

McDuffie, William "Billy", Collection

William "Billy" McDuffie Collection

1861, n. d.



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2023.015

Unit Date

1861, n. d.

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection contains a Carte de Visite photograph of William "Billy" McDuffie, a letter from Arthur Elmore to his sister Grace Elmore, and the envelope that it was sent in. This collection also contains a transcript of the letter.

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 William "Billy" McDuffie Collection was purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in February 2018.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the William "Billy" McDuffie Collection was completed in May 2023.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], William "Billy" McDuffie Collection, 1861, n. d., Ms2023-015, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

William "Billy" McDuffie was an enslaved person during and prior to the American Civil War. During the war, McDuffie most likely served as a cook or a body servant. Biographical materials that accompanied the collection included an excerpt from his obituary, which ran in the *Athens Daily Banner* on May 28, 1901, and is included below. The biographical materials also mention that William McDuffie formerly enslaved by Governor George McDuffie of South Carolina and that he "served as a valet to the family of a prominent South Carolina politician and banker, Frank H. Elmore".

"He went as a drummer to the Seminole war in 1836, to the Mexican war, and to the civil war. He volunteered to go to Cuba . . . He was a courier on the staff of Governor Mcsweeney and an honorary sergeant in a local white military company. He brought back General Pierce Butler's body from Mexico and General Bragg's back from Fredricksburg. . . . [He] beat the muffled drum at [John C.] Calhoun's funeral. He was buried ... with military honors."

Scope and Content

This collection contains a Carte de Visite photograph, a letter from Arthur Elmore to Grace Elmore, the envelope that the letter was sent in, and a transcript of the letter. The photograph depicts William "Billy" McDuffie, an enslaved individual that was taken to war by the Elmore family. The letter was written to update Grace Elmore on Arthur, William, and "Cousin Ben's" current locations, and to update her on "Cousin Ben" and William's recovery. Arthur also mentions the snowy weather in the letter and that he had not yet received blankets that his mother had sent him. The envelope that the letter was sent in indicates that the letter was sent from the Tudor Hall post office in Manassas, Virginia, and was received on December 8, 1861. The envelope also includes a "DUE 10" stamp which indicates that the postage was to be paid by the recipient of the letter.

Keywords

African Americans -- History

Civil War

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

McDuffie, William, d. 1901?

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Description of Subordinate Components

William "Billy" McDuffie Photograph

Unit Date n. d.

folder 1

Albert R. Elmore to Grace B. Elmore Letter, Transcript, and Envelope

Unit Date 1861-12-04

folder 1