

Caleb Henry Carlton Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79015073>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010241>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2010
Revised 2023 November

Collection Summary

Title: Caleb Henry Carlton Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1831-1954

Bulk Dates: 1844-1916

ID No.: MSS15073

Creator: Carlton, Caleb Henry, 1836-1923

Extent: 2,500 items

Extent: 5 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 2.5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79015073>

Summary: United States army officer. Correspondence, diaries, articles, military transcripts and papers, biographical and genealogical material, financial records, maps, and charts pertaining to Carlton's service in the Union army and following the Civil War in wars with various Native American groups in the western United States.

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

Carlton family--Correspondence.

Carlton, Caleb Henry, 1836-1923.

Cook, Henry C.--Correspondence.

Horner, Mabel Carlton, 1872-1961. Mabel Carlton Horner biography of Caleb Henry Carlton.

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.

Wood, Thomas John, 1823-1906--Correspondence.

Wright, Matthew H.--Correspondence.

Organizations

Libby Prison.

Subjects

Apache Indians.

Atlanta Campaign, 1864.

Beaver Dam Creek, Battle of, Va., 1862.

Cheyenne Indians.

Chickamauga, Battle of, Ga., 1863.

Dakota Indians.

Fortification--Colorado.

Fortification--Nebraska.

Fortification--Wyoming.

Indians of North America--Government relations.

Indians of North America--Wars--1866-1895.

Kennesaw Mountain, Battle of, Ga., 1864.

Malvern Hill, Battle of, Va., 1862.

Military bases--United States.

Peninsular Campaign, Va., 1862.

Ute Indians.

Places

Fort Fetterman (Wyo.)

Fort Laramie (Wyo.)

Fort Sedgwick (Colo.)
Fort Sidney (Neb.)
Fort Washakie (Wyo.)
Georgia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.
Harrison's Landing, Va.--History.
Jonesboro (Ga.)--History.
Marietta (Ga.)--History.
Mechanicsville (Hanover County, Va.)--History.
Richmond (Va.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Prisoners and prisons.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Prisoners and prisons.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.
West (U.S.)--History.
Yorktown (Va.)--History.

Occupations

Army officers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Caleb Henry Carlton, United States army officer, were given to the Library of Congress by his daughter, Mabel Carlton Horner, and his granddaughter, Elizabeth Carlton Cunningham, in 1962 and 1965.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1965. The finding aid was revised in 2010. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Caleb Carlton 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.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1836, Sept. 1	Born, Cleveland, Ohio
1859	Graduated, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1862	Married Sadie Pollack

1862	Took part in Peninsular Campaign; promoted to captain
1863	Promoted to colonel, 89th Ohio Infantry
1864	Took part in Atlanta Campaign
1865	Honorably mustered out of voluntary service
1870	Assigned to the 10th Cavalry
1876	Became major, 3rd Cavalry
1889	Promoted to lieutenant colonel, 7th Cavalry
1892	Promoted to colonel, 8th Cavalry
1897	Promoted to brigadier general; retired from army
1923, Mar. 21	Died, Atlantic City, N.J.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Caleb Henry Carlton (1836-1923) span the years 1831-1954, with the bulk of the material from 1844 to 1916. The collection includes notebooks, diaries, family and general correspondence, military papers, financial records, maps and charts, articles by Carlton, and a biography and some letters by his daughter, Mabel Carlton Horner.

The correspondence, diaries, and military papers reveal the life of a cavalry officer in the Civil War and the American Indian wars that followed. During the Civil War, Carlton commanded troops under fire in the Peninsular campaign and at the battles of Yorktown, Mechanicsville, Malvern Hill, and Harrison's Landing. During the Battle of Chickamauga, Carlton and his men were ordered to perform rear-guard action and were captured. After spending five months in Libby Prison, in Richmond, he was exchanged in September 1863. During the Atlanta Campaign, Carlton saw action in the battles of Kennesaw Mountain, Marietta, and Jonesboro. Included in his military papers are documents contemporary to the war as well as recollections of battlefield movements and related matter that he compiled and received after the events.

After the Civil War, Carlton was active in the Plains Wars, including service at Fort Sidney, Nebraska; Camp Auger, Wyoming; Fort Fetterman, Wyoming; Fort Laramie, Wyoming; Fort Washakie, Wyoming; and Fort Sedgwick, Colorado. Diaries and other files document government relations and war with Apache, Cheyenne, Dakota, Ute, and other Native American groups.

Prominent among the correspondents are Generals Thomas John Wood, Henry C. Cook, William T. Sherman, and Matthew H. Wright.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Family correspondence, 1853-1876
BOX 2	General correspondence, 1847-1954
BOX 3	Military papers
BOX 3	Battlefield movements, Chickamauga and Antietam, recollections and related matter, 1888-1906
BOX 3	Orders, 1844-1897
BOX 3	Scholfield affair, 1895-1896
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1831-1899
BOX 4	Articles by Carlton
BOX 3	Bills and receipts
BOX 4	Maps, charts, commissions and awards <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 4	Newspaper clippings, printed matter, and invitations
BOX 5	Diaries and biographical information
BOX 5	Address book
BOX 5	Biography of Carlton by Mabel Carlton Horner (daughter)
BOX 5	Genealogy of the Carlton family
BOX 5	Miscellaneous biographical material
BOX 5	Notebooks
BOX 5	Carlton, Caleb Henry, 1860, 1867, 1876, 1878, 1887, undated
BOX 5	Carlton, Sadie Pollock, 1879, 1888, 1890-1894
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Maps, charts, commissions and awards (Container 4)