

Colley, Thomas W. Collection

Thomas W. Colley Collection,
1845-1947, 1986



Title Statement

Colley, Thomas W. Collection Thomas W. Colley Collection, 1845-1947, 1986 Ms.2003.017

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Profile Description

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2020-10-09 Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2003.017

Unit Date

1845-1947, 1986

Unit Date

1845-1947

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The Thomas W. Colley Collection contains correspondence, financial documents, such as ledgers, receipts, and deeds, temperance society sermons, electoral cards, a Veteran's Meeting minute book, Civil War reminiscences, and a roll for the First Virginia Company D Volunteer Cavalry's wounded and dead for 1861. The majority of the collection dates from 1860 to 1920.

Creator

Colley, Thomas W., 1837-1919

Extent

1.3 Cubic Feet 3 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The collection was donated to Special Collections before 2003.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Thomas W. Colley Collection was completed in October 2013.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Thomas W. Colley Collection, Ms2003-017, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Thomas W. Colley (1837-1919) served in the Confederate army during the American Civil War. He enlisted in May 1861 as a private in the 1st Virginia Cavalry, Company D (2nd), referred to also as the Washington Mounted Rifles, as this company hailed from Washington County, VA. Colley was wounded multiple times during the course of the war. Most seriously, at Kelly's Ford in 1863, he was shot near the stomach on the left side; the ball passed clean through his body and emerged near his spine. He recovered and returned to his division. He finished the war with the rank of 2nd Corporal. Thomas Colley's brother, William Lewis Colley, who appears in correspondence within the collection, also served in the same cavalry division. Following the war, Colley returned to Abingdon, VA and held the following positions for Washington County, VA: Deputy Sheriff, Commissioner of Revenue, and Overseer for the Poor. He died in 1919.

Sources Consulted:

Driver, Robert J., Jr. *1st Virginia Cavalry*. Lynchburg, VA: H. E. Howard, Inc., 1991.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains both material related to Thomas W. Colley's daily life in Abingdon, VA, and to Colley's service as a Confederate soldier in the Civil War. Materials include correspondence, financial documents, such as ledgers, receipts, and deeds, temperance society sermons, electoral cards, a Veteran's Meeting minute book, Civil War reminiscences, and a roll for the First Virginia Company D Volunteer Cavalry's wounded and dead for 1861. The majority of the collection dates from 1860 to 1920.

Much of the correspondence occurs between Thomas Colley and his extended family, except for Colley's business correspondence. The letters dating to the Civil War are typed transcriptions rather than the original. Later letters, however, that make reference to and reminisce about the Civil War are original.

Related Archival Materials

Other materials relating to Thomas W. Colley can be found within the L. C. Angle, Jr. Collection, Ms 2001-043.

Finding aid available online.

Keywords

abingdon (Va.)

Washington County (Va.)

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

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Civil War

Colley, Thomas W., 1837-1919

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series: Series 1: Correspondence; Series 2: Financial Documents; and Series 3: Subject Files. The folders within each series are organized in chronological order.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence,

Unit Date 1855-1986

Lewis Ballard Letter,

Unit Date 1855

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Family Correspondence,

Unit Date 1856-1934

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Personal Correspondence,

Unit Date 1860-1919

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Transcriptions of Civil War Letters & Associated Research Notes,

Unit Date 1861-1864, 1986

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Correspondence Related to the Civil War,

Unit Date 1863-1918

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Business Correspondence,

Unit Date 1866-1934

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 6 (folder)

Lamar Fontaine Letters,
Unit Date 1912-1914, 1946
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 7 (folder)

Financial Documents,
Unit Date 1845-1930

Bills, Statements, Receipts,
Unit Date 1845-1930
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 8 (folder)

Ledgers,
Unit Date 1856-1887
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 9 (folder)

Taxes, Washington Co.,
Unit Date 1861-1862
box-folder 2 (box)
Container 1 (folder)

Deeds,
Unit Date 1873-1917
box-folder 2 (box)
Container 2 (folder)

Deed Transfers,
Unit Date 1905
box-folder 2 (box)
Container 3 (folder)

Subject Files,
Unit Date 1848-1947, n.d.

Christopher Colly,
Unit Date 1848-1874
box-folder 2 (box)
Container 4 (folder)

James Ryan,
Unit Date 1856-1928
box-folder 2 (box)
Container 5 (folder)

1st VA Co. D Vol. Cavalry Roll, 1861 - Civil War Wounded/Dead,

Unit Date 1861-1886

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Journal Subscriptions,

Unit Date 1873-1896

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Bibliography

The Companion: A Monthly Magazine for Odd Fellows and Their Families
The Companion: A Monthly Magazine for Odd Fellows and Their Families
Self Culture: A Magazine of Knowledge

Postcards,

Unit Date 1884-1947

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Alms House, "Poor" House,

Unit Date 1885-1887

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Advertisements,

Unit Date 1886-1923

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

"An Event in the Life of a Confederate Soldier",

Unit Date 1887

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

William E. Jones Camp Veterans Meeting Minutes and Related Correspondence,

Unit Date 1887-1905

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Temperance Sermons and Materials,

Unit Date 1891-1903

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Election Tickets,

Unit Date 1893

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Candidacy & Business Cards,

Unit Date 1895-1907

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Gen. Joseph Wheeler, Newspaper Article/Memorial Service,

Unit Date 1906

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Publications and Printed Materials,

Unit Date 1911-1918

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Bibliography

Rules and Regulations for the Government Employes of the Virginia Railway and Power Company
Legal Handbook for Guidance of Soldiers and Sailors
Practical Instruction Manual for Learners of Telegraphy

John M. Colley, Pvt. Battery E, 35th Coast Artillery,

Unit Date 1918-1919

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Obituary of S. C. Collop,

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Statement Against W. J. Porter,

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Etching, Thomas Wilkerson,

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Hand-drawn Map, Unidentified,

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 10 (folder)