

# A Guide to the John J. Clarke Papers, 1861-1865 MS.0112

John J. Clarke Civil War papers  
1861-1865



## Title Statement

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

MS.0112

**Unit ID**

/repositories/3/resources/604

**Unit Date**

1861-1865

**Language**

English

**Creator**

Clarke, John J., ?-1889?

**Extent**

12 items

**Physical Location**

Manuscripts stacks

**Repository**

Virginia Military Institute Archives

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

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## Biographical / Historical

Little is known about the personal history of John J. Clarke. His date and place of birth are unknown. During the pre-Civil War years he was employed as a civil engineer. In April 1861, he commissioned as a captain in the Confederate Army Engineer Corps and served as an engineer until the end of the Civil War, rising to the rank of colonel.

By 1864 Clarke was the Chief Engineer for the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. At the War's end, he settled in Georgia, where he was Superintendent of the Georgia Central Railroad. Records indicate that he was living in Savannah in 1868. He died circa 1889 in an accident in New Jersey.

## Scope and Contents

The John J. Clarke Civil War papers consist of documents, including commissions, military orders, correspondence, and dispatches that relate to activities in and around Charleston, South Carolina during the period of 1864 to 1865. One letter (dated February 4, 1865) to Colonel Clarke from Headquarters discusses proposed training of African-American troops in the Confederate States of America Corps of Engineers.

## Keywords

Confederate States of America. Army—Corps of Engineers

Charleston (S.C.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—African Americans

Military commissions

Receipts (financial records)

Correspondence

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

Muster rolls

Dispatches

Orders (military records)

## Online Access

The John J. Clarke Civil War papers are available online.

# Description of Subordinate Components

## **Provisional Army of Virginia commission document**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1676

**Unit Date** 1861 July 8

**Language** English

**Creator** Letcher, John, 1813-1884

### **Scope and Contents**

Commission document by Provisional Army of Virginia that commissions John J. Clarke as a first lieutenant. The document is signed by Governor John Letcher.

### **Keywords**

Military commissions

## **Confederate States Army commission document**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1677

**Unit Date** 1862 February 15

**Language** English

### **Scope and Contents**

Issued by the Confederate States of America War Department. The document appoints John J. Clarke as Captain, Corps of Engineers, Provisional Army Confederate States.

### **Keywords**

Military commissions

Confederate States of America. Army—Corps of Engineers

## **General order**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1678

**Unit Date** 1862 April 14

**Language** English

### **Scope and Contents**

A general order that appoints John J. Clarke as Chief Engineer, Peninsula Department, by order of General John B. Magruder.

### **Keywords**

Orders (military records)

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

## **Dispatch from Robert E. Lee to John J. Clarke**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1679

**Unit Date** 1862 May 8

**Language** English

**Creator** Lee, Robert E. (Robert Edward), 1807-1870

### **Scope and Contents**

Dispatch remarks that "In prosecuting the work of obstructing James River you [John J. Clarke] are authorized to seize for the Confederate States any vessels in the river which you may need....".

### **Keywords**

Dispatches

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

**Dispatch****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1680**Unit Date** 1863 November 27**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Dispatch regards the construction of a bridge.

**Keywords**

Dispatches

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

Correspondence

**Letter from John J. Clarke to J. H. Alexander****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1681**Unit Date** 1864 September 1**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Written from Charleston, South Carolina. Letter requests that "Co. B., 23rd Regiment South Carolina Volunteers, Elliott's Brigade, now serving near Petersburg, be ordered to report to me here, for service on boats supplying Fort Sumter."

**Keywords**

Charleston (S.C.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

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

Correspondence

**Letter from Pierre G. T. Beauregard to John J. Clarke****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1682**Unit Date** 1864 December 9**Language** English**Creator** Beauregard, G. T. (Gustave Toutant), 1818-1893**Scope and Contents**

Written from Savannah, Georgia. Letter thanks John J. Clarke for his gift of a pair of spurs.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

**Letter from Charles Marshall to John J. Clarke****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1683**Unit Date** 1865 February 4**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Letter conveys General Robert E. Lee's opinion about John J. Clarke's plan for training of African-American troops in the Engineer Corps.

**Keywords**

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—African Americans

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

Confederate States of America. Army—Corps of Engineers

Correspondence

Lee, Robert E. (Robert Edward), 1807-1870

**Circular****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1684**Unit Date** 1865 February 15**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Written from from Headquarters, Charleston, South Carolina (Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida). This document is a confidential detailed directive regarding the withdrawal of troops and materials from Charleston, harbor forts, and on the defensive lines.

**Keywords**

Charleston (S.C.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

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

Circular letters

Correspondence

**Roll of engineer officers and acting engineers**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1685

**Unit Date** 1865 March 20

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Document titled "Engineer Officers and Acting Engineers now on duty with Major John McCrady, Acting Chief Engineer."

**Keywords**

Confederate States of America. Army—Corps of Engineers

Muster rolls

**Receipt**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1686

**Unit Date** 1865 March 28

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

A financial receipt for one horse.

**Keywords**

Receipts (financial records)

**Letter to John J. Clarke**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1687

**Unit Date** 1865 April 7

**Language** English

**Scope and Contents**

Written from Chesterville, South Carolina by Captian [Smith?]. Letter regards duty assignments of various officers as well as a surveying and mapping project.

**Keywords**

Correspondence

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