

Samuel Peter Heintzelman Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2024

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm76025676>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010067>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010
Revised 2024 February

Collection Summary

Title: Samuel Peter Heintzelman Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1822-1913

Bulk Dates: 1850-1865

ID No.: MSS25676

Creator: Heintzelman, Samuel Peter, 1805-1880

Extent: 1,500 items

Extent: 11 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 4.5 linear feet

Extent: 13 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm76025676>

Summary: Union army officer. Correspondence, diaries, journals, and military papers detailing Heintzelman's service in the United States Army from his years at the United States Military Academy through the Civil War. Includes descriptions of activities in conflicts with Native American groups in Florida, the Southwest, and California, and during the Mexican War.

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

Halleck, H. W. (Henry Wager), 1815-1872--Correspondence.

Heintzelman, Samuel Peter, 1805-1880.

Hooker, Joseph, 1814-1879--Correspondence.

Kearny, Philip, 1815-1862--Correspondence.

McClellan, George B. (George Brinton), 1826-1885--Correspondence.

McClellan, George B. (George Brinton), 1826-1885.

Stanton, Edwin M. (Edwin McMasters), 1814-1869--Correspondence.

Thomas, Lorenzo, 1804-1875--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States Military Academy.

United States. Army--Officers.

Subjects

Creek War, 1836.

Indians of North America--Alabama--Wars.

Indians of North America--Arizona.

Indians of North America--California.

Indians of North America--Florida--Wars.

Indians of North America--Georgia--Wars.

Mexican War, 1846-1848.

Seminole War, 2nd, 1835-1842.

Places

Huron, Lake (Mich. and Ont.)--Surveys.

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

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

Washington (D.C.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Occupations

Army officers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Samuel Peter Heintzelman, United States Army officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by his daughter, Mary L. Heintzelman, in 1913 and 1914. The deposit was converted to a gift by his great-granddaughter, Dorothy Heintzelman Mallan, in 1953.

Processing History

The papers of Samuel Peter Heintzelman were arranged and described in 1976 by Willmer M. Getchell. The finding aid was revised in 2003 by Brian McGuire. The finding aid was updated in 2024 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Transfers

Maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress where they are identified as part of the these papers.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Samuel Peter Heintzelman 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 these papers is available on thirteen reels. Consult reference staff 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 as available.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1805, Sept. 30	Born, Manheim, Pa.
1826	Graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1835-1842	Participated in Second Seminole War
1843-1847	On recruiting service in Buffalo, N.Y., Detroit, Mich., and Louisville, Ky.
1844	Married Margaret Stuart
1847	In battle of Huamantla, Mexican War; breveted major for gallant meritorious conduct

1848-1853	On garrison duty in Southern California
1852	In expedition against Quechan Tribe (Yuma)
1853-1854	Commander, Southern District of California
1855	Promoted to major
1857-1859	On leave of absence from United States Army. President, Sonora Exploring and Mining Co., Ariz.
1859-1860	On frontier duty in southern Texas; in Brownsville expedition against Cortina
1861	Promoted to colonel, United States Army, and brigadier general of Volunteers; made inspector general, Department of Washington Wounded in First Battle of Bull Run
1861-1862	Commanded defenses of Washington, D.C., south of the Potomac
1862	Commander, 3d Corps, Army of the Potomac; promoted to major general of Volunteers; at siege of Yorktown and battles of Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Savage Station, Glendale, Malvern Hill, Second Bull Run, and Chantilly
1862-1863	Assigned to defenses of Washington, D.C.
1864	Commander, Northern Department, Columbus, Ohio
1865	Promoted to major general, United States Army
1865-1869	Commander, 17th Infantry, mostly in Texas
1869	Retired from active service
1869-1880	Lived in Washington, D.C.
1880, May 1	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Samuel Peter Heintzelman (1805-1880), consisting of correspondence, diaries, journals, military papers, and miscellany, span the period 1822-1913. The bulk of the material is concentrated in the years 1850-1865. The collection reflects Heintzelman's career in the regular army and as a major general of volunteers during the Civil War.

The journals run almost without interruption from 1825, the year before Heintzelman graduated from the United States Military Academy, through 1872, three years after he retired from the army. Heintzelman described his surveys of Lake Huron, 1832-1834, his participation in the Creek War and Seminole Wars in Florida, and his activities during the Mexican War. He also discusses the history and culture of Native American groups in the Southwest, especially in Arizona and southern California. Together with the correspondence, the journals reveal in detail Heintzelman's activities as a corps commander under George Brinton McClellan during the campaigns in Virginia in 1862. Wartime life in northern Virginia and in Washington, D.C., was often noted.

The collection contains little correspondence with members of Heintzelman's family and with associates in his civilian enterprises, most notably the Sonora Exploring and Mining Company of Arizona. Major correspondents include H. W. Halleck, Joseph Hooker, Philip Kearny, George Brinton McClellan, Edwin McMasters Stanton, and Lorenzo Thomas.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Diaries, 1825-1872](#)
- [Correspondence, 1830-1885](#)
- [Military Papers, 1822-1869](#)
- [Miscellany, 1833-1913](#)
- [Oversize, 1842](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOXES 1-6 REELS 1-9	<p><u>Diaries, 1825-1872</u></p> <p>Pocket diaries, notebooks, journals, and recollections. Arranged by type of material and thereunder chronologically.</p>
BOXES 6-9 REELS 9-12	<p><u>Correspondence, 1830-1885</u></p> <p>General correspondence, telegrams, and letterbooks. Arranged by type of material and thereunder chronologically.</p>
BOX 10 REEL 12	<p><u>Military Papers, 1822-1869</u></p> <p>Orders, furloughs, commissions, circulars, field returns and casualty lists, and narrative reports of military operations. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and thereunder chronologically.</p>
BOX 11 REEL 13	<p><u>Miscellany, 1833-1913</u></p> <p>Survey books, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and a photograph. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p>
BOX OV 1 REEL 13	<p><u>Oversize, 1842</u></p> <p><i>Atlas of American History on a Novel Plan</i> by Jerome B. Holgate. Described according to the series, folder, and container from which the item was removed.</p>

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 17,131

Container	Contents
BOXES 1-6 REELS 1-9	Diaries, 1825-1872 Pocket diaries, notebooks, journals, and recollections. Arranged by type of material and thereunder chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1-2	Pocket diaries, 1832-1833, 1847-1865 (14 vols.)
BOX 1 REEL 2	Copies of notes, 1861-1863
BOX 2 REEL 2	Journals
BOX 2 REEL 2	1825-1833
BOX 2 REEL 2-3	1833-1838
BOX 3 REEL 3	1839-1841
BOX 3 REEL 4	1842-1846
BOX 4 REEL 4-5	1847-1850
BOX 4 REEL 5-6	1851-1855 (2 vols.)
BOX 5 REEL 6	1856-1860
BOX 5 REEL 7	1861-1865
BOX 6 REEL 8	1866-1872
BOX 6 REEL 8	Notebooks, 1862-1863 (2 vols.)
BOX 6 REEL 9	Recollections and copies of documents, 1872, undated
BOXES 6-9 REELS 9-12	Correspondence, 1830-1885 General correspondence, telegrams, and letterbooks. Arranged by type of material and thereunder chronologically.
BOX 6 REEL 9	General
BOX 6 REEL 9	1830-1859 (4 folders)
BOX 6 REEL 9	1860
BOX 6 REEL 9	Jan. 1- Mar. 30 (2 folders)
BOX 7 REEL 9	Apr. 1-Nov. 24, undated (2 folders)
BOX 7 REEL 9	1861, Feb. 19-Dec. 6, undated
BOX 7 REEL 9	1862
BOX 7 REEL 9	Mar. 12-June 28, undated (2 folders)
BOX 7 REEL 10	July 2-Dec. 27, undated
BOX 7 REEL 10	1863-1868 (8 folders)

Correspondence, 1830-1885

Container	Contents
BOX 8 REEL 10	1869-1878, undated (3 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 10	Heintzelman, Mary L. (daughter), correspondence, 1885
BOX 8 REEL 10	Telegrams
BOX 8 REEL 10	1861, May-1862, June 25 (6 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 10	1862, Aug. 23-1878 (2 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 11	Letterbooks
BOX 8 REEL 11	1836, May 18-1841, Jan. 10
BOX 9 REEL 11	1841, Jan. 16-1846, May 8; 1857, June 16-Sept. 7
BOX 9 REEL 11	1841-1846 (2 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 12	1850-1860 (2 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 12	1862, Jan.-Nov., with "Index of Papers and Books" 1872, and "Johnston's Narrative" undated
BOX 10 REEL 12	Military Papers, 1822-1869 Orders, furloughs, commissions, circulars, field returns and casualty lists, and narrative reports of military operations. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and thereunder chronologically.
BOX 10 REEL 12	Army service orders
BOX 10 REEL 12	1838-1841
BOX 10 REEL 12	1859, Nov.-1860, Apr.
BOX 10 REEL 12	Circulars, 1849-1862
BOX 10 REEL 12	Field returns and casualty lists, 1847-1862 (2 folders)
BOX 10 REEL 12	General orders, 1860-1869
BOX 10 REEL 12	Orders, furloughs, and commissions, 1822-1869 (5 folders)
BOX 10 REEL 12	Reports of military operations, 1861-1862
BOX 11 REEL 13	Miscellany, 1833-1913 Survey books, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and a photograph. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 11 REEL 13	Cash book, 1839-1857
BOX 11 REEL 13	Holgate, Jerome B., Atlas of American History, 1842 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 11 REEL 13	Loyalty oath, 1864, Jan. 30
BOX 11 REEL 13	Newspaper clippings, 1860-1880, undated
BOX 11 REEL 13	Photograph, undated
BOX 11 REEL 13	Printed matter, 1860-1865, 1904, 1913
BOX 11 REEL 13	Survey books, 1833, 1851-1852
BOX OV 1 REEL 13	Oversize, 1842 <i>Atlas of American History on a Novel Plan</i> by Jerome B. Holgate.

Oversize, 1842

Container

Contents

Described according to the series, folder, and container from which the item was removed.

BOX OV 1 REEL 13

Holgate, Jerome B., *Atlas of American History on a Novel Plan*, 1842 (Container 11)