Collection Summary
Title: Albert James Myer Papers
Span Dates: 1851-1933
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1851-1880)
ID No.: MSS34041
Creator: Myer, Albert James, 1829-1880
Extent: 300 items; 2 containers; .8 linear feet; 1 microfilm reel
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: Army officer and surgeon. Correspondence, biographical material, and printed matter relating in part to Myer's service as a surgeon in the army and his role in the founding and development of the Signal Corps, including during the 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
Myer, Albert James, 1829-1880.
Myer, Catherine Walden.
Walden, James.

Organizations
United States. Army--Surgeons.

Subjects
Fortification--Texas.
Indians of North America--Texas.
Indians of North America--Wars--1815-1875.
Military bases--Texas.

Places
Fort Davis (Tex.)
Fort Duncan (Tex.)
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Occupations
Army officers.
Surgeons.

Administrative Information
Provenance
The papers of Albert James Myer, army officer and surgeon, were given to the Library of Congress by John Rogers Meigs Taylor in 1935.

Processing History
The papers of Albert James Myer were arranged and described in 1975. The finding aid was revised in 2011.
Other Repositories

Other Myer papers are located in the U.S. Army Signal Corps Museum, Fort Monmouth, N.J.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include a microfilm of Myer Papers obtained from originals at the U.S. Army Signal Corps Museum, Fort Monmouth, N.J.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Albert James Myer is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Albert James Myer 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 one reel. 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, Albert James Myer Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1828, Sept. 20</td>
<td>Born, Newburgh, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circa 1841</td>
<td>Entered Geneva College (now Hobart College), Geneva, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>M.D., Buffalo Medical College, Buffalo, N.Y. 1854 Entered military service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1857</td>
<td>Married Catherine Walden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858-1861</td>
<td>Appointed by the army to a board to examine signaling principles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conducted field trial of signaling inventions in the Department of New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>Ordered to organize and command U.S. Army Signal Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860-1863</td>
<td>Served under Benjamin Butler at Fort Monroe, Va., and then as chief signal officer under George Brinton McClellan in the Army of the Potomac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>Promoted to colonel in new U.S. Signal Corps, but removed him from his post as chief signal officer by Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864</td>
<td>Publication of Manual of Signals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appointed signal officer, Military Division of West Mississippi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1864-1865  Signal officer, Department of the Gulf
         Developed coding system for transmitting routine messages between land and
         sea forces

1867-1880  Chief signal officer, Signal Corps

1873      Proposed establishment world-wide of weather-reporting stations,
         International Meteorological Congress, Vienna, Austria

1880, Aug. 24  Died, Buffalo, N.Y

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Albert James Myer (1829-1880) span the years 1851-1933, with the bulk of the
material concentrated in the period 1851-1880. The collection contains correspondence,
biographical material, and printed matter relating to Myer's service as a surgeon in the army from
1854 to 1860, especially his assignments at Fort Davis and Fort Duncan in Texas, where he
observed Indian warfare, and to his role in the founding and development of the Signal Corps,
1856-1880. Also treated is the contribution of the Signal Corps to Union military efforts in the Civil
War. Correspondents include Myer's wife, Catherine Walden Myer, and James Walden.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged by type of material.
## Container List

Microfilm. Shelf no. 16,561 (negative no. 12,193)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1851-1891, undated (5 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>Biographical material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>Fort Myer, Va., memorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 not filmed</td>
<td>Printed matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Magazine and newspaper articles (1 folder)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Orders, War Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Signal Corps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>