

CHARLES W. BOOTHBY PAPERS

(Mss. 4847)

Inventory

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

(2003)

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Summary

Size. 11linear ft.

Geographic locations. Louisiana (especially New Orleans), Mississippi, Maine, Alabama.

Inclusive dates. 1858-1898.

Bulk dates. 1861-1874.

Languages. English.

Summary. Personal correspondence, military orders and quartermaster's records from Charles W. Boothby's service in the U.S. Army during the Civil War in New Orleans and his post-bellum political activities.

Access. No restrictions.

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Citation. Charles W. Boothby Papers, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Stack

Designations. T:19, OS:B

Biographical/Historical Note

Charles W. Boothby was born July 18, 1837, to Benjamin Boothby and Catherine Harmon Boothby. A native of Saco, Maine, he served in the 12th Regiment, Maine Volunteers early in the Civil War. He later held the rank of captain, commanding Company D of the 1st Louisiana Regiment, New Orleans Infantry. This unit was organized at New Orleans, March 6, 1864, for the defense of New Orleans and the District of La Fourche and was mustered out May 1866. Charles Boothby remained in New Orleans after the war working as a customs official and Superintendent of Education for New Orleans. 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 and together they had seven children, Willis, May, Benjamin, Florence, Arthur, Ernest, and Lutie.

Scope and content

The papers are divided in two subgroups

Subgroup 1. Personal papers (1858-1898) consist primarily of personal correspondence written by Charles Boothby and family members. Charles Boothby's letters comprise a major portion of this subgroup, documenting his personal experiences, military engagements and political events during the Civil War and Reconstruction era.

Subgroup 2. Military records (1862-1866) contain military orders of the Dept. of the Gulf of the United States Army (1862-1866) and military records of Company D, 1st New Orleans Infantry Regiment (1864-1866).

Subgroups and Series Descriptions

Subgroup 1. Personal papers, 1858-1898 (0.6 linear ft.)

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 make several references 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" (n.d.). He comments on the conscription of southern men ages 18-50 years (n.d.), Confederate guerrillas pillaging from the inhabitants (n.d.), and the presence of 80 confederate deserters in camp (n.d.). 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, and in two letters addressed to "Mr. President" he criticizes the Democratic Party and Stephen Douglas for not taking a strong stance against slavery (n.d.). 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 (n.d.). Boothby depicts 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. Several references are made to African-Americans, including schools for them (March 15, 1865), and the hostility expressed by the white southerners. He relates public's reaction to the Emancipation Proclamation (May 20, 1863) and General Banks' order that individuals who refuse to

take a loyalty oath to the United States must leave the Confederacy (May 20, 1863). 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.

II. Miscellaneous items, 1879, 1886, 1888, n.d.

A non-photographic image of Charles Boothby as an older man (n.d.), a carte-de-visite of an unidentified child (n.d.), promissory note to George Boothby for \$25.00 (Oct. 17 1879), a poem by Lizzie Boothby (ca.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 (0.4 linear ft.)

I. Military orders, 1862-1866

General orders and circulars from of the United States Army, Department of the Gulf 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 loyalty oaths. Orders also contain the proceedings to disciplinary hearings and courts martial.

II. Company D military records, 1864-1866

Records of the 1st Louisiana Regiment, New Orleans Infantry, Co. D (1864-1866) contain correspondence and hospital lists (Aug. 1, Sept. 1, 1864) related to the military personnel hospitalized at the U. S. General Hospital at New Orleans; a letter reporting the mustering out of Private Giles Jones (May 25, 1865); reports and records pertaining to clothing and equipage disbursements, including a list of recruits who received clothing (March 1864), "list of men joined" (June, Sept.1865) and volunteer descriptive lists (1864-1865).

Index Terms

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 visites	1.II
Constitution (Steamer)	1.I
Emancipation--Slaves	1.1
Education--Vermont	1.I
Fort Monroe (Va.)--History	1.I
Freedmen--Louisiana	1.I
Graded School for Boys	1.II
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Louisiana--Politics and government--1865-1950	1.I
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United States--Army--Supplies and stores	1.I, 2.I
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns	1.I
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Destruction and pillage	1.I
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Participation, Afro-American	1.I, 2.I
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Prisoners and prisons	1.I, 2.I
United States--Politics and government--19th century	1.I
United States--Politics and government--Civil War, 1861-1865	1.I
White League (La.)	1.I
Whiteman (Steamer)	1.I
Yellow fever--Louisiana--New Orleans	1.I

Container List

Subgroup 1. Personal papers, 1861-1898

Stack Location	Box	Folders	Description
T:19	1	1-16	Series I. Correspondence Correspondence, 1861-1870.
	2	1-10	
T:19	2	11-12	Series II. Miscellaneous items Carte-de-visite, n.d.; promissory note, 1879; poem, ca.186?; announcement, 1886; U. S. postal receipt, 1888.

Subgroup 2. Military records, 1862-1866

Stack Location	Box	Folders	Description
T:19	3	1-12	Series I. Military orders General orders and circulars, 1862-1866.
	3	13-15	Series II. Company D military records Correspondence, disbursement reports and records, 1864-1866.
OS:B		1	List of men joined, 1865; volunteer descriptive lists, 1864-1865; list of recruits, 1864.

Guide to Collection Microfilm

- Reel 1 Subgroup 1, Series I. Correspondence.
 Box 1, Folder 1-16 (1861-1870)
 Box 2, Folders 1-10 (1871-1898)
 Subgroup 1, Series II. Miscellaneous Items
 Box 2, Folders 11-12 (186?, 1879, 1886, 1888)
- Reel 2 Subgroup 2, Series I. Military Orders
 Box 3, Folders 1-12 (1862-1866)
 Subgroup 2, Series II. Company D Military Records
 Box 3, Folders 13-15 (1864-1866)
 Oversize Folder 1 (1864-1865)