

John McAllister Schofield Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014068>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

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Collection Summary

Title: John McAllister Schofield Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1837-1906

Bulk Dates: 1862-1895

ID No.: MSS39107

Creator: Schofield, John McAllister, 1831-1906

Extent: 30,000 items

Extent: 99 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 38.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79039107>

Summary: Correspondence, diary, journals, military papers, memoranda, reports, despatches, financial records, court-martial papers, speeches and articles, a memoir, maps, memorabilia, and printed material pertaining chiefly to Schofield's military career.

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

Blair, Frank P., Jr. (Francis Preston), 1821-1875--Correspondence.

Cox, Jacob D. (Jacob Dolson), 1828-1900--Correspondence.

Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885--Correspondence.

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

Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875.

Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico, 1832-1867.

Porter, Fitz-John, 1822-1901--Correspondence.

Porter, Fitz-John, 1822-1901--Trials, litigation, etc.

Schofield, John McAllister, 1831-1906.

Sheridan, Philip Henry, 1831-1888--Correspondence.

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

Terry, Alfred Howe, 1827-1890--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States Military Academy.

United States. Army of the Frontier.

United States. Army of the Ohio.

United States. Army. Court-martial (Porter : 1862-1863)

United States. Army. Department of the Missouri.

United States. Army. Department of the Ohio.

United States. Army. Department of the Pacific.

United States. Army. Division of the Atlantic.

United States. Army. Division of the Pacific.

United States. Army. Military Division of the Gulf (1880-1881)

United States. Army. Military Division of the Missouri.

United States. Department of State.

United States. War Department.

Subjects

Atlanta Campaign, 1864.

Civil-military relations--United States.

Coast defenses--United States.

Courts-martial and courts of inquiry--United States.
Franklin, Battle of, Franklin, Tenn., 1864.
Indians of North America--Government relations.
Labor disputes--Illinois--Chicago.
Nashville, Battle of, Nashville, Tenn., 1864.
Nashville, Battle of, Nashville, Tenn., 1864.
Railroads--United States--Employees.
Railroads--West (U.S.)
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)--Virginia.
Trials (Military offenses)--United States.

Places

France--Foreign relations--Mexico.
France--Foreign relations--United States.
Mexico--Foreign relations--France.
Mexico--History--European intervention, 1861-1867.
Tennessee--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--Defenses.
United States--Foreign relations--France.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Occupations

Army officers
Cabinet officers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of John McAllister Schofield, U.S. secretary of war and public official, were given to the Library of Congress by his widow, Georgia Wells Kilbourne Hewson, in 1921-1926. An addition was purchased in 1966.

Processing History

The Schofield Papers were processed in 1963. The finding aid was revised in 2014. 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 John McAllister Schofield is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of John McAllister Schofield 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, John McAllister Schofield Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1831, Sept.29	Born, Gerry, N.Y.
1843	Moved to Illinois
1853	Graduated, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1853-1855	Stationed at Fort Moultrie, S.C., and Fort Capron, Fla.
1855-1860	Assistant professor of natural and experimental philosophy, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1857	Married Harriet Bartlett (died 1888)
1860-1861	Professor of physics, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.
1861	Major in First Missouri Infantry (Union) Chief of staff to General Nathaniel Lyon
1861-1862	Commander, Missouri Enrolled Militia
1862-1863	Commander, Army of the Frontier
1863	Commander, Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland Commander, Department of Missouri
1864	Commander, Twenty-third Army Corps and Army of the Ohio
1865	Commander, Department of North Carolina
1865-1866	Confidential agent in France on behalf of Department of State
1866-1867	Commander, Department of the Potomac
1867-1868	Commander, First Military District (Virginia)
1868-1869	Secretary of war
1869	Commander, Department of the Missouri
1870	Commander, Division of the Pacific (included Department of Arizona)
1872-1873	Participant, military survey of the Hawaiian Islands
1876-1881	Superintendent, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1878	President, board reviewing 1862 court-martial case of General Fitz-John Porter
1882	Commander, Division of the Pacific
1883	Commander, Division of the Missouri
1886	Commander, Division of the Atlantic
1888-1895	Commanding general of the United States Army
1891	Married Georgia W. Kilbourne (died 1927)
1892	Awarded Medal of Honor
1895	Commissioned lieutenant general Retired from the army
1897	Published <i>Forty-six Years in the Army</i> . New York, Century Co.
1906, Mar. 4	Died, St. Augustine, Fla.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John M. Schofield (1831-1906) span the years 1837-1906, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1862-1895. The collection consists of a diary, journals, letters received (originals, transcripts, and record notes of other letters received), letters sent (fair copies, drafts, and letter press copies), military papers (largely special field orders, military telegrams, and endorsements), memoranda, reports, dispatches, financial records, court-martial records, manuscripts and notes of speeches, articles and memoir, maps, memorabilia, and printed matter. The papers are organized into nine series: [Diary and Journals](#); [Letters Received](#); [Letters Sent](#); [Military Papers](#); [Subject File](#); [Speech, Article, and Book File](#); [Miscellany](#); [Addition](#), and [Oversize](#).

The Civil War papers in the collection touch upon field operations in Missouri where Schofield commanded the Army of the Frontier and later the Department of the Missouri, and the operations of the Department and Army of the Ohio under

Schofield's command in General William T. Sherman's Atlanta campaign. Many papers document the Union victories at Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee. Journals and correspondence concern Schofield's services in 1865-1866 as confidential agent of the State Department to persuade French officials to recall forces from Maximilian's empire in Mexico. Papers concern reconstruction in Virginia, 1866-1868, under Schofield, and his efforts to settle the quarrel between the president and Congress as Andrew Johnson's secretary of war.

Nearly half the collection concerns Schofield's activities in the peace-time army as commander of the Department of the Missouri (1869-1870), Division of the Pacific (1870-1876, 1882-1883), Military Division of the Gulf (1881), Military Division of the Missouri (1883-1886), and the Division of the Atlantic (1886-1888); as superintendent of the United States Military Academy (1876-1881); and as commanding general of the Army (1888-1895).

Significant correspondents include Frank P. Blair (1821-1875), Jacob D. Cox, Ulysses S. Grant, Henry Wager Halleck, Fitz-John Porter, Philip Henry Sheridan, William T. Sherman, and Alfred Howe Terry.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in nine series:

- [Diary and Journals, 1863-1891](#)
- [Letters Received, 1861-1906](#)
- [Letters Sent, 1861-1905](#)
- [Military Papers, 1862-1894](#)
- [Subject File, circa 1837-1897](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1872-1897](#)
- [Miscellany, 1849-1895](#)
- [Addition, 1870](#)
- [Oversize, 1849-1895](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><u>Diary and Journals, 1863-1891</u></p> <p>Diary, a journal, and journal-notebook. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 2-44	<p><u>Letters Received, 1861-1906</u></p> <p>Letters received. Organized into various groupings, including series assembled before receipt by the Library that are organized alphabetically by name of correspondent and preceded by indexes. Other groupings include "General Correspondence," arranged chronologically; "Special Correspondence," arranged alphabetically by name of person; and "Records of Letters Received," arranged by title of record.</p>
BOX 45-64	<p><u>Letters Sent, 1861-1905</u></p> <p>Copies of letters sent by Schofield or his military units. Organized as assembled before receipt by the Library into "Retained Copies," "Record Copies," "Letter Press Copy Books," "Letter Press Copy Books of Aides," and "Miscellaneous Drafts," and therein by topic or name of organization or person.</p>
BOX 65-70	<p><u>Military Papers, 1862-1894</u></p> <p>Military orders, telegrams send, endorsement books and memoranda. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 71-92	<p><u>Subject File, circa 1837-1897</u></p> <p>Correspondence, dispatches, military regulations, printed matter, letter press copybooks, indexes, journals and accounts, invitations, printed matter, and miscellaneous material. Arranged by topic, type of material, or name of organization or person.</p>
BOX 93-95	<p><u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1872-1897</u></p> <p>Reports, speeches, and writings for publication, including Schofield's memoirs. Arranged by title or type of writing.</p>
BOX 96	<p><u>Miscellany, 1849-1895</u></p> <p>Awards, commissions, calling cards, financial material, lists and indexes, maps, printed matter, and other miscellaneous material. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 96	<p><u>Addition, 1870</u></p> <p>Letter to William Macky Wherry.</p>
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Container List

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BOX 2-44	Letters Received, 1861-1906 Letters received. Organized into various groupings, including series assembled before receipt by the Library that are organized alphabetically by name of correspondent and preceded by indexes. Other groupings include "General Correspondence," arranged chronologically; "Special Correspondence," arranged alphabetically by name of person; and "Records of Letters Received," arranged by title of record.
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Letters Received, 1861-1906

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Letters Sent, 1861-1905

Container

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Organized as assembled before receipt by the Library into "Retained Copies," "Record Copies," "Letter Press Copy Books," "Letter Press Copy Books of Aides," and "Miscellaneous Drafts," and therein by topic or name of organization or person.

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Subject File, circa 1837-1897

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Subject File, circa 1837-1897

Container

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"Command as Compared with Army Administration," undated
"Department and Army of the Ohio," undated
"Electoral Count" (Includes copies of correspondence with William T. Sherman), 1876-1877
"Franklin" (Notes), undated
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"War Department and Command of the Army" (Draft), undated

BOX 96

Miscellany, 1849-1895

Awards, commissions, calling cards, financial material, lists and indexes, maps, printed matter, and other miscellaneous material.
Arranged by type of material.

BOX 96

Awards, Commissions, etc. *See Oversize*
Biographical Material
Calling Cards, 1886-1888, undated
Financial Papers and Household Records
Index to Pamphlets and Orders
Lists
Maps
Newspaper Clippings, 1889-1902
Printed Matter, 1873-1902, undated

BOX 96

Addition, 1870

Letter to William Macky Wherry.

BOX 96

Letter to William Macky Wherry, 1870

BOX OV 1

Oversize, 1849-1895

Awards, commissions, blueprints, map, and plat.
Arranged by type of items.

BOX OV 1

Awards, Commissions, etc., 1849-1895
Map of Korea, undated
Blueprint plans for disappearing gun carriage, 1894
Map of Arizona Territory
Military Reservation, Plat of Sante Fe, N.Mex.