Ezra Ayers Carman Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2003

Contact information:
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http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009001

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm81015081

Prepared by Michael Spangler
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
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: 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

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1834, Feb. 27</td>
<td>Born, Oak Tree, near Metuchen, N.J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1855</td>
<td>A.B., Western Military Institute, Drennon Springs, Ky.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1855-1856</td>
<td>Assistant professor of mathematics, University of Nashville, Nashville, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1856</td>
<td>Married Louisa Salmon (died 1857)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858</td>
<td>A.M., University of Nashville</td>
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<tr>
<td>1859</td>
<td>Married Ada Salmon</td>
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<tr>
<td>1861-1863</td>
<td>Served in the United States Army of the Potomac</td>
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<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Commissioned lieutenant colonel, Seventh Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers Infantry Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>Wounded in Battle of Williamsburg, Va.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commissioned colonel, Thirteenth Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers Infantry Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>1863-1865</td>
<td>Served in the United States Army of the Cumberland</td>
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<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>Commissioned brigadier general, United States Volunteers</td>
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<tr>
<td>1865-1870</td>
<td>Active in lumber business, Newark and Jersey City, N.J.</td>
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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

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<td>No. 7, “Abraham Lincoln the Dictator”</td>
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<td>No. 13, “General McClellan in Command of the Army of the Potomac”</td>
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| BOX 8     | No. 8, “Lookout Mountain, November 24, 1863”  
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