

Ould, Robert Letters to Nathaniel Beverley Tucker

Robert Ould Letters to Nathaniel Beverley Tucker

1868, 1877



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Title Statement

Ould, Robert Letters to Nathaniel Beverley Tucker Guide to the Robert Ould Letters to Nathaniel Beverley Tucker SC 00677

Author: Finding Aid Authors: Anne Johnson.

Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections Research Center

William & Mary Special Collections Research Center
Earl Gregg Swem Library
400 Landrum Dr
Williamsburg, Virginia
Business Number: 757-221-3090
spcoll@wm.edu
URL: <https://libraries.wm.edu/libraries-spaces/special-collections>



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2009-09-10

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Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-05-15 12:42:08 -0400.

Language Usage: The collection description/finding aid is written in English

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Unit ID

SC 00677

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/4755

Unit Date

1868, 1877

Language

English

Extent

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Special Collections Research Center

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Preferred Citation:

Robert Ould Letters to Nathaniel Beverley Tucker , Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary

Biographical Information:

Robert Ould, chief of the bureau of exchange, was born January 31, 1820, at Georgetown, D.C. After a course of study in Jefferson college, Pennsylvania, he was graduated in letters at Columbia college, Washington, D.C., in 1837, and in law at William and Mary college, in 1842. Subsequently he practiced the profession of law at Washington until 1861. Notable events in his antebellum legal career were his service on the commission under President Pierce for the codification of the District laws, and his appointment to the District attorneyship, in which office one of his first duties was the prosecution of Daniel E. Sickles for the killing of Philip Barton Key. He held the office of District attorney until after the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln, when he went with his family to Virginia. In 1861 he was appointed assistant secretary of war of the Confederate States, a post he held during Mr. Benjamin's tenure of that portfolio. Under the cartel of exchange of prisoners of war, arranged by Generals Dix and Hill, in July, 1862, Mr. Ould was appointed agent of exchange on behalf of the Confederacy, and in this position, which he held during the continuance of hostilities, he earned the respect of all parties by his earnest and humane efforts to effect the exchange of brave and suffering prisoners, and his careful attention to all the details of his office. At Appomattox he tendered his parole to General Grant, who declined to treat him as a prisoner, not regarding an officer of exchange as liable to capture, and sent him under safeguard to Richmond. He was subsequently imprisoned by order of Secretary Stanton, indicted for treason and tried by a military commission, which was compelled under the law to acquit him. He then resumed the practice of law at Richmond, Va.

Confederate Military History

Further information about this individual or organization may be available in the Special Collections Research Center Wiki: http://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/Robert_Ould.

Scope and Contents

Two letters from Robert Ould to Nathaniel Beverley Tucker.

The 1868 letter, written from Richmond, Virginia, is four pages and refers to the punishment being meted out to Southern rebels, especially Jefferson Davis. (Ould was the Confederate chief of the Bureau of the Exchange of Prisoners.)

The 1877 letter is two pages and concerns Ould's son who was on trial for a shooting. Ould attended the proceedings.

Keywords

Letters (correspondence)

Niagara Falls

United States--Description and travel

Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Constitutional law--United States.

Practice of law--Virginia--History--19th century

Prisoners of war--Legal status, laws, etc.--United States

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

United States. Constitution.

Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889

Description of Subordinate Components

Small Collections Box 26

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/258933

Mixed Materials Small Collections Box 26 (Box)

Language English

Letters

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/251824

Unit Date 1868, 1877

Mixed Materials Small Collections Box 26 (Box)

Container 1 (folder)