

A Guide to the Michael G. Harman Letters, 1861 MS.0397

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1861

Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

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Unit ID

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Unit Date

1861

Language

English

Creator

Harman, Michael G., 1823-1877

Extent

6 items

Physical Location

Manuscripts stacks

Repository

Virginia Military Institute Archives

Administrative Information

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Biographical / Historical

Michael G. Harman was born in 1823 in Augusta County, Virginia. Prior to the Civil War he operated a stagecoach line and was the proprietor of a hotel. From April 1861 to January 1862 he served as Confederate Quartermaster in Staunton, Virginia. On August 19, 1861 he was elected Lieutenant Colonel of the 52nd Virginia Infantry Regiment and served in a dual capacity until resigning his commission as Quartermaster on January 8, 1862. In May 1862 Harman was elected Colonel of 52nd Virginia, but was wounded and resigned from the Army in June 1863 due to disability. He served served as Quartermaster in Staunton until the end of the Civil War.

After 1865 Harman continued to operate his stage line, hotel, and other businesses. From 1865 to 1866 he was member of the VMI Board of Visitors. He died in 1877 and is buried in Thornrose Cemetery, Staunton.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of the Civil War letters (six items) of Lieutenant Colonel Michael G. Harman, written from Staunton, Virginia where he was Quartermaster. The letters were written primarily to General Henry R. Jackson. The correspondence concerns supplies of corn, clothing, horses, and other items, transportation problems, and other Quartermaster Department problems.

Keywords

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 52nd

Military records

Virginia—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

Confederate States of America. Army—Supplies and stores

Augusta County (Va.)

Correspondence

Jackson, Henry R.

Description of Subordinate Components

Letter to Captain Miller

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1793

Unit Date 1861 July 14

Language English

Scope and Contents

Written from Staunton, Virginia. Letter orders Captain Miller to reinforce General Garnett.

Keywords

Correspondence

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

Transcription

Staunton July 14, 1861 Headquarters Virginia Forces

Capt. Miller, McDowell Volunteers Captain-

You are hereby required to report your command for immediate duty at this post to reinforce Genl. Garnett. Do not fail to get here tomorrow if possible. Despatch is of the first iimportance.

Very respectfully, yours & c M. G. Harman Major Comdg.

Letter to Henry R. Jackson**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/1794**Unit Date** 1861 September 3**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Written from Staunton, Virginia. Letter regards sending wagons and teams, a need for corn and clothing needs. The letter also mentions that 100 Union prisoners have been captured.

Keywords

Correspondence

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Prisoners and prisons

Confederate States of America. Army—Supplies and stores

Transcription

Confederate States of America Head Quarters Forces at Staunton, Va. Sept 3d, 1861 General H. R. Jackson Commanding at Monterey

General- I send out today four (4) horse wagons and two horse wagons & harness, all property which I have directed to be turned over to your command, part of them loaded with corn for Greenbrier River. Do me the favor to write me if it will be necessary to impress additional transportation if I can send you 6 to 8 wagons & teams a[long] belonging to the Confederate States. I desire if you can do so, that you will demit the teams impressed to be returned as fast as I send out state teams to take the place of them. Capt. Hull, Quarter Master at Greenbrier River says his horses are suffering for corn & it cannot be supplied from that county. He also wrote he wanted a large quantity of clothing of various sorts, which I sent to the Quarter Master General. He [answers] me that he has a very small quantity of clothing & that Capt. [Hull] does not make a requisition allowance to support that. It would be well for a regular requisition to be put in for what clothing is required for any portion of your command, as winter is approaching & the [county] you are now in [requiring] comfortable clothing & c. Please tell me & I will get any article that can be had, that is necessary for your command. Maj. Corley [Corly, Corby] being on the other line I must hear from your [company] & [illegible] like to be kept well posted as to your wants. Yours very Respectfully. M. G. Harman. Major Comd.

P.S. We have 100 Yankee prisoners here taken by Genl. Floyd near Gauley Bridge in the fight with Col. Tyler.

Letter to Henry R. Jackson**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/1795**Unit Date** 1861 September 4**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Written from Staunton, Virginia. Letter regards troop movements of the 52nd Virginia Infantry Regiment, Captain Otey's Company (Bedford County, Virginia), and Captain Morrison's Company (Rockbridge County, Virginia).

Keywords

Confederate States of America. Army—Virginia Infantry Regiment, 52nd

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

Correspondence

Transcription

Confederate States of America Head Quarters Forces at Staunton, Va. Sept. 4th, 1861

Genl. H. R. Jackson Commanding at Monterey

General- Your order to Col. Baldwin commanding 52nd Regiment Va. Volunteers was recd & he ahs been pressing to get a portion of the Regiment ready to leave by Friday or Saturday. I write to suggest that if it is not absolutely necessary that a portion of the Regiment should leave here on Friday or Saturday, if you will order the whole Regiment to leave here on Tuesday next. I think I can safely say, you can rely on it that our whole Regiment will be at Monterey on the fourth day after Tuesday next. I think it very desirable all should move together. Please answer by return express. Capt. Otey's Company from Bedford Co. is here. A very fine Co. Number 127 men. Waiting here for 4 pieces of artillery & Major Gorgas informs me he cannot get them for three weeks. Would it not be well to have him join you with his Company armed with muskets & his artillery could follow him. Capt. Morrison's Co. is also here from Rockbridge --it can be ready in a few days. The arms for a portion of our Regiment will reach here on Monday from Richmond. Yours very Respectfully M. G. Harman Major, Comdg.

Letter to Henry R. Jackson**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/1796**Unit Date** 1861 September 17**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Written from Staunton, Virginia. Letter regards the purchase of corn, wagons and teams impressed from local farmers, and transportation problems.

Keywords

Confederate States of America. Army—Supplies and stores

Correspondence

Transcription

Confederate States of America Head Quarters Forces Staunton September 17, 1861 General H. R. Jackson, Commanding Greenbrier River

General, I have purchased some 8000 bushels of corn, knowing your want am sending it forward rapidly, together with company supplies of all sorts. Major Corly [Corby] the quarter Master for the north west being stationed off your line at Hardy [V_] the business in that Department from some cause is badly arranged on the Monterey line, for instance I have sent out thousands of bags with grain & c & not one has ever been returned for supplies. I have again been compelled to commence the impressments of wagons & pledge the farmers that their teams shall only be kept one trip. My object in writing to you direct, is to ask the favor of you to direct the return of all the bags & also all the wagons & teams that can be spared. I will return them immediately with corn & oats for the horses, which you so much need. Col. J. B. Baldwin also wishes grain & c. sent to the Petersburg Line. With your aid I trust I will be able to keep both lines well supplied, but it is a matter of utmost importance that there should be a prompt return of any spare wagon, empty bags & c & c. Teams are of little use when feed cannot be supplied. With great consideration and respect I am, Your Obt. Servt., M. G. Harman. Major Comdg & c.

I have almost exhausted this country in the way of horses & wagons & purchased nearly all that was for sale & impressing the farmer's teams for one trip only. You will do me the favor to see that my promises are complied with & not kept but one trip as this will enable me to make all our people do their part of the transportation. I am very sorry General to trouble your with these matters, but I am unable to manage the transportation without your assistance. I sent out yesterday 25 wagons & today 26 wagons loaded with corn and company supplies

Letter to Henry R. Jackson**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/1797**Unit Date** 1861 October 10**Language** English**Scope and Contents**

Written from Staunton, Virginia. Letter regards sending teams and organizational problems.

Keywords

Correspondence

Confederate States of America. Army—Supplies and stores

Transcription

Confederate States of America Head Quarters Forces at Staunton, Va. October 10, 1861

Genl. H. R. Jackson Commanding on Monterey Line

General- Your letter by yesterday's express came to hand, & I have ordered & designated 13 four horse wagons & teams & two (two) horse teams & wagons to be turned over to do the transportation from Monterey to Greenbrier River. Would it not be well to take only 10 of these teams for the present until a good stock of grain & hay can be gotten out, or whenever you can spare the train let the whole train come in for a load of grain & hay.

You may depend upon it General that the Quarter Masters Department in the North West never can be managed with system & regularity until first rate business & experienced men are commissioned & placed at the important points on the line, & when commissioning they give security. Money can be drawn by them & many supplies purchased. Whereas when men are only occupying the place of assistants they are powerless & they probably never see their principal once in two months. Unless this Department is thoroughly organized on the different lines the Army must suffer greatly in the coming winter. You can judge of it by what your division has already suffered. I know you have enough to do without attending to these details.

I expect to join my regiment in 8 or 10 days & hope to get the Department in working order in your line before I left. I hope you will write a letter to the Secretary of War on the subject. I have placed Capt. Funkhouser on the road in charge of the Pony Express line & Capt Mason in charge of the repairs to the road, and a good business man is needed in the Quarter Masters Dept at Monterey whose duty should be to purchase all the supplies of forage & c & also see to the proper management of the wagons, horses & c, and also to have repair shops, blacksmith & wood shops at that point. I have written [illegible] my views & I recd. a letter from General Lee yesterday which I enclosed to the Secretary of War stating the great difficulty about transportation on that line. I have urged this most important matter upon the War Department & if you concur with me hope you will urge it also. Would it not be well to have a commissioned Quarter Master at Greenbrier River also. I am very respectfully M. G. Harman, Major Commanding

P.S. J. Whitmore the wagon master in charge of the train of 15 wagons [turned] over [cars] [illegible] with the trains. & if you should order it in for corn & hay he is acquainted with this country.

Letter to Henry R. Jackson

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/1798

Unit Date 1861 October 20

Language English

Scope and Contents

Written from Staunton, Virginia. Letter regards a problem with horses unfit for service, and too many men in the hospital in Staunton.

Keywords

Confederate States of America. Army—Supplies and stores
Correspondence

Transcription

Confederate States of America Head Quarters Forces at Staunton, Va. October 20th, 1861

Genl. H. R. Jackson Commanding on Monterey Line Greenbrier River

General- Your letter in regard to horses unfit for service is at hand. When I wrote to you in regard to them I understood many horses were turned out as unfit for use. If the number that ought to be changed can be reported to me I will send out horses to take the places of those unfit for service.

On Thursday last I sent 7 loads of corn (4 horse) to Monterey. This morning 4 four horse loads of corn & Saturday 7 two horse wagons of Capt. Miller's [Battery] with corn & tomorrow morning I start twenty four horse wagon loads of corn & 10 loads of clothing marked to Maj. J. L. Corley. I write to Capt. P. B. Hoge the Quarter master at Monterey if you desire it & direct him to do so although the corn is invoiced to Monterey to send it through without unloading to Greenbrier River. Col. Scott who is now in my office says he does not think 20 loads of corn can be stored at Greenbrier River. Please advise Capt. Hoge what you wish done by express.

Yesterday a train of wagons loaded with corn was started from the county of Rockingham to Monterey. It is most important the bags should be returned to us & for that reason if there is not room to store the corn at the River I wish it stopped at Monterey. I hope you will not think me troublesome in writing to you about these details, but there has been so much mismanagement I think it is best to communicate with you direct until I get all in good order.

There are now 1000 men in the Hospital here and it is too much crowded. Surgeon Boatwright informs me he has 250 men on the road to this place. I have recommended to the Surgeon General to authorize me to contract for the use of the Rockbridge Baths 9 miles from the Central Rail Road & will accommodate 300, and also to contract for Stribling Springs provided we need them & I feel confident we will need both in less than 10 days. Very Respectfully Your Obedient Servant M. G. Harman Lt. Colonel, Comdg. & c.