

Ezra Ayers Carman Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Michael Spangler



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: Ezra Ayers Carman Papers

Span Dates: 1861-1909

ID No.: MSS15081

Creator: Carman, Ezra Ayers, 1834-1909

Extent: 1,500 items; 25 containers plus 2 oversize; 10 linear feet; 2 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: United States Army officer, civil servant, and author. Holograph drafts of chapters, plus maps, correspondence, newspaper clippings, notes, and printed matter comprising Carman's book file for his history of the American Civil War.

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

Carman, Ezra Ayers, 1834-1909.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.

McClellan, George Brinton, 1826-1885.

Organizations

United States. Army--Officers.

Subjects

Secession--Southern States.

Secession--Virginia.

Slavery--United States.

Places

Maryland--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.

Potomac River--History.

Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.)--History.

Tennessee--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.

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

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

West Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.

Occupations

Army officers.

Authors.

Civil servants.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Ezra Ayers Carman, United States Army officer, civil servant, and author, were given to the Library of Congress by his son, Louis D. Carman, in 1912.

Processing History

The papers of Ezra Ayers Carman were arranged and described in the 1940s. Part of the collection was reprocessed for microfilming in 1998. The entire collection was reprocessed in 2003.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some newspapers have been transferred to the Newspaper Section of the Serial and Government Publications Division. A map of West Virginia has been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Ezra Ayers Carman papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Ezra Ayers Carman is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Ezra Ayers Carman are 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on two reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Ezra Ayers Carman Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1834, Feb. 27	Born, Oak Tree, near Metuchen, N.J.
1855	A.B., Western Military Institute, Drennon Springs, Ky.
1855-1856	Assistant professor of mathematics, University of Nashville, Nashville, Tenn.
1856	Married Louisa Salmon (died 1857)
1858	A.M., University of Nashville
1859	Married Ada Salmon
1861-1863	Served in the United States Army of the Potomac
1861	Commissioned lieutenant colonel, Seventh Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers Infantry Division

1862	Wounded in Battle of Williamsburg, Va. Commissioned colonel, Thirteenth Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers Infantry Division
1863-1865	Served in the United States Army of the Cumberland
1865	Commissioned brigadier general, United States Volunteers
1865-1870	Active in lumber business, Newark and Jersey City, N.J.
1871-1875	Comptroller, Jersey City, N.J.
1877-1885	Chief clerk, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.
1894-1898	Member, Antietam Battlefield Board
1905-1909	Chairman, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park Commission
1909, Dec. 25	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Ezra Ayers Carman (1834-1909) span the years 1861-1909 and constitute a book file containing unpublished and fragmentary volumes of Carman's projected history of the American Civil War. The collection includes handwritten drafts of chapters, correspondence, maps, notes, newspaper clippings, and printed matter.

Carman joined the Union army in September 1861 and served for the duration of the Civil War. Commissioned lieutenant colonel in the New Jersey Volunteers Infantry Division, he rose in rank to brigadier general and was active in over twenty engagements, including the Battle of Antietam and the Atlanta Campaign. Later, he authored numerous articles on the war for the *Encyclopedia Americana*. As a member of the Antietam Battlefield Board in the 1890s, he wrote interpretive captions and assisted in producing an atlas of the battleground. His research sources included printed copies of official correspondence and orders, published recollections and memoirs, and his correspondence with veterans of the war.

Although writings in the file suggest the large scope Carman intended for his work, many volumes remained incomplete and various aspects of the war untreated. Some of the fragmented volumes have been reconstructed from Carman's notes. The most complete work in the file, "The Maryland Campaign of September 1862," [also available on two microfilm reels, Microfilm Shelf no. 21,925] describes and analyzes the battle with detailed accounts of the political and military forces influencing relations between President Abraham Lincoln and General George B. McClellan and other Union officers.

Carman's regard for President Lincoln is reflected in "Abraham Lincoln - The Great Commander" documenting Lincoln's handling of the first years of the conflict from his election to emancipation. An untitled volume filed under the heading "Secession" describes the dissolution of the Union, and contains an introductory chapter with a history of slavery and its effects and a section pertaining to the secession convention in Virginia. Other volumes include "Campaign for East Tennessee and Chattanooga," "First Days of Rebellion on the Potomac," "The Shenandoah Valley," and "The West Virginia Campaign of 1861."

Arrangement of the Papers

The material is organized alphabetically by volume title or by topic when no title was supplied by Carman. Chapters not identified with any volume are filed alphabetically by title under a Miscellany heading. Therein, chapters are arranged as assigned by Carman, and ancillary material is filed alphabetically by type of material or topic. Withdrawn oversize material is comprised chiefly of maps arranged according to the containers and folders from which the items were removed. A description of oversize material appears at the end of the container list.

Container List

Boxes 13-16 available on microfilm. Shelf no. 21,925

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	"Abraham Lincoln - The Great Commander"
BOX 1	Chapters
BOX 1	Vol. I
BOX 1	No. 1, "Abraham Lincoln"
BOX 1	No. 2, "South Carolina and the Southern Confederacy"
BOX 1	No. 3, "Washington in the Winter of 1860-1861"
BOX 1	No. 4, "From Election to Inauguration"
BOX 1	No. 5, "Fort Sumter"
BOX 1	No. 6, "Baltimore and Washington"
BOX 1	No. 7, "Abraham Lincoln the Dictator"
BOX 1	No. 8, "The Advance into Virginia"
BOX 1	No. 9, "Fort Monroe and the York Peninsula" <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 1	No. 10, "West Virginia, April-July 1861" <i>See also Container 18, "Western Virginia, April-July 1861"</i>
BOX 1	No. 11, "Bull Run" <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 1	No. 12, "The Thirty-Seventh Congress"
BOX 1	No. 13, "General McClellan in Command of the Army of the Potomac"
BOX 2	No. 14, "General McClellan in Command of the Army of the United States" (2 folders)
BOX 2	No. 15, "West Virginia, August-December 1861" <i>See also Container 18, "Western Virginia, August-December 1861"</i> and <i>Oversize</i>
BOX 2	No. 16, "Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri"
BOX 2	No. 17, "Belmont, Logan's Cross Roads, Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Pea Ridge, Island Number 10"
BOX 2	No. 18, "Shiloh and Corinth"
BOX 2	No. 19, "The Capture of New Orleans and First Naval Attack on Vicksburg"
BOX 2	No. 20, "The Genesis of the Peninsula Campaign"
BOX 2	No. 21, "The Naval Battle in Hampton Roads" <i>See also Container 18, same heading</i>
BOX 2	No. 22, "Kernstown"
BOX 2	Vol. II
BOX 2	No. 1, "The Peninsula Campaign: Yorktown to Fair Oaks"
BOX 2	No. 2, "The Shenandoah Valley: McDowell, Strasburg, Front Royal, and Winchester" <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 2	No. 3, "The Shenandoah Valley: The Effort to Capture Jackson"
BOX 3	No. 4, "The Shenandoah Valley: Harrisonburg, Cross Keys, and Port Republic"
BOX 3	No. 5, "The Seven Days Battle on the Peninsula" <i>See also Container 18, Seven Days' Battles, Va., and Oversize</i>
BOX 3	No. 6, "Withdrawal of the Army of the Potomac from the Peninsula"

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 3	No. 7, "The Army under General Pope"
BOX 3	No. 8, "Lincoln, Halleck and McClellan" <i>See Container 15, Chapter A</i>
BOX 3	No. 9, "The Maryland Campaign of September 1862" <i>See Container 15, Chapter B</i>
BOX 3	No. 10, "Emancipation"
BOX 3	Atlanta campaign
BOX 3	Chapters
BOX 3	No. 2, "Preparation" (5 folders)
BOX 4	No. 3, "Rocky Face Ridge" (4 folders)
BOX 4	No. 4, "Resaca" (5 folders)
BOX 4	Related material
BOX 4	Casualty lists, 1864, undated (2 folders)
BOX 5	Correspondence, 1864, 1876
BOX 5	Newspaper clippings, 1872-1879, undated
BOX 5	Notes and research material, 1864, 1890-1893, undated (2 folders) <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 5	"Campaign for East Tennessee and Chattanooga"
BOX 5	Chapters
BOX 5	Vol. I, "Origins of War in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri"
BOX 5	No. 1, "Tennessee" (2 folders)
BOX 5	No. 2, "Kentucky" (2 folders)
BOX 5	No. 3, "Western Tennessee, Missouri, and Western Kentucky"
BOX 5	No. 4, "Kentucky, Continued"
BOX 5	Vol. II, "Belmont to Corinth" (opening of the Mississippi River)
BOX 5	No. 1, Untitled; (2 folders)
BOX 6	No. 2, "Belmont"
BOX 6	No. 3, "Fort Henry"
BOX 6	No. 4, "Fort Donelson" (2 folders)
BOX 6	No. 6, "New Madrid and Island No. 10"
BOX 6	Vol. III, "Buell's Campaign to and including Battle of Stones River"
BOX 6	No. 1, "Shiloh" (4 folders)
BOX 6	No. 6, "Logan's Cross Roads" (2 folders)
BOX 7	No. 8, "Cumberland Gap and Northern Alabama" (2 folders)
BOX 7	No. 9, "Buell's Advance on Chattanooga and Bragg's Counter Movement into Kentucky" (2 folders) <i>See also Oversize</i>

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 7	Vol. IV, "Rosecran's Campaign from Murfreesboro ending with Chickamauga"
BOX 7	No. 1, "Chattanooga"
BOX 7	No. 2, "Wheeler's Raid on Rosecran's Communications"
BOX 7	No. 3, "Brown's Ferry"
BOX 7	No. 4, "Wauhatchie" (2 folders)
BOX 7	No. 5, "East Tennessee"
BOX 7	No. 6, "Orchard Knob"
BOX 8	No. 7, "Missionary Ridge, November 24, 1863"
BOX 8	No. 8, "Lookout Mountain, November 24, 1863" (3 folders)
BOX 8	No. 9, "Missionary Ridge, Nov. 25, 1863" (2 folders)
BOX 8	No. 10, "Ringgold"
BOX 8	Fragments of chapters
BOX 8	"Chattanooga"
BOX 8	Set I
BOX 8	Set II (3 folders)
BOX 9	"Chickamauga"
BOX 9	Set I
BOX 9	Set II (3 folders)
BOX 9	"Concentration of the Federal Army at Pittsburg Landing"
BOX 9	"Knoxville"
BOX 9	Set I (3 folders)
BOX 9	Set II (3 folders)
BOX 9	Miscellany (1 folder)
BOX 10	(2 folders)
BOX 10	Shiloh (3 folders)
BOX 10	Related material
BOX 10	Correspondence, 1876-1908, undated
BOX 10	Maps, 1894-1895, undated <i><u>See also Oversize</u></i>
BOX 10	Miscellany, undated
BOX 10	Newspaper clippings, 1874-1885, undated
BOX 10	Notes, undated
BOX 10	Printed matter, 1893-1907, undated
BOX 10	"First Days of Rebellion on the Potomac"
BOX 10	Chapters
BOX 10	No. 2, "Gosport Navy Yard and Fort Monroe"
BOX 10	No. 3, "Washington" (1 folder)

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 11	(1 folder)
BOX 11	No. 4, "Maryland"
	(2 folders)
BOX 11	No. 6, "Virginia Convention"
BOX 11	No. 7, "General Lee in Command of the Virginia and Confederate Forces"
BOX 11	No. 8, "Colonel Thomas J. Jackson at Harper's Ferry"
BOX 11	No. 9, "The Lower Potomac"
BOX 11	No. 10, "Harper's Ferry and the Upper Potomac"
BOX 11	No. 11, "Occupation of Arlington Heights and Alexandria by the Federal Army"
BOX 11	Related material, 1861, 1892, undated
BOX 12	"General John Pope and the Army of Virginia"
BOX 12	Chapters
BOX 12	No. 15, "General John Pope and the Army of Virginia"
BOX 12	No. 16, "Cedar Mountain and the Line of the Rappahannock"
BOX 12	No. 17, "Bristoe Station, Manassas Junction, and Gainesville"
BOX 12	No. 18, "Groveton"
BOX 12	No. 19, "Second Manassas"
BOX 12	No. 20, Untitled
BOX 13	"The Maryland Campaign of September 1862"
REEL 1	
BOX 13	Chapters
REEL 1	
BOX 13	No. 1, "Maryland"
REEL 1	
BOX 13	No. 2, "The Confederate Invasion of Maryland"
REEL 1	
BOX 13	No. 3, "The Confederate Army Crosses the Potomac"
REEL 1	
BOX 13	No. 4, "General McClellan and the Army of the Potomac"
REEL 1	
BOX 13	No. 5, "Advance of the Army of the Potomac from Washington to Frederick and South Mountain"
REEL 1	
BOX 13	No. 6, "Harpers Ferry"
REEL 1	
BOX 13	No. 7, "South Mountain (Crampton's Gap)"
REEL 1	
BOX 13	No. 8, "South Mountain (Turner's Gap)"
REEL 1	
BOX 14	No. 9, "From South Mountain to the Antietam"
REEL 1	
BOX 14	No. 10, "McLaws and Franklin in Pleasant Valley"
REEL 1	
BOX 14	No. 11, "Organization of the Union and Confederate Armies in the Maryland Campaign of September 1862"
REEL 1	
BOX 14	No. 12, "The Field of Antietam"
REEL 1	
BOX 14	No. 13, "The Prelude to Antietam"
REEL 1	

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 14	No. 14, "The Two Armies"
REEL 1	
BOX 14	No. 15, "The Battle of the Union Right and Confederate Left, Daybreak to 7:30 a.m."
REEL 1	
BOX 14	No. 16, "The Battle of the Union Right and Confederate Left, 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m."
REEL 1	
BOX 14	No. 17, "The West Woods and Dunkard Church"
REEL 1	
BOX 14	No. 18, "The Sunken Road"
REEL 1	
BOX 15	No. 19, "The Dunkard Church"
REEL 2	
BOX 15	No. 20, "The Middle Bridge, the Fifth Corps and the Advance of Pleasanton's Cavalry Division"
REEL 2	
BOX 15	No. 21, "The Burnside Bridge"
REEL 2	
	(2 folders)
BOX 15	No. 22, "General Lee Recrosses the Potomac"
REEL 2	
BOX 15	No. 23, "Strengths of the Union and Confederate Armies Engaged at Antietam, September 17, 1862"
REEL 2	
BOX 15	No. 24, "Union and Confederate Losses at Antietam"
REEL 2	
BOX 15	No. 25, "Shepherdstown and Boteler's Ford"
REEL 2	
BOX 15	No. 26, "The Results of the Maryland Campaign"
REEL 2	
BOX 15	No. 27, "Lincoln and McClellan"
REEL 2	
BOX 15	A, "Lincoln, Halleck, and McClellan: Preliminary to the Maryland Campaign"
REEL 2	
BOX 15	B, "The Maryland Campaign of September 1862"
REEL 2	
BOX 16	Related material
REEL 2	
BOX 16	Correspondence, 1897-1902, undated
REEL 2	
BOX 16	Maps, undated
REEL 2	
BOX 16	Notes and research material, 1863-1868, undated
REEL 2	
	(3 folders)
BOX 17	"Recollections of Lee's First Invasion and the Battle of Antietam," paper by Eugene Powell, 1895
not filmed	
BOX 17	Miscellany
BOX 17	Chapters, drafts and fragments
BOX 17	"Bull Run"
BOX 17	Related material
	(2 folders)

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 17	Text (4 folders)
BOX 17	"The Case of General Stone"
BOX 17	Charleston Harbor, S.C. (2 folders)
BOX 17	Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
BOX 17	"Formation of the State of West Virginia" (2 folders)
BOX 17	McClellan, George Brinton
BOX 18	"The Naval Battle in Hampton Roads" <u><i>See also Container 2, same heading</i></u>
BOX 18	"Organization of the Twentieth Corps" (2 folders)
BOX 18	"The Peninsular Campaign"
BOX 18	The Seven Days' Battles, Va. <u><i>See also Container 3, "The Seven Days Battle on the Peninsula"</i></u>
BOX 18	"The Shenandoah Valley – 1862"
BOX 18	Southeastern Virginia in 1861 (2 folders)
BOX 18	"Western Virginia, April-July 1861" (2 folders) <u><i>See also Container 1, "West Virginia, April-July 1861"</i></u>
BOX 18	"Western Virginia, August-December 1861" <u><i>See also Container 2, "West Virginia, August-December 1861"</i></u>
BOX 19	Western Virginia, history (2 folders)
BOX 19	Correspondence, 1861, 1876-1883
BOX 19	Maps, 1877, undated <u><i>See also Oversize</i></u> (4 folders)
BOX 19	Newspaper clippings, 1862-1909, undated <u><i>See also Oversize</i></u> (2 folders)
BOX 19	Newspapers
BOX 19	<i>Cincinnati Weekly Enquirer</i> , 1885
BOX 19	Miscellany, 1885, 1900
BOX 19	<i>Philadelphia Weekly Times</i> , 1878
BOX 20	Notes and fragments, undated (6 folders)
BOX 20	Printed matter
BOX 20	Emancipation and fugitive slaves, 1861-1862, undated
BOX 20	Miscellany, 1861-1893, undated (3 folders)
BOX 20	Reports, 1861-1862, undated
BOX 21	Secession
BOX 21	Set I
BOX 21	Chapters
BOX 21	No. 1, "Introductory," includes history of slavery (4 folders)
BOX 21	No. 2, "South Carolina" (2 folders)

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<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 21	No. 3, "Meeting of Congress, December 3, 1860"
BOX 21	No. 4, "Secession of South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana" (3 folders)
BOX 22	No. 5, "Charleston Harbor, July-December 1860" (2 folders)
BOX 22	No. 6, "The South Carolina Commissioners"
BOX 22	No. 7, <i>Star of the West</i>
BOX 22	No. 8, "Fort Pickens"
BOX 22	No. 9, "Seizure of Forts and Public Property"
BOX 22	No. 10, "Secession of Texas"
BOX 22	No. 11, "Mission of Colonel Hayne"
BOX 22	No. 12, "Compromise Propositions"
BOX 22	No. 13, "Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln"
BOX 22	No. 14, "Organization of the Confederate Government"
BOX 22	No. 15, "Fort Sumter" (2 folders)
BOX 23	(1 folder)
BOX 23	No. 16, "The Call to Arms"
BOX 23	Set II
BOX 23	Chapters
BOX 23	No. 1, "The Virginia Legislature"
BOX 23	No. 2, "The Peace Conference" (3 folders)
BOX 23	No. 3, "The Virginia Convention" (5 folders)
BOX 24	"The Shenandoah Valley"
BOX 24	Chapters
BOX 24	No. 1, "The Shenandoah Valley and Upper Potomac" (2 folders)
BOX 24	No. 3, "Front Royal and Middletown"
BOX 24	No. 4, "Winchester"
BOX 24	No. 5, Untitled
BOX 24	No. 6, "Harrisonburg, Cross Keys, and Port Republic"
BOX 24	Fragments of unnumbered chapters
BOX 24	"Baltimore and Ohio Railroad"
BOX 24	"Romney" (2 folders)
BOX 24	Miscellany
BOX 24	"The West Virginia Campaign of 1861"
BOX 24	Chapters
BOX 24	No. 1, "Theatre of Operations" (2 folders)
BOX 24	No. 2, "Grafton and Philippi"
BOX 24	No. 3, "Rich Mountain"
BOX 25	No. 4, "Corrick's Ford"
BOX 25	"No. 5, "Kanawha Valley"

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 25	No. 6, "Gauley Bridge, Cross Lanes and Carnifax Ferry"
BOX 25	No. 7, "Cheat Mountain" (2 folders)
BOX 25	No. 8, "Greenbrier River"
BOX 25	No. 9, "Sewell Mountain"
BOX 25	No. 10, "Cotton Hill"
BOX 25	No. 11, "Allegheny"
BOX 25	No. 12, "The Shenandoah Valley and Upper Potomac" <u><i>See Container 24, same heading</i></u>
BOX 25	Related material
BOX 25	Correspondence, 1861-1886, undated
BOX 25	Maps, 1861-1887, undated <u><i>See also Oversize</i></u>
BOX 25	Notes and research material, undated
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	"Abraham Lincoln - The Great Commander," chapters
BOX OV 1	Vol. I
BOX OV 1	No. 9, "Fort Monroe and the York Peninsula," maps, 1865, undated (Container 1)
BOX OV 1	No. 11, "Bull Run," maps, undated (Container 1)
BOX OV 1	No. 15, "West Virginia, August-December 1861," map, undated (Container 2)
BOX OV 1	Vol. II
BOX OV 1	No. 2, "The Shenandoah Valley: McDowell, Strasburg, Front Royal, and Winchester," map, undated (Container 2)
BOX OV 1	No. 5, "The Seven Days Battle on the Peninsula," maps, undated (Container 3)
BOX OV 1	Atlanta campaign
BOX OV 1	Related material
BOX OV 1	Notes and research material, map and ledgers, undated (Container 5)
BOX OV 1	"Campaign for East Tennessee and Chattanooga"
BOX OV 1	Chapters
BOX OV 1	Vol. III, "Buell's Campaign to and including Battle of Stones River"
BOX OV 1	No. 9, "Buell's Advance on Chattanooga and Bragg's Counter Movement into Kentucky," map, undated (Container 7)
BOX OV 1	Related material
BOX OV 1	Maps, 1894-1895 (Container 10)
BOX OV 2	Miscellany
BOX OV 2	Maps, 1877, undated (Container 19)
BOX OV 2	Newspaper clipping, 1862 (Container 19)
BOX OV 2	"The West Virginia Campaign of 1861"
BOX OV 2	Related material
BOX OV 2	Maps, 1886, undated (Container 25)