Potomac. Manassas Junction. Memo to Brig. General Beauregard, Application for Transfer. Signed: Major C. Allen,

Unit Date June 24, 1861.

From: Camp Cocke. Regimental Order: It is Important that the regiment be at all times held in readiness for movement. Signed: Col. Preston,

Unit Date June 25, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, 5th Brigade. In order to carry out Order No. 17, we are imposing limits on personal baggage herein defined. By order of Col. Cocke. Also enclosed, on same paper: General Order No. 17: All officers of the Quarter Master's department, Prepare to advance at short notice. All troops will be furnished with ten days rations and forty rounds of ammunition. By order of Brig. General Beauregard, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 25, 1861.

Scope and Contents note

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From: Head Quarters, Army of the Potomac. Special Order: B.F. Terry, T.S. Tubbock and D. Conner of the Texas Rangers are acting as scouts. Supply them due provisions. By order of Brig. General Beauregard, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 25, 1861.

Scope and Contents note

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From: Head Quarters, Army of the Potomac. All feasible measures should be taken to secure an efficient equipment and outfit in all respects. Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 25, 1861.

From: Camp Cocke, Regimental Order: Reading of Rules and Articles for the government of the Army of Virginia. Signed: Col. Preston,

Unit Date June 25, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Army of the Potomac. Manassas Junction. Special Requisitions shall be made only by the commanders of each regiment. Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 25, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, 5th Brigade. To: Col. Preston. Concerning the movement of surplus baggage to be stored at Orange. Signed: John B. Cocke,

Unit Date June 26, 1861.

From: Camp Cocke, Army of the Potomac. To: Col. Cocke. Request for instructions for loading picket and camp guard. Signed: Col. Preston,

Unit Date June 26, 1861.

From: Camp Cocke, Army of the Potomac. Regimental Order: Reduce our baggage to within limits stated. Signed: Col. Preston,

Unit Date June 27, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Army of the Potomac. General Order: Surgeon Thomas H. Williams appointed Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac. By order of Brig. General Beauregard, Signed: Thomas Jordan,

Unit Date June 27, 1861.

From Camp Cocke, Army of the Potomac. Regimental Order: John A. Cobb transfer to Hospital duty. Signed: Col. Preston,

Unit Date June 27, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, 5th Brigade. General Order: Order of documentation of the sick of the Company by the surgeon and report to company commander. Signed: Col. Cocke,

Unit Date June 28, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Advanced Forces, Army of the Potomac, Fairfax C.H. Order: Every commander is to procure a Confederate Flag. By order of Brig. Genl. Bonham, Signed: Geo. N. Lay,

Unit Date June 28, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Advances Forces, Army of the Potomac, Fairfax C.H. General Order No. 7 The parole and countersign will go into effect at twilight and continue for twenty-four hours. Also, instructions for dealing with approaching parties and security. By order of Brig. Genl. Bonham, Signed: Geo. N. Lay,

Unit Date June 28, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, 5th Brigade. General Order: Carry into effect Order No. 29 from Head Quarters, Army of the Potomac regarding mustering. Signed: Phillip Cocke,

Unit Date June 29, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Advances Forces, Army of the Potomac, Fairfax C.H. Regimental Quarter Master will not suffer the animals to be used for private purposes. Leaves of absence will not be granted to Teamsters. By order of Brig. Genl. Bonham, Signed: Geo. N. Lay,

Unit Date June 29, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Advances Forces, Army of the Potomac, Fairfax C.H. Regarding Guard Duty, sentinels must challenge so as to be heard distinctly two or three times repeatedly before cocking their weapon. By order of Brig. Genl. Bonham, Signed: Geo. N. Lay,

Unit Date June 29, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Army of the Potomac, Manassas Junction. General Order No. 29: Concerning the mustering of troops tomorrow. By order of Genl. Beauregard Signed: Sam. Jones,

Unit Date June 29, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Advances Forces, Army of the Potomac, Fairfax C.H. Monthly Returns tomorrow. By order of Brig. Genl. Bonham, Signed: Geo. N. Lay,

Unit Date June 29, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Advances Forces, Army of the Potomac, Fairfax C.H. Order to remove obstructions of turnpikes at Centreville and Old Braddock Road. Signed: Geo. N. Lay,

Unit Date June 30, 1861.

From: Camp Cocke, Army of the Potomac. Request for supply report. Signed: Col. Preston,

Unit Date June 30, 1861.

Unit Date July-December 1861

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

From: Head Quarters, Advances Forces, Army of the Potomac, Fairfax C.H. To: Col. Preston. Call on the Brig. General tomorrow after breakfast. Signed: Geo. Lay,

Unit Date July 1, 1861.

Requisition for Ordnance and Ordnance Stores for the use of the 28th Regiment of the Va. Volunteers. Signed: P. Breckenridge,

Unit Date September 20. 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Advances Forces, Falls Church. To: Col. Preston. Report to Genl. Longstreet immediately upon your arrival,

Unit Date September 25, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Advances Forces, Camp at Masons Hill, Regarding troop movement. By order of Col. Preston,

Unit Date September 26, 1861.

From: Masons Hill. Col. Preston's response to criticism of misinterpreted orders. Signed: Col. Preston,

Unit Date September 26, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Advances Forces. To: Col. Preston. Request for troop movement,

Unit Date September 27, 1861.

From: Fairfax Co. Virginia. To: Col. Preston. Inquiry on the probable state of Masons Hill.

Signed: M. Mason,

Unit Date September 28, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Advances Forces. To: Col. Preston. Apology for wrongly placing blame.

Signed: James Longstreet,

Unit Date October 2, 1861

From: Richmond. To: Col. Preston. Regarding Transfers,

Unit Date October 3, 1861.

From: Head Quarters 28th Regiment Va. Volunteers, Camp near Centreville. The regiment under my command is the one selected from the 5th Brigade to report to construct a portion of the Advanced Guard. Signed: Col. Preston,

Unit Date October 17, 1861.

To: Col. R. T. Preston. Signed: GDJ,

Unit Date October 18, 1861.

From: Warrington Va. To: Col. Preston. Inquiry into the state of Mason's Hill. Signed: M. Mason,

Unit Date November 4, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, Centreville. To Col. Preston. Presentation of State colors by Governor. Signed: J. E. Johnston,

Unit Date November 4, 1861.

From: Head Quarters, 28th Regiment Va. Volunteers. Special Requisition. Signed: Col. Preston,

Unit Date November 9, 1861.

From: Near Centreville. Certificate granting Col. Preston a medical leave of absence. Signed: Saml. A. McConkey,

Unit Date November 23, 1861.

From: Camp Pickens To Col. Preston. Personnel transfer. Signed: H. Wells,

Unit Date November 24, 1861.

From; Camp, 28th Regiment Va. Volunteers, near Centreville. Col. Preston wished and is recommended an extension of leave for 30 days. Signed: Saml. A. McConkey,

Unit Date December 19, 1861.

From; Head Quarters, 28th Regiment Va. Volunteers, Centreville. To: Col. Preston. State of the 28th Va. Vol. Signed: Henry Johnston,

Unit Date December 26, 1861.

To: Col. Preston. Inquiry for the best time to send 13 wagons to take the 28th Regiment to Mitchell's Farm,

Unit Date xx 21, 1861.

Unit Date January-March 1862

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Container 8 (folder)

From: Winchester. News of the death of James Frances Preston. Signed: J. F. Kent,

Unit Date February 5, 1862.

From: Mount Joy. Request for continued leave of absence. Signed: Wm. T. Patton,

Unit Date February 22, 1862.

From: Bedford Va. Personal Orders. Signed: A. S. Minter,

Unit Date March 1, 1862.

From: Head Quarters, Centreville. General Order No. 7: A board of medical officers will assemble to examine applicants for discharge,

Unit Date March 3, 1862.

From: Head Quarters, 28th Regiment of the VA. Volunteers. Personnel Report. Signed: Col. Preston,

Unit Date March 4, 1862.

From: Head Quarters, 28th Regiment of the VA. Volunteers. Announcement of upcoming squad drill. Signed: Col. Preston,

Unit Date March 4, 1862.

From: Head Quarters, 2nd Division, Army of the Potomac. Orders for the movement of baggage to the rear by way of railroad,

Unit Date March 5, 1862.

Medical leave certificate. Signed: O. W. Hearn,

Unit Date March 7, 1862.

From: Lauderdale. To: Col. Preston. Concerning medical leave. Signed: J. A. Johnston,

Unit Date March 10, 1862.

To: Col. Preston. Regarding the destruction of whiskey distilleries and employing Negro men in the Army. Signed: F. E. Willis,

Unit Date March 18, 1862.

List of absence of Co. B 28th Regiment of the VA. Volunteers,

Unit Date March 19, 1862.

To: Col. R. T. Preston. Regarding sickness and failure to report. Signed: J. A. Johnston,

Unit Date March 21, 1862.

To: Col. R. T. Preston. Signed: William Watts,

Unit Date January 23, 1862.

To: Col. R. T. Preston. Signed: William Watts,

Unit Date February 19, 1862.

To: Col. R. T. Preston. Signed: W. B. Preston,

Unit Date March 4, 1862.

To: Col. R. T. Preston. Signed W. B. Preston,

Unit Date March 9, 1862.

Unit Date April-May 1862

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Container 9 (folder)

From: Head Quarters, 28th Regiment of the VA. Volunteers. All officers are ordered to arrest any soldier guilty of firing his musket against orders. Signed: Col. Preston,

Unit Date April 22, 1862.

From: Richmond To: Col. Preston. Signed: Charles B. Ball,

Unit Date April 29, 1862.

To: Col. Preston. Regarding Extension of sick leave,

Unit Date April 28, 1862.

Memo regarding the appointment of H. Lewis to Sergeant Major of the 28th Regiment of Virginia Volunteers,

Unit Date April 28, 1862.

News clipping: A letter from the Confederate states of America War Department. Official letter relative to the conscription act. Sign Geo. W. Randolph, Secretary of War,

Unit Date April 30, 1862.

Scope and Contents note

[Clipping](#) (gif)

From: Lynchburg To: Col. Preston. Regarding need of money. Signed: F. B. Deane for,

Unit Date April 30, 1862.

From: Executive Department To: Col. Preston. Authorization for Col. Preston to form a Volunteer regiment. Signed: John Lechen,

Unit Date May 3, 1862.

From Richmond. Information Regarding the formation of a regiment as a guerrilla band and reports on Norfolk, Williamsburg and Harrisonburg. Signed: W. Younger,

Unit Date May 6, 1862.

To: John S. Peck. Intercept the Yankees at Pearisburg. Signed: Wilson Lively,

Unit Date May 8, 1862.

From: Head Quarters. Signed: General H. Heath,

Unit Date May 13, 1862.

From Union. To: Col. Preston. Regarding movement of cattle to Blacksburg. Advise women and children to stay at home. Information on the position of the Yankees at Lunenburg. Signed: A. T. Caperton,

Unit Date May 15, 1862.

Telegraph of the Southern Telegraph Companies, Recorded at Christiansburg from Lynchburg: To: Col. Preston. Guns can be transferred from the Hospital provided orders are given from Richmond. Signed: F. B. Deane Jr.,

Unit Date May 15, 1862.

Scope and Contents note

[Telegraph](#) (gif)

From: Head Quarters 2nd Division. Testimony to Col. Preston's Honorable character as a soldier. In response to his request to rejoin the Army. Signed: James Longstreet,

Unit Date May 19, 1862.

From: Head Quarters, 3rd Brigade 2nd Corps, Camp near Laurel Church, Henrico Co. VA. Report that Col. Preston was not re-elected for duty. Signed: G. E. Pickett,

Unit Date May 19, 1862.

From: Head Quarters, 3rd Brigade. Condolences to Col. Preston for not being reinstated in a position of service. Signed: George S. Pickett,

Unit Date May 19, 1862.

Order No. 28: Act to organize bands of Rangers. Signed: A. L. Long,

Unit Date May 26, 1862.

From: Dublin Depot. Authorization for Col. Preston to Raise a Regiment of Rangers. Signed: Lyle Alanke,

Unit Date May 27, 1862.

From: Head Quarters. To: Secretary of War. Request that Col. Preston be returned to service. Signed: J. A. Johnston,

Unit Date May 28, 1862.

From: Cave Spring Va. To: Col. Preston. Request for transfer to Col. Preston's Regiment. Signed: H. Stevens,

Unit Date May 28, 1862.

Unit Date June-December 1862

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

From: Adjutant General's Office, Richmond, Va. Regarding General Order No. 1 of Major General John B. Floyd. Signed: Wm. H. Richardson, A.G.,

Unit Date June 4, 1862.

From: Head Quarters, Virginia State Line, Wytheville. Col. Preston and Col. Hammet are authorized to raise and organize men from the Counties of Montgomery, Roanoke, Botetourt, Craig, Monroe and Giles. Signed: John B. Floyd,

Unit Date June 11, 1862.

From: Richmond. Information regarding troops on the Chickahominy river (Mc Clellen and Lee), Battle of May 31, and the physical condition of General Johnston. Signed: B. R. Johnston.,

Unit Date June 13, 1862.

From: Bedford, Va. To: Col. Preston Regarding raising of a regiment for the State. Signed: P. Huddleston,

Unit Date June 14, 1862.

From: Adjutant General's Office of Virginia, Richmond. To: Col. Preston. Authorization to raise a regiment of infantry. Signed: Wm, H. Richardson,

Unit Date June 17, 1862.

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From: Lynchburg. To: Col. Preston. Regarding change of employment. Signed: F. B. Deanefer,

Unit Date June 19, 1862.

From: Head Quarters Va. State Line, Wytheville. Special Order: Col. Preston is authorized to grant transportation of troops to Wytheville for service in the State Line. Signed: William E. Peters,

Unit Date June 29, 1862.

From: Adjutant General's Office. Call for the formation of Militias to unite in effort to repel the Enemy. Signed: Wm. H. Richardson, Adj. Genl. of Va.,

Unit Date August 4, 1862.

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[Page 1](#) (gif)

From: Head Quarters Va. State Line, Wytheville, Va. To: Col. Preston. Regarding the militia service. Signed: John B. Floyd,

Unit Date August 4, 1862.

From: Wytheville. Col. R.T. Preston and Col. James P. Hammet are authorized to raise a regiment of Volunteers for service. Signed: John B. Floyd, June 10, 1862 &

Unit Date August 11, 1862.

From: Head Quarters Va. State Line, Wytheville, Va. To; Col. Preston. Bring everyone foreword to the depot at Wytheville. Signed: John B. Floyd,

Unit Date August 11, 1862.

From: Head Quarters Va. State Line, Wytheville, Va. General Order No. 5: Regarding the organization of militias to serve the Virginia State Line. Signed: Major General John B. Floyd,

Unit Date August 19, 1862.

Scope and Contents note

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From: Commonwealth of Virginia. To: Col. Preston. Commission to Colonel of Infantry. Signed: John Letches,

Unit Date August 23, 1862.

From: The Virginia and Tennessee Railroad Company, Christiansburg Depot. Freight receipt. Signed: by Depot agent,

Unit Date November 1, 1862.

From: Salem Va. Statement of goods received from Christiansburg Depot. Signed: James Wade,

Unit Date November 17, 1862.

From: Salem Va. To: Col. Preston. Statement of wheat received. Signed: James Wade,

Unit Date December 12, 1862.

From: Blacksburg Va. To: Col. Preston. Proposal for coal mining venture at "Machine Hill." Signed: W. G. Atkinson,

Unit Date December 27, 1862.

From: Richmond. To: Col. Preston. Request for a certificate of estimated loss. Signed: M. Mason,

Unit Date December 30, 1862.

Unit Date 1863

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

From: Solitude. Call to ask all the men of Montgomery and Roanoke to help repel the enemy. Signed: Col. Robert Preston,

Unit Date May 13, 1863.

To: Col. Preston. Regarding the formation of a committee to assist in the raising of companies to fight. Signed: J. H. Anderson,

Unit Date September 9, 1862.

From: The Virginia and Tennessee Railroad Company, Christiansburg Depot. Freight receipt for goods sent to Salem. Received of Col. Preston,

Unit Date November 8, 1863.

Unit Date 1866, 1871

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Certified document of the United States of America, Department of State. Acknowledgment of the President's Warrant of Pardon. Signed: Robert T. Preston,

Unit Date January 8, 1866.

From: Solitude, Montgomery Co. Va. Information regarding the depositions on the case of Thos. L. Preston v/s W. A. Stuart. Signed: Robert T. Preston,

Unit Date August 14, 1871.

Undated manuscript materials

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

From: Richmond. Certificate of Examination of Lieut. Col. Samuel B. Paul. Signed: Medical Director of the 2nd Division, Army of the Potomac,

Unit Date February 5.

From Dublin. To: Col. Preston. Report that no arms were received. Signed: James Wade,

Unit Date May 13.

From: Head Quarters, Camp Smith. Orders regarding Col. Preston Assuming command of all infantry Companies of the Volunteer Forces of Virginia. Signed: Col. Preston,

Unit Date May 17.

From: Richmond, War Department Confederate States. Regarding letter of the 14th accepting volunteer regiments. Signed: Secretary of War,

Unit Date May 19.

From Lynchburg. To: Col. Preston. Detail a committee to value the horses in the company warehouse,

Unit Date May 20.

From Lynchburg To: Col. Preston. Resignation of position. Signed: W. Watts

From Lynchburg To: Col. Preston. Resignation of position. Signed: W. Watts,
Unit Date June 1.

From: 8th Brigade. Concerning mess accounts,
Unit Date November 2.

From: Adjutant General's Office of Virginia, Richmond. An uncompleted form letter regarding the Raising of a Volunteer Regiment.

Stamped, canceled envelope addressed to Col. R. Preston, Near Christiansburg, Montgomery Co. Virginia. n.d. Requisition for ordnance and ordnance stores for the use of the 28th regiment of the Virginia Volunteers.

Orders and correspondence between General Longstreet and Col. Preston at Mason's Hill.

From: Col. Preston. Marching orders.

Morning Report form.

Order No. 9: Prepare and hold in readiness to march to Lynchburg Sunday morning the 26th. By order of Col. Preston.

Regarding subsistence to officers.

Designation of company commanders. Signed: Col. Preston.

Request to assume former position at Mason's Hill. Signed: Col. Preston.

List of items for the 28th Regiment. Signed C. C. M. Phail.

Order of punishment of James W. Johnson for leaving camp and being drunk. Signed: Col. Preston.

From: Camp Cocke. **To** Col. Preston. Request for transfer. Signed Ro. C. Allen.

Fragment of detail order stating that H. Y. Cumpton of Bedford County will be arriving soon to visit his friends in the 28th Regiment.

Telegraph envelope from Christiansburgh, VA. Addressed to Col. R. T. Preston,
Unit Date May 15.

To: Col. Preston. Request for information. Signed: Thomas Jordan.

List detailing the No. of extra guns and cartridges in each company.

To: Col. Preston. Regarding the raising of a company of 200 men from Roanoke County, VA. Signed: M. P. Preston.

Certification that 2nd Lieutenant Benj. Willis Jr. has been discharged and has received his commission.

Pardon signed by President Andrew Johnson granting Preston a "full pardon and amnesty for all offenses by him committed, arising from participation, direct or implied, in the said rebellion..."

Unit Date September 10, 1865

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