

Charles Wellington Reed Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2013

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79037457>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms001005>

Prepared by Joseph D. Sullivan
Revised by Michael Spangler

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2002
Revised 2015 July

Collection Summary

Title: Charles Wellington Reed Papers

Span Dates: 1776-1926

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1862-1865)

ID No.: MSS37457

Creator: Reed, Charles Wellington, 1841-1926

Extent: 400 items

Extent: 4 containers plus 2 oversize

Extent: 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79037457>

Summary: Artist and soldier. Correspondence, a diary, ink and pencil sketches, watercolors, prints, military papers, books with illustrations by Reed, maps, medals, and photographs relating chiefly to Reed's service in the Ninth Massachusetts Light Artillery Battery during the Civil War.

Online Content: The papers of Charles Wellington Reed on the Library of Congress Web site are available at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000025> and via links from this finding aid. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Reed, Charles Wellington, 1841-1926.

Organizations

United States. Army--Military life.

United States. Army. Massachusetts Artillery Battery, 9th (1862-1865)

Subjects

Art.

Illustration of books.

Soldiers as artists.

Places

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Art and the war.

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

Titles

Charles Wellington Reed Papers at the Library of Congress

Occupations

Artists.

Soldiers.

Provenance

The papers of Charles Wellington Reed, artist and soldier, were given to the Library of Congress by Grace M. Schirmer in 1928.

Processing History

The papers of Charles Wellington Reed were arranged and described in 1965. The collection was reprocessed in 1997, and the finding aid revised in 2002 and again in 2013.

Transfers

Most photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Related Material

The Princeton University Library has a small collection of Reed's letters to his sister, Emma Reed, from 1862 to 1865.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Charles Wellington Reed 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.

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Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Charles Wellington Reed Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1841, Apr. 1	Born, Boston, Mass.
1862	Enlisted in Ninth Massachusetts Battery
1862-1865	Participated in many battles of the Civil War including Mine Run, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Petersburg, and Weldon Railroad
1864	Transferred to the Topographical Engineers, Fifth Army Corps
1865	Honorably discharged
1865	Pursued career as artist and illustrator
1895	Awarded Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery on the battlefield at Gettysburg
1926, Apr. 29	Died, Norwell, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles Wellington Reed (1841-1926) span the years 1776-1926, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1862-1865. The collection includes approximately seven hundred sketches in two volumes and a large group of correspondence relating primarily to the Civil War. Other items consist of articles, citations and military papers, clippings, a diary, maps, medals, photographs, printed matter, and oversize material. The material is arranged alphabetically by type of material with oversize items located at the end of the collection.

The collection documents Reed's life as a soldier during the Civil War. Many letters, especially those written to his family, describe in detail his activities as a private in the Ninth Massachusetts Battery. The letters are often prefaced by drawings which further illustrate the rigors and even amusing events of his service. The two volumes of sketches include drawings of army life during the Civil War, some drawn during actual combat. Others are of landscapes, animals, and other studies.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Articles, undated Digital content available
BOX 1	Citations and military papers, 1865-1920, undated <i>See also Oversize, Container OV 1</i> Digital content available
BOX 1	Clippings, 1863-1926, undated Digital content available
BOX 1	Congressional Medal of Honor, 1895 <i>See also Oversize, Container OV 2</i>
BOX 1	First design Digital content available
BOX 1	Second design Digital content available
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	1849-1854 Digital content available
BOX 1	1862, May-Dec. Digital content available
BOX 1	1863
BOX 1	Jan.-Mar. Digital content available
BOX 1	Apr.-July Digital content available
BOX 1	Aug.-Dec. Digital content available
BOX 1	1864
BOX 1	Jan.-Feb. Digital content available
BOX 1	Mar.-Apr. Digital content available
BOX 1	May-July. Digital content available
BOX 1	Aug.-Dec. Digital content available
BOX 1	1865, Jan.-May Digital content available
BOX 1	1881-1916 Digital content available
BOX 1	Undated and fragments Digital content available

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Diary, 1864 Digital content available
BOX 2	Drawings, sketches, and prints, 1870, 1884, undated See also Oversize
BOX 2	Folder 1 of 2 Digital content available
BOX 2	Folder 2 of 2 Digital content available
BOX 2	Grant, Ulysses S., drawing of, undated See Oversize, Container OV 2 Digital content available
BOX 2	Maps, 1862-1865, undated See Oversize, Container OV 1 Digital content available
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1776-1899, undated See also Oversize, Container OV 1 Digital content available
BOX 2	Photographs, 1885, undated
BOX 2	Folder 1 of 2 Digital content available
BOX 2	Folder 2 of 2 Digital content available
BOX 2	Printed matter, including books with illustrations by Reed
BOX 2	<i>Bits of Camp Life</i> , by C. W. Reed and Louis K. Harlow, c1888 Digital content available
BOX 2	<i>History of the 9th Mass. Battery, 1862-65</i> , by Levi W. Baker, 1888 Digital content available
BOX 2	<i>Souvenir, Twenty-Fourth National Encampment Grand Army of the Republic</i> , Boston, 1890 Digital content available
BOX 3	Sketchbooks, 1863-1887, undated
BOX 3	Nos. 1-10, leaves 1-415 Digital content available
BOX 4	Unnumbered, leaves 416-650 See also Oversize, Container OV 1 Digital content available
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Citations and military papers, 1869-1896 (Container 1)
BOX OV 1	Drawings, sketches, and prints, 1870, 1884, undated (Container 2)
BOX OV 1	Maps, 1862-1865, undated (Container 2)
BOX OV 1	Miscellany, 1776, 1784 (Container 2)
BOX OV 1	Sketchbooks Unnumbered, leaves 550 and 637 (Container 4)
BOX OV 2	Congressional Medal of Honor, two versions, 1895 (Container 1)
BOX OV 2	Grant, Ulysses S., drawing of, undated (Container 2)