

CHARLES W. BOOTHBY PAPERS

(Mss. 4847)

Inventory

by
Luana Henderson

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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CONTENTS OF INVENTORY

SUMMARY	3
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE	4
SCOPE AND CONTENT.....	5
LIST OF SUBGROUPS AND SERIES	6
SUBGROUPS AND SERIES DESCRIPTIONS.....	7
INDEX TERMS.....	9
CONTAINER LIST	10
GUIDE TO COLLECTION MICROFILM.....	11
APPENDIX A.....	12

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SUMMARY

Size.	1.3 linear ft., 3 v.
Geographic locations.	Louisiana (especially New Orleans), Mississippi, Maine, Alabama.
Inclusive dates.	1858-1898.
Bulk dates.	1861-1874.
Language.	English.
Summary.	Correspondence, military orders and quartermaster's records reflect Civil War and postwar New Orleans. Civil War papers document personal experiences, military engagements, African American soldiers, and political activity. They also document maritime operations on Lake Pontchartrain. Reconstruction papers reflect the local and national political environment.
Restrictions on access.	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials in this collection has expired, and they are therefore in the public domain.
Citation.	Charles W. Boothby Papers, Mss. 4847, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
Stack locations.	U:308-309, OS:B, Mf.: B

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Charles W. Boothby was born July 18, 1837, to Benjamin Boothby and Catherine Harmon Boothby. A native of Saco, Maine, Boothby enlisted as a 1st lieutenant in the 12th Maine Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Company C. in 1861. He first went to Ship Island where he stayed for several months. He then went on to New Orleans in May 1862, as private secretary to General George Shepley and served on the staff of General Benjamin Butler. He was later given the duty of transporting troops and supplies between the New Orleans and Army headquarters at Lakeport, La. In 1864, under the command of General Nathaniel Banks, Boothby was promoted to captain and given command of Company D of the 1st Louisiana Regiment New Orleans Infantry. This unit organized in New Orleans on March 6, 1864, for the defense of New Orleans and the District of La Fourche, and was stationed at Donaldsonville, La. from November 1864 until June 1865. The unit mustered out in May 1866.

Boothby remained in New Orleans after the war and worked as a customs official and superintendent of education for New Orleans. He contracted yellow fever in 1866, but made full recovery. He participated in local politics and in 1900 represented New Orleans, 1st District at the Republican National Convention. Charles Boothby married Celia O'Neal, a native of Louisiana, in 1868. They had eight children: Arthur H., Willis N., May C., Benjamin C., Florence E., Harmon A., Ernest G. and Lutie. Charles Boothby passed away on May 15, 1908, in New Orleans, La.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection consists of personal papers and military records kept by Captain Charles W. Boothby, and document the Civil War and postwar periods in New Orleans. Civil War papers document personal experiences, military engagements, and political activity. They also document maritime operations on Lake Pontchartrain. Reconstruction papers reflect the local and national political environment.

Personal papers consist primarily of family correspondence. The letters of Charles Boothby comprise a major portion of this group and narrate his experiences and observations, military engagements and political events of the Civil War and Reconstruction era in New Orleans.

Military records contain orders, correspondence, quartermaster reports, and military records document the operations of the 1st New Orleans Infantry Regiment, Company D. (1864-1866).

Note: Some items are available on microfilm. See appendix A for those items that are not available on microfilm.

LIST OF SUBGROUPS AND SERIES

Subgroup 1. Personal Papers, 1858-1898.
Series I. Correspondence, 1858-1898.
Series II. Miscellaneous Items, 1879, 1886, 1888, undated.

Subgroup 2. Military Records, 1862-1866.
Series I. Military Orders, 1862-1866.
Series II. Official Documents, 1862-1866.

SUBGROUPS AND SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Subgroup 1. Personal Papers, 1858-1898.

Series I. Correspondence, 1858-1898.

Personal papers are comprised primarily of correspondence written by Charles W. Boothby. His earliest letter describes his first position as a teacher in Pownal, Vt. (Jan. 6, 1858), but the majority of his letters recounts personal experiences and observations during the Civil War, Reconstruction, and latter part of the 19th century. His Civil War letters reflect the national political environment, military operations, and living conditions. They relate the capture of New Orleans (May 21, 1862) and its occupation, movement of troops in Louisiana, Mississippi (April 15, 1862) and Alabama (March 23, 1865). Boothby reports on military campaigns and engagements including Burnside's Expedition (Jan. 17, 1862), the Red River Campaign (May 21, 1864), and a military engagement at Ponchatoula under the command of Major George Strong (letter to Lizzi, Sept. 19, 1862). His letters also refer to Generals Nathaniel Banks and Benjamin Butler. Among them are his criticism of Banks' campaign (May 21, 1864), the raising of two regiments by Banks for the defense of New Orleans (Jan. 16, 1864), and a reference to Butler as being "universally detested" (undated). He comments on the conscription of southern men ages 18-50 years (undated), Confederate guerrillas pillaging from the inhabitants (undated), and the presence of 80 confederate deserters in camp (undated). Additionally, Boothby reports on the organization of two African-American regiments (Jan. 15, 1863), the execution of African-American soldiers (Mar. 25, 1866), Confederate and Union deserters, military pay, and prisoners' exchange (Jan. 15, 1863). He tells of the unhealthy living conditions on board the *Constitution* (Jan. 20, 1862), transporting wounded soldiers on the *Whitehead* (Aug. 9, 1862) and the destruction of the *Mississippi* (April 6, 1865). He relates the final days of the war (April 13, 1865) and the surrender of Robert E. Lee (April 18, 1865).

Boothby often discusses the political situation in the country. In two that he addressed to the President of the U. S., he criticizes the Democratic Party and Stephen Douglas for not taking a strong stance against slavery (undated). Washington (?) Jenkins, in a letter to Boothby, expresses his endorsement of the Democratic Party and sympathy for the secessionists, while condemning the Republican Party and war (June 29, 1861).

Letters also describe New Orleans and vicinity, Ship Island (April 9, 1862), and Fort Monroe (undated). Boothby describes St. Louis Cathedral and the people within on Easter (April 6, 1865) and Mardi Gras festivities (Feb. 11, 1864). He gives a description of Lafayette Square during the inauguration of Michael Hahn. Boothby also comments on African-Americans, including reference to education (March 15, 1865). He relates public reaction to the Emancipation Proclamation (May 20, 1863). In the same letter, he reports that General Banks has ordered all individuals who refuse to take a loyalty oath to leave the protection of the U. S. Department of the Gulf and return to the Confederacy. In addition, Boothby speaks of Northern speculators seizing crops in abandoned fields

(Nov. 3, 1862) and of lucrative business opportunities available in New Orleans after the war (July 16, 1863).

Reconstruction and late 19th century letters reflect the local and national political environment. Boothby relates the killing of freedmen by “rioters” (April 18, 1873), gives a detailed account of the Battle of Liberty Place describing the actions of the White League and the intimidation of African-Americans to prevent voter registration (Sept. 25, 1874). He sharply criticizes the policies of President Rutherford Hayes (April 18, 1877). Letters also refer to outbreaks of yellow fever in New Orleans. In a letter to Boothby’s mother, Celia O’Neal details Charles Boothby’s battle with the disease (Sept. 11, 1867). Letters of other correspondents relate mostly to news of personal, social or business matters, and include several by Boothby’s wife, Celia, to other family members.

Series II. Miscellaneous items, 1879, 1886, 1888, undated.

A photocopy of a Civil War photograph of Charles Boothby (undated), a carte-de-visite of an unidentified child (undated), promissory note to George Boothby for \$25.00 (Oct. 17 1879), a poem by Lizzie Boothby (186?), an announcement for the *Graded School for Boys* (1886), and a U. S. postal receipt (Feb. 10, 1888) comprise miscellaneous items.

Subgroup 2. Military Records, 1862-1866.

Series I. Military Orders, 1862-1866.

General orders, special orders, regimental orders and circulars from of the United States Army, Dept. of the Gulf and the Dept. of Louisiana headquarters stating procedures pertaining to all aspects of the military life including appointments, prisoners, prohibition of alcoholic beverages among the troops, supplies, and equipment, treatment of civilians and property, and loyalty oaths. Orders contain the proceedings to disciplinary hearings and courts martial, which were issued from Ship Island from March to April 1862. Orders also include Benjamin Butler’s farewell address (General Order no. 106, Dec. 15, 1862) as well as Nathaniel Bank’s December 25, 1862 proclamation announcing his command of the Department of the Gulf.

Series II. Official Documents, 1862-1866.

Official documents are comprised of correspondence, accounts, and personnel lists. Correspondence pertains to the affairs of regiment and Company D. Lists provide the names and rank soldiers hospitalized at the U. S. General Hospital at New Orleans (Aug. 1, Sept. 1, 1864), new recruits (March 15, 1864, June, Sept. 1865) and men who re-enlisted (June 30, Sept. 30, 1865). Volunteer descriptive lists show the pay and disbursement of clothing to men (1864-1865). Detail instructions for naval patrols (undated). The account book records stock and disbursement of supplies, v. 1 (1865-1866). Several pages of have later chromolithographic cards pasted over the original entries. The volume also contains later household accounts and anonymous diary entries (1876-1877). A daybook with diary entries, v. 2, documents the departure and arrival of steamships on Lake Pontchartrain, including the *Creole*, *Natchez*, *J. M. Brown*, and the *Gray Cloud*, *Whiteman* (1862-1863). It provides coal accounts for steamships. Later newspaper clippings overlay several pages (ca. 1880).

INDEX TERMS

Terms	Subgroup, Series
Banks, Nathaniel Prentiss, 1816-1894.	1.I, 2.I
Burnside's Expedition.	1.I
Butler, Benjamin F. (Benjamin Franklin), 1818-1893.	1.I, 2.I
Carnival--Louisiana--New Orleans.	1.I
Cartes-de- visite.	1.II
Constitution (Steamer)	1.I
Creole (Steamer)	2.II
Education--Vermont.	1.I
Emancipation--Slaves.	1.1
Fort Monroe (Va.)--History.	1.I
Freedmen--Louisiana.	1.I
Graded School for Boys.	1.II
Gray Cloud (Steamer)	2.II
J. M. Brown (Steamer)	2.II
Louisiana--Politics and government--1865-1950.	1.I
Loyalty oaths--United States.	1.I, 2.I
Military discipline--United States--19 th century.	1.I, 2.1
Military hospitals--Louisiana--New Orleans.	2.II
Military orders.	2.I
Mississippi (Steamer).	1.I
Natchez (Steamer)	2.II
New Orleans (La.)--Description and travel.	1.I
New Orleans (La.)--Social life and customs.	1.I
Reconstruction--Louisiana.	1.I
Red River Expedition, 1864	1.I
Ship Island (Miss.)--History.	1.I, 2.I
Slavery.	1.I, 2.1
Strong, George Templeton, 1820-1875.	1.I, 2.1
United States--Army--Louisiana Infantry Regiment, 1 st (1864-1866).	1.I, 2.I-II
United States--Army--Supplies and stores.	1.I, 2.1-II
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.	1.I-2.II
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Naval operations.	2.11
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Participation, African American.	1.I
United States--Politics and government--19 th century.	1.I
United States--Politics and government--Civil War, 1861-1865.	1.I
White League (La.).	1.I
Whiteman (Steamer).	1.I, 2.II
Yellow fever--Louisiana--New Orleans.	1.I

CONTAINER LIST

Stack Location	Box	Folders	Contents
Subgroup 1. Personal Papers, 1858-1898.			
Series I. Correspondence, 1858-1898.			
U:308	1	1-16	Correspondence, 1858-1870.
	2	1-10	Correspondence, 1871-1898.
Series II. Miscellaneous Items, 1879, 1886, 1888, undated.			
U:308	2	11-12	Photocopy of Civil War photograph, undated; carte-de-visite, undated; promissory note, 1879; poem, 186?; announcement, 1886; U. S. postal receipt, 1888.
Subgroup 2. Military Records, 1862-1866.			
Series I. Military orders, 1862-1866.			
U:308	3	1-16	Orders, 1862-1865.
U:309	4	1-4	Orders, 1866.
Series II. Official Documents, 1862-1866.			
U:309	4	5-12	Correspondence, disbursement reports and records, 1864-1866.
OS:B		1	Voucher no. 3, 1863; lists of deserters, April 26, 1864, Oct. 3, 1865, and recruits, volunteers, re-enlisted, 1864-1866.
O:32		v. 1	Account book, 1865-1866, 1876-1877.
		v. 2	Daybook, 1862-1863, ca. 1880.
		v. 3	<i>Infantry Tactics, for the Instruction, Exercise, and Maneuvers for the Soldier ...</i> , 1862.
Mss. Mf.: B		Reels 1-2	See Appendix A for a list of items not available on microfilm.

GUIDE TO COLLECTION MICROFILM

- Reel 1 Subgroup 1, Series I. Correspondence.
 Subgroup 1, Series II. Miscellaneous Items
- Reel 2 Subgroup 2, Series I. Military Orders
 Subgroup 2, Series II. Company D Military Records [Official
 Documents]
 Oversize material (1864-1865)

APPENDIX A

Items not available on microfilm.

Subgroup 2. Military records, 1862-1866.
Series I. Military orders.

Special orders:

No. 1, Jan. 2, 1866.
No. 2, May 2, 1866.
No. 6, Jan. 6, 1866.
No. 8, Jan. 10, 1866.
No. 10, May, 1865
(handwritten).
No. 10, Jan. 12, 1866.
No. 11, Jan. 13, 1866.
No. 13, Aug. 1865.
No. 26, Jan. 30, 1866.
No. 35, Feb. 10, 1866.
No. 46, Feb. 23, 1866.
No. 52, March 1, 1866.
No. 55, March 5, 1866.
No. 63, March 19, 1866.
No. 65, Sept. 28, 1865.
No. 80, April 9, 1866.
No. 88, April 1, 1865.
No. 111, May 17, 1866.
No. 112, May 18, 1866.
No. 113, May 19, 1866.
No. 114, May 21, 1866.
No. 114, May 24, 1866.
No. 119, May 31, 1866.
No. 120, June 1, 1866.
No. 238, Aug. 14, 1865.
No. 239, Aug. 15, 1865.
No. 240, Aug. 16, 1865.
No. 247, Aug. 23, 1865.
No. 27, Sept. 5, 1864
(handwritten).
No. 293, Nov. 30, 1864.
No. 294, Oct. 14, 1865.
No. 311, Dec. 20, 1864.
No. 346, Dec. 19, 1865.
No. 659, Dec. 29, 1865.

--March 24, 1865

(handwritten).
--March 28, 1865
(handwritten).
--April 26, 1865
(handwritten).
--May 27, 1865
(handwritten).
--May 29, 1865
(handwritten).
--March 3, 1866
(handwritten).
--April 22, 1866
(handwritten).

Regimental orders:

No. 1, Jan. 7, 1866.
No. 24, May 23, 1866.
No. 25, May 30, 1866.

General orders:

No. 1, April 21, 1866.
No. 2, March 20, 1862.
No. 3, July 19, 1865 reprint
of No. 122, July 8, 1865.
No. 13, May 1, 1862.
No. 17, May 2, 1862.
No. 18, May 3, 1862.
No. 21, April 18, 1866.
No. 23, March 13, 1866.
No. 24, May 10, 1862.
No. 35, April 21, 1866.
No. 37, April 24, 1866.
No. 41, May 10, 1866.
No. 42, May 12, 1866.
No. 61, Aug. 20, 1862.
No. 73, Sept. 18, 1862.
No. 85, Nov. 12, 1862.
No. 101, Nov. 25, 1862.
No. 103, Dec. 3, 1862.
No. 105, Dec. 9, 1862.
No. 106, Dec. 15, 1862.
No. 107, Dec. 17, 1862.
No. 108, Dec. 16, 1862.
No. 109, Dec. 16, 1862.
No. 110, Dec. 17, 1862.
No. 111, Dec. 17, 1862.
No. 112, Dec. 18, 1862.
No. 114, Dec 21, 1862.
No. 115, Dec. 23, 1862.
No. 116, Dec. 24, 1862.
No. 117, Dec. 24, 1862.
No. 118, Dec. 24, 1862.
No. 120, Dec. 26, 1862.

APPENDIX A. (cont.)

Subgroup 2. Military records, 1862-1866.
Series II. Official Documents, 1862, 1864-1866.

Instructions for specific duties:

Instructions for maritime patrol July 21,
1864, Aug. 13, 1864, undated.
Limited use of boat no. 46 Aug. 18, 1864.
Guards and pickets, undated.

Correspondence:

July 8, 1864.
Dec. 6, 1864.
Feb. 7, 1864.
Feb. 7, 1864.
Feb. 16, 1865.
March 29, 1865.
June 4, 1865.
June 5, 1865.
July 1, 1865.
Feb. 12, 1866.
Jan. 10, 1866.
Jan. 10, 1866.
April 13, 1866.
May 2, 1866.
May 24, 1866

Printed items:

Leave Pope to Get Out of His Scrape.
McClellan's Dispatches, 1864.
Four pages of court martial testimony,
1862.
Circular no. 2, Aug. 29, 1865.
v. 3 *Infantry Tactics, for the Instruction,*
Exercise, and Maneuvers for the Soldier
..., 1862.

General documents:

Abstract no. 1 (invoice of ordnance
stores...) March 31, 1865.
Abstract no. 2 (invoice, Aug. 31, 1865).
Abstract no. 3 (May 31, 1866).
Abstract of expenditures, 2nd quarter
1866.
Abstract of Ordnance stores ... May
31, 1866.
Descriptive list and account of pay and
clothing, Aug. 1864, Oct.-Dec. 1865,
Jan. 1866.
Descriptive lists of deserters, April 26,
1864, Oct. 3, 1865.
Final statements of privates John W.
Axton, Oct. 11, 1864 and Jackson Bell,
Oct. 23, 1864.
Model for set of papers for a deceased
soldier, undated.
Monthly report of return of clothing,
camp and garrison equipage, Nov.
1864.
Muster out document, May 8, 1864.
Muster-out roll of David E. Emmons,
May 8, 1866.
Muster-out roll of Mason Henry, Feb.
27, 1866.
Quarterly return of deceased soldiers,
1st 1865.
Quarterly return of ordnance and
ordnance stores, 2nd quarter, June 30,
1866.
Quartermaster reports, June 23, Nov.
161864.
Voucher no. 1, May 29, 1866.
Voucher no. 3, Sept. 30, 1863.
v. 1. Account book, 1865-1866, 1876-
1877.
v. 2 Daybook, 1862-1863, ca. 1880.