

Lawson Botts papersMS.0064

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1861-1862

Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS.0064

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/148

Unit Date

1861-1862

Language

English

Creator

Botts, Lawson, 1825-1862

Extent

6 items

Physical Location

Manuscripts stacks

Repository

Virginia Military Institute Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions.

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Preferred Citation

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Biographical / Historical

Lawson Botts (1825-1862) was a Confederate officer who served with the 2nd Virginia Infantry Regiment. He was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1825 to Thomas Hutchinson Botts and Anne Carter Willis. Botts entered VMI in 1841 and spent two years there, resigning before graduation because of his father's ill health. He subsequently studied law and established a practice in Charles Town, [West] Virginia prior to the Civil War. In 1859, he served as one of the lawyers assigned to defend the abolitionist John Brown. Botts married Elizabeth Bibb Ranson (1829-1909) in January 1851 and the couple had four sons (Thomas, James, Lawson, and Robert), and one daughter who died in infancy.

In 1859 Botts became Captain of a volunteer company known as the "Botts Grays." When the Civil War began, this unit entered the service of Virginia as Company G, 2nd Virginia Infantry Regiment, and was one of the units that comprised the famous Stonewall Brigade. Botts was commissioned as a Major in June 1861 and became a Colonel in June 1862. He was praised for his conduct during several battles, including First Kernstown, First Winchester, Gaines's Mill, and Cedar Mountain.

Botts was mortally wounded in action at 2nd Manassas (Virginia) on August 28, 1862 and died on September 11 of that year. He is buried at Zion Episcopal Church Cemetery, Charles Town, West Virginia. His half-brother, Walter Browne Botts, was a member of the VMI Class of 1854. His father, Thomas H. Botts, served on the VMI Board of Visitors from 1839 to 1845.

Scope and Contents

The Lawson Botts papers consist of Civil War papers, including: A receipt (May 10, 1861) A letter of commission (September 12, 1861) A promotion order (September 12, 1861) A general order to assume duties of Provost Marshall in Winchester, Virginia (November 18, 1861) A furlough request (January 11, 1862) A letter to Captain O'Brien complaining about shortage of rations (May 22, 1862)

Keywords

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 2nd

Virginia—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

Orders (military records)

Correspondence

Receipts (financial records)

Description of Subordinate Components

Receipt

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5342

Unit Date 1861 May 10

Language English

Scope and Contents

A receipt for five hundred ball cartridges.

Keywords

Receipts (financial records)

Transcription

Received of Capt. Botts (Company G.) five hundred ball cartridges May 10th - 1861. J. W. Allen Col. 1st Infantry

Letter from Geo. Davis to Lawson Botts

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5345

Unit Date 1861 September 12

Language English

Scope and Contents

Written from Richmond, Virginia. Letter regards Lawson Botts' commission and order.

Keywords

Correspondence

Orders (military records)

Transcription

Adjutant & Inspector General's Office Richmond Sept 12. 1861

Sir: I have the honor to enclose herewith your commission and order. You will report accordingly to General J. E. Johnston Commanding Army of Potomac.

Very Respectfully Yr. obt. Serv't Geo. Deas

Military order

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5343

Unit Date 1861 September 12

Language English

Scope and Contents

Special Order 276 that promotes Major Lawson Botts to a Lieutenant Colonel with the 2nd Virginia Regiment.

Keywords

Orders (military records)

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 2nd

Correspondence

Transcription

Adjutant & Inspector Gen'l's Office Richmond Sept 12. 1861

Special Order No 276

Major Lawson Botts is promoted to be Lieutenant Colonel Virginia Volunteer, and assigned to duty with the 2nd Virginia Regiment serving with the Army of the Potomac, and will report accordingly.

By order Geo. Deas A.A.G.

General order

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5344

Unit Date 1861 November 18

Language English

Scope and Contents

General Order 13, which relieves Lawson Botts from the 2nd Virginia Regiment and orders him to assume the duties of Provost Marshall of the town of Winchester, Virginia.

Keywords

Correspondence

Orders (military records)

Transcription

Head Quarters Valley Dis'c November 18th 1861

General Orders No. 13 Lt. Col. Lawson Botts is relieved from his position in the 2nd Regt. Va. Vols. and is ordered to assume the duties of Provost Marshall of the town of Winchester

By Command of Maj. Gen. Jackson A.H. Jackson A.A. Gen'l

Letter from Lawson Botts to Major A. H. Jackson**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/5346**Unit Date** 1862 January 10**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

In the letter, Lawson Botts is requesting fifteen days of furlough. The back of the letter contains signatures related to the furlough approval process.

Keywords

Correspondence

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 2nd

Transcription

[front] Major A.H. Jackson

Sir, I desire a furlough for fifteen days. My whole business both as a lawyer & guardian of three wards is in a very unsettled condition & needs my undivided attention. I also desire to visit my family. Of course I should hold myself ready to return sooner should the public safety require.

Respectfully Lawson Botts Lt. Col. 2 Regt Va. Vols.

[back] Ungers Store Jany 11 1862 _____

Lawson Botts Lt. Col. 2 Regt Va. _____

Application for a furlough for 15 days _____

Approved & Rept'y forwarded J.W. Allen Col. 2 Regt.

Respectfully forwarded R.B.[?] Garnett [or Garrett?] Brig. Genl. Commd'g

Approved By command of Maj. Genl. Jackson A.H. Jackson

Letter from Lawson Botts to Captain O'Brien**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/5347**Unit Date** 1862 May 22**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Written from the 2nd Virginia Infantry Regiment headquarters. The letter regards a shortage of rations and tired troops.

Keywords

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 2nd

Correspondence

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Personal narratives—Confederate

Transcription

Head Qrs 2nd Reg Va Vols. May 22nd 1862

Capt. I have received your circular ordering Reveille at 2 ½ AM & the Brigade to move at 4, with cooked rations for three days. This circular I had copied & sent to the companies of the Regt. I immediately called upon the commissary of the Regt. to know if he could issue, at once, rations for three days. He replied that he had no rations, except flour for one day, that the beef cattle escaped from the Brigade Commissary last night & had not yet been found. He added that the commissary was making efforts to procure bacon. As the Commandant of the Regt., I deem it my duty to state that the men are much fatigued by the constant marches they have recently made & need rest, that, were it possible to issue the rations, at once, it would be impossible for the men, with the limited supply of cooking utensils, to cook them & obtain any rest tonight. This loss of rest, followed by a forced march tomorrow would so exhaust them as to hazard the hard-earned reputation of the Regiment. I make this representation reluctantly & without consultation with any of the officers of the Regt. If it be an error, it is mine, not theirs. The Regt. will move at the appointed hour.

Respectfully- Lawson Botts Lt. Col. Com'd 2nd Rg. Va. Vols.

Capt. Jno [Geo?] F. O'brien A.A.G. 1st Brigade