

P. D. STEPHENSON PAPERS
(Mss. 2482, 2657)
Inventory

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
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Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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Proper acknowledgement of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

SUMMARY

Size.	43 items and 11 manuscript volumes
Geographic locations.	Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Missouri
Inclusive dates.	1861-1865, 1897-1903, undated
Bulk dates.	1861-1865
Language.	English.
Summary.	Memoirs, papers, and diary of P. D. Stephenson, Presbyterian minister of Virginia who served in the Confederate Army, concerning certain campaigns of the Civil War.
Restrictions on access.	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
Related collections.	N/A
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	P. D. Stephenson Memoirs, Mss. 2482, 2657, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Stack locations.	E:53, G:21, Mss.MF:S

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Philip Daingerfield Stephenson was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1845 and served as a private in the Confederate Army, Missouri Brigade of Tennessee. After the war, he attended Union Seminary in Virginia and became a Presbyterian minister in 1875. He died in 1916.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

A diary (Apr. 11-Aug. 31, 1862) records Stephenson's experiences during the Union invasion and occupation of Huntsville, Alabama. It describes the treatment of civilians by occupation forces and public reaction to the occupation. The diary contains clippings, poetry, scrapbook materials, and ephemera related to the Civil War. Stephenson's memoirs chiefly relate his experiences as a private in the Confederate army (1861-1865), and are based on diaries he kept during the war and letters he wrote to his family. He describes the defense and evacuation of Corinth, Mississippi; the Chattanooga campaign; the Dalton campaign; and the battles of Atlanta, Franklin, Nashville, and Mobile. Comments on officers and men of the Confederate forces, camp life, Southern civilian patriotism and suffering, and the medical treatment of wounded and ill soldiers are also provided.

Also included are some correspondence, various notes, printed advertisements and prayer cards, an almanac (1903), newspaper clippings, photographs of Stephenson (undated), a photocopy of printed reminiscences of Jennie Friend Stephenson, P. D. Stephenson's wife, which contains her comments on plantation life and experiences during the Civil War (1897), and Stephenson's obituary (1916).

Manuscript volumes are available on microfilm.

DESCRIPTION OF VOLUMES

Volumes 1-8 "My War Autobiography"

Stephenson's memoirs of his experiences as a private soldier in the Confederate Army from 1861-1865, based on diaries which he kept during the war, letters written to his family, and his memories. These volumes were written between 1896 and 1901.

Volume 1. May 10, 1861, to May 30, 1862

Describes the capture of Camp Jackson, St. Louis, Missouri, by local troops under U. S. Army command; Secessionist sympathies in Camp Jackson and in St. Louis; the "Camp Jackson Massacre" and the reaction of the state of Missouri to the massacre; public reaction of the state of Missouri to the beginning of the Civil War; Stephenson's enlistment in the Confederate army; camp at Fort Pillow, north of Memphis, Tenn., and the men in his company; the Battle of Belmont, opposite Columbus, Kentucky, Nov. 7, 1861; camp life at Columbus, Kentucky, winter of 1861-1862; the defense and evacuation of Columbus; camp life at Corinth, Mississippi; description of Albert Sidney Johnston (pp. 80-82); Battle of Shiloh, Apr. 6-7, 1862; description of P. G. T. Beauregard (p. 87); evacuation of Corinth.

Volume 2. May 30, 1862-March, 1864

Describes retreat from Corinth; stay in hospital at Tunnel Hill, Georgia; arrival in Chattanooga, Oct. 16-Mar., 1863; Battle of Murfreesboro, Dec.-Jan., 1862-3; Battle of Liberty Gap, summer, 1863; supply problems; evacuation of Chattanooga; Battles of Chickamauga, "The Canebrake," Missionary Ridge; demoralization of the troops after Chickamauga; Battle of Ringgold Gap, Georgia, Nov. 27, 1863; return to Tunnel Hill, Georgia, Dec., 1863-1864; Southern patriotism.

Volume 3. Spring 1864

Describes encampment at Dalton, Georgia; organization of an artillery battery; social lines within the army; the "Grand Review" or "Mock Battle" staged by Confederate troops at this time; Johnston's Dalton Campaign; death of General Leonidas Polk (pp. 115-125).

Volume 4. July-Aug., 1864

Describes Johnston's Dalton campaign, July, 1864; dismissal of Johnston and his reinstatement; personalities and activities of Hood, Hardee, Alex Stewart, Stephen D. Lee; defense of Atlanta, July-Aug., 1864.

Volume 5. Sept. 1-Nov. 1, 1864

Describes evacuation of Atlanta; Battle of Jonesboro, Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 1864; retreat from Atlanta to Decatur.

Volume 6. Nov. 1864-Dec. 10, 1864

Describes personality and abilities of Lt. Gen. N. B. Forrest; movement of troops to Tennessee; Battle of Franklin; march to Nashville; second battle of Murfreesboro ("Bate's Battle").

Volume 7. Dec. 10, 1864

Describes Battle of Nashville.

Volume 8. Dec., 1864-June, 1865

Describes movement of troops to Columbus, Mississippi; defenses of Mobile; Battle of Mobile; end of slavery and effect of freedom on former slaves.

Volumes 9-10

“Personal reminiscences of the chief officers of the Army of Tennessee, as it was during its most perfect organization, its greatest glory, its severest trials, its principal disasters; or a private’s recollections of those who gave it, its greatest renown, and those who gave it, its greatest shame. A narrative of its greatest last campaign and final dissolution.”

Volume 9. June-Sept. 1865

Describes General Joseph E. Johnston (pp. 1-47); Lt. General Leonidas Polk (pp. 48-50); Lt. General William J. Hardee (pp. 51-62); Lt. General John B. Hood (pp. 63-144).

Volume 10. June-Sept. 1865

Describes the Battle of Franklin and the last struggles of the Confederacy.

Volume 11

Journal kept by Stephenson during the Civil War

Volume 11. April 11-Aug. 31, 1862

Account of the federal invasion and occupation of Huntsville, Alabama; tells of federal regiments stationed there, treatment of civilians, public reactions; includes newspaper clippings, patriotic Confederate poetry.

CROSS REFERENCES

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description of relevant documents</u>
Atlanta Campaign, 1864.	1864	Description of defense of Atlanta by Confederate troops; military leaders; fall of Atlanta and retreat of Confederate troops, in "My War Autobiography," Vols. 4 and 5.
Beauregard, G. T. (Gustave Toutant), 1818-1893.	1862	Description of the man and assessment of his abilities, in "My War Autobiography," Vol. 1.
Belmont, Battle of, Belmont, Mo., 1861.	1861	Description of battle, in "My War Autobiography," Vol. 1.
Bragg, Braxton, 1817-1876.	1862	Description of the man and assessment of his abilities, in "My War Autobiography," Vol. 2.
Confederate States of America. Army--Medical care.	1861-1865	Descriptions of care of wounded and ill soldiers.
Corinth (Miss.)--History--Siege, 1862.	1862	Description of camp life and the Battle of Corinth, in "My War Autobiography," Volumes 1 and 2.
Franklin, Battle of, Franklin, Tenn., 1864.	1864	Description of campaign, including Battle of Franklin, by a Confederate private, in "My War Autobiography," Vols. 6 and 7.
Gibson, Randall Lee, 1832-1892.	1865	Description of the man and assessment of his abilities, in "My War Autobiography," Vols. 2 and 8.
Johnston, Albert Sidney, 1803-1862.	1862	Description of the man, his personality and abilities, in "My War Autobiography," Vol. 1.
Johnston, Joseph E. (Joseph Eggleston), 1807-1891.		Description and assessment of his abilities, in "My War Autobiography," Vols. 2 and 3, and "Personal Reminiscences," Vol. 1.
Mobile Bay, Battle of, Ala., 1864.	1864	Description of battle, in "My War Autobiography."
Nashville, Battle of, Nashville, Tenn., 1864.	1864	Description of campaign, including Battle of Nashville, by a Confederate private, in "My War Autobiography," Vols. 6 and 7.

P. D. STEPHENSON PAPERS

1861-1903

Mss. 2482, 2657

LSU Libraries Special Collections

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description of relevant documents</u>
Polk, Leonidas, 1806-1864.		Description and assessment of abilities, in "My War Autobiography," Vol. 3, and "Personal Reminiscences," Vol. 1.
Shiloh, Battle of, Tenn., 1862.	1862	Description of battle, in 'My War Autobiography,' Vol. 1 and 2.
United States. Army-- African American troops.	1864	Description of African American troops and attitude of Southern soldiers upon encountering a black enemy, in 'My War Autobiography,' Vol. 7.
United States--History-- Civil War, 1861-1865-- Personal narratives, Confederate.	1861-1865	Memoirs of a private soldier attached to the artillery of the Missouri Brigade.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
E:53	1	1	Correspondence, notes (1899-1901, undated)
		2	Printed items (1899, 1903, undated)
		3	Newspaper clippings (undated)
		4	Photographs (undated)
		5	Empty envelopes (undated)
		6	P.D. Stephenson obituary (1916)
G:21	--	--	8 manuscript volumes, "My War Autobiography" (1896-1901)
			Vol. 1: May 10, 1861- May 30, 1862
			Vol. 2: May 30, 1862-March, 1864.
			Vol. 3: Spring, 1864
			Vol. 4: July-August, 1864
			Vol. 5: Sept. 1, 1864-Nov. 1, 1864
			Vol. 6: November, 1864-Dec. 10, 1864.
			Vol. 7: December, 1864
			Vol. 8: December, 1864-June, 1865
	--	--	2 manuscript volumes, "Personal Reminiscences..."
			Vol. 9: June-Sept., 1865
			Vol. 10: June-Sept., 1865
	--	--	Vol. 11: Diary, April-August, 1862
Mss.MF:S	--	Reel 1	Volumes 1-5, 11
		Reel 2	Volumes 6-10