

John Hamilton and William Hamilton Correspondence

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms016032>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm79024646>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Collection Summary

Title: William Hamilton Papers

Span Dates: 1838-1896

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1862-1865)

ID No.: MSS24646

Creator: Hamilton, John, 1815-1896

Creator: Hamilton, William, 1824-1896

Extent: 300 items ; 2 containers ; .4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Correspondence of the Hamilton family, primarily of brothers, John Hamilton, Texas pioneer and soldier; and of William Hamilton, lawyer and soldier. Letters of John Hamilton are addressed to his mother, Rosanna Boyd Hamilton, and other family members from his home in Zavala, Texas. William Hamilton's letters were written primarily during his service as a private in Company D, 2nd Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves, U.S. Army of the Potomac, to his mother, Rosanna Boyd Hamilton, in Harrisburg, Pa., and to his brother, A. Boyd Hamilton.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Bustamante, Anastasio, 1780-1853.

Hamilton family--Correspondence.

Hamilton family.

Hamilton, A. Boyd (Adam Boyd), 1808-1896.

Hamilton, John, 1815-1896. John Hamilton and William Hamilton correspondence. 1838-1896.

Hamilton, Rosanna Boyd, 1786-1872--Correspondence.

Hamilton, William, 1824-1896.

Houston, Sam, 1793-1863.

Santa Anna, Antonio López de, 1794?-1876.

Organizations

Confederate States of America. Army.

Texas Rangers.

United States Sanitary Commission.

United States. Army of the Potomac--Military life.

United States. Army of the Potomac. Pennsylvania Reserves, 2nd.

United States. Army--Officers.

United States. Army--Organization.

United States. Army--Supplies and stores.

Subjects

African Americans--Texas.

Antietam, Battle of, Md., 1862.

Appomattox Campaign, 1865.

Desertion, Military--Confederate States of America.

Fredericksburg, Battle of, Fredericksburg, Va., 1862.

Frontier and pioneer life--Texas.

Gettysburg, Battle of, Gettysburg, Pa., 1863.

Indians of North America--Texas.

Mexican War, 1846-1848.

Mexicans--Rio Grande Valley (Colo.-Mexico and Tex.)

Slavery--Texas.

Places

Maryland--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Mexico--History--1821-1861.
Pennsylvania--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Petersburg (Va.)--History--Siege, 1864-1865.
Rapidan River (Va.)--History.
Rappahannock River (Va.)--History.
Rio Grande (Colo.-Mexico and Tex.)--History.
Texas--History--1846-1950.
Texas--History--Republic, 1836-1846.
Texas--Politics and government--19th century.
Texas--Social life and customs.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Participation, African American.
United States--Politics and government--19th century.
Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Zavalla (Tex.)--History.

Titles

John Hamilton and William Hamilton papers
John Hamilton correspondence
William Hamilton correspondence

Occupations

Lawyers.
Pioneers.
Soldiers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The correspondence of John Hamilton, Texas pioneer and soldier, and William Hamilton, lawyer and soldier, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1934.

Processing History

The John Hamilton and William Hamilton correspondence was processed in bound volumes after being received in 1934. The finding aid was created in 2016.

Additional Guides

The correspondence of John Hamilton and William Hamilton are described in *Civil War Manuscripts, a Guide to Collections in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress* (Washington, 1986): 108.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Hamilton and William Hamilton is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The correspondence of John Hamilton and William Hamilton is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, John Hamilton and William Hamilton Correspondence, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The correspondence of William Hamilton (1824-1896) and John Hamilton (1815-1896) span the years 1838-1896, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1861-1865. Letters (1838-1855) of John Hamilton are addressed to his mother, Rosanna Boyd Hamilton, and other family members from his home in Zavala, Texas. Subjects include family matters, the difficulties of life in Texas, relations with the Indians, African Americans and slavery in Texas, political affairs of Texas and the United States, his service in the Texas Rangers during the Mexican War (1846-1848), and impressions of Mexico, of Mexicans living in the Rio Grande Valley, and of individuals including Sam Houston and presidents of Mexico, Anastasio Bustamante and Antonio López de Santa Anna. William Hamilton's letters written primarily during his service as a private in Company D, 2nd Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves, U.S. Army of the Potomac, are to his mother, Rosanna Boyd Hamilton, in Harrisburg, Pa., and to his brother, A. Boyd Hamilton. Sent from various camps in Maryland and Virginia, the letters concern the Battle of Antietam (1862), Battle of Fredericksburg, Fredericksburg, Va. (1862), Battle of Gettysburg, Pa. (1863), and Appomattox Campaign (1865); operations along the Rapidan River, Va., and the Rappahannock River, Va., in the fall of 1863; and the siege of Petersburg, Va. (1864-1865). They also discuss African-American troops, camp life, generalship, military organization, supply problems, the United States Sanitary Commission, and Confederate Army deserters.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is organized chronologically in two bound volumes with an index at the end of volume two.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Vol. 1, 1838, Dec. 21-1863, June 30
BOX 2	Vol. 2, 1863, July 1-1896, Mar. 26, including index