

Gilbert Thompson Journal
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Washington, D.C.
2014

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Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

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Collection Summary

Title: Gilbert Thompson Journal

Inclusive Dates: 1857-1901

Bulk Dates: 1861-1886

ID No.: MSS95792

Creator: Thompson, Gilbert. 1839-1909

Extent: 1 item

Extent: 1 container

Extent: .2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81095752>

Summary: Union soldier and topographical engineer. Journal of Thompson's Civil War experiences in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., while serving as a topographical engineer in the Engineer Battalion, U.S. Army of the Potomac. Includes correspondence, laid in, of Nathaniel Prentiss Banks.

Online Content: The Gilbert Thompson journal is available on the Library of Congress Web site at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss95752.01>.

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

Banks, Nathaniel Prentiss, 1816-1894--Correspondence.

Thompson, Gilbert, 1839-1909.

Organizations

United States. Army of the Potomac. Engineer Battalion.

United States. Army--Officers.

Subjects

Bridges.

Military weapons.

Places

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

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

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Engineering and construction.

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

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

Titles

Gilbert Thompson Journal at the Library of Congress

Gilbert Thompson papers

Occupations

Engineers.

Soldiers.

Acquisition Information

The journal of Gilbert Thompson, Union soldier and topographical engineer, was purchased by the Library of Congress in 1913.

Processing History

The Gilbert Thompson Journal was processed after its purchase in 1913. The finding aid was created in 2014.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Gilbert Thompson is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The journal of Gilbert Thompson is 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.

Online Content

The Gilbert Thompson journal is available on the Library of Congress Web site at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss95752.01>.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Gilbert Thompson Journal, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1839, Mar. 21	Born, Blackstone, Mass.
1861, Nov. 22	Enlisted, Boston, Mass., in Co. A, Topographical Engineers
1862, Jan. 13	Transferred to Co. B, U. S. Engineer Battalion
1862, July 1	Transferred to Co. D, U. S. Engineer Battalion
1862, Dec. 17	Advanced to rank of corporal
1864, Nov. 21	Discharged, Camp Woodbury, Va.
1865, Jan. 4	Civilian assistant engineer, headquarters, Army of the Potomac
1869, Sept. 28	Married Mary Frances McNeill in Washington, D.C.
1872, May	Daughter Amy Greer Thompson born
1872, June	Topographer, Office of Explorations West of the 100th Meridian
1880, May 1	Topographer, U. S. Geological Survey; by 1885, geographer for the U. S. Geological Survey
1881	Joined Grand Army of the Republic
1883	Joined Society of the Army of the Potomac
1890	Organized the District of Columbia Engineer Corps
1909, June 8	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The journal of Gilbert Thompson (1839-1909), spans the years 1857-1901, including descriptions of Thompson's Civil War experiences in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., 1861-1864, while serving as a topographical engineer in the Engineer Battalion, United States Army of the Potomac. Also in the journal are later reminiscences; descriptions of

bridges, armaments, and firearms; and sketches and photographs of army officers and battle sites. Laid into the volume is correspondence of Nathaniel Prentiss Banks.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Journal, 1857-1901 Digital content available

Appendix: List of Illustrations in Gilbert Thompson Journal

The page numbers given are for location purposes only. Some sketches are on the page given; some are on adjoining pages or tipped in pages.

Page	Description
title	Abraham Lincoln; photograph
2	"Fort Independence, Boston Harbor, December 5, 1861"; sketch
7	"Engineer Buildings, West Point, N.Y."; sketch
2	"Fort Independence, Boston Harbor, December 5, 1861"; sketch
2	"Engineer Buildings, West Point, N.Y."; sketch
7	"West Point, from old Fort Putnam"; sketch
9	Abraham Lincoln; photograph
13	"M. S. Fickett, Co. D"; photograph
14	"U. S. Engr. Camp near Falmouth, Va., By Rogers, Co. A., Mar. 1863"; sketch
16	"Camp at Fairfax C. H. Va. from sketch by G. A. Gizer by G. Thompson"; sketch
17	"Sergt. Gerber. U. S. Eng'r. Battln."; photograph
19	[James C.] "Duane"; photograph
21	"Genl. N. P. Banks"; photograph
23	"Harper's Ferry, showing Ponton Bridge"; sketch
25	Sketched map of Harpers Ferry and surroundings
35	"Gen'l. Geo. B. McClellan"; photograph
37	"Our Cook Tent, White House Landing"; sketch
39	"Our House' at Hampton's on a Canal Boat"; sketch
41	"Virginia Outhouses. Wormley Creek"; sketch
45	"Mortar Batteries, before Yorktown"; two photographs
53	"Headquarters Gen'l. Porter, Camp Cold Harbor, Va."; sketch
54	Sketched map of environs near New Bridge, Virginia, June 1862
55	"Photo of Woodbury's and Alexander's Bridge, Chickahominy River, 1862"; photograph, with notes and map on verso
57	"Front, at Seven Pines"; photograph
59	"Gen'l. Barnard. Corps of Engr's. U. S. A."; photograph
69	"Battery No. 1. Yorktown"; photograph
69	"Lafayette's old Headquarters Yorktown"; photograph
75	"Harper's Ferry. Va."; photograph
76	"Chas. H. Rue. Co. D"; photograph
78	"View down the Shenandoah near Harper's Ferry"; sketch
83	"Berlin Ponton Bridge."; photograph
84	"Jake Geysler. Co. D"; photograph
86	"Gen'l. A. E. Burnside"; photograph
87	Knapsack, haversack and canteen; sketch
87	Slush light of pork fat; sketch
88	"Army Wagon"; sketch
89	"Portrait of Jno. A. Harrington, Drawn by Himself, 4th Texas, Co. E."; sketch
91	"Signaling"; sketch
92	"Flowers from home. Violet. Geranium. Evergreen (Life Size)"; sketch
92	Gilbert Thompson; postwar photograph, accompanying note written Nov. 22, 1886.
93	"G. Thompson"; wartime sketch by B. Geysler, Dec. 1862
95	"Phil' Kearney"; photograph
96	"Our Front Door and Fire-Place."; sketch
97	"Front-Door and Chimney."; sketch

Page	Description
97	"G. Thompson. Drawn by Hartshorn C. B 1862"; sketch
99	"Vicinity of Fredericksburg, Va."; sketched map
100	"Ponton Bridges, Franklin's Crossing"; photograph
100	"Alfred Burnett's Place"; sketch
101	Army Corps of Engineers insignia, and artist's palette with crossed swords; sketches
101	"B. Chipman, Co. B."; photograph
103	"Atkins Higgins Co. D."; photograph
105	Scroll with Army Corps of Engineer insignia and "Peninsula, Maryland, Valley of Virginia, Fredericksburg, 1862" written on it; sketch
105	"A. G. Rice Co. B."; photograph
107	"J. H. Putnam 1st Sergt Co. D. 1864"; photograph
109	"Gen'l. 'Joe' Hooker. 'Fighting Joe Hooker.'"; photograph
112	Inscription on tombstone of Margaret Hedgeman; sketch
118	"Ballooning"; sketch
120	"Our Tent" in camp near Falmouth, Va.; sketch
121	"Our Candle Stick"; sketch
121	"Our Knight Errant"; sketch
122	"Our Sometimes Queen"; color sketch
123	Rifle and bayonet; sketch
123	Gilbert Thompson, by J. B. Geysler, Jan. 30, 1863; sketch
125	"Guard House, Potomac Creek, Va. Mar. 27 '63"; sketch
128	"A Sketch by John B Geysler Co. D"; sketch of woman holding a goblet
132	"Camp at Brandy Sta."; sketch
132	"Shorn of Greatness"; sketch of bare trees
133	"Sole Survivor"; sketch of tree
135	"Photographs of drawings by J. B. Geysler"
142	"The Rappahannock Blockade Runner"; sketch
145	"An Exceedingly <u>Rough</u> Sketch from my notebook of Fredericksburg, from the Parallel."; sketch of artillery emplacements
147	"Gen'l T. J. Jackson 'Stonewall'"; photograph
151	"Wight's Restaurant"; tipped in sketch
154	"There's the Officer's Trees"; sketch
155	Campsite, perhaps near Falmouth, Va.; sketch
155	"Gen'l R. E. Lee, Gardner, 1865."; photograph
156	"Old Tobacco House near H'd Quars."; sketch
156	"[Sentry box]"; sketch
159	"Soldier's Kitchen"; sketch
159	Unknown subject; sketch
160	"Deserted Camp"; sketch
160	"'Uncle Charley,' Corps of U. S. Engrs., Killed at Franklin's Crossing, June 5th 1863."; signed photograph of Charles E. Cross
163	"Our Tent."; sketch
165	"Piece of Shell, Fron Franklin's Cross'g"; sketch
169	"Colchester Ferry, Va."; sketch
171	"Noland's Ferry. Monocacy River."; sketch
172	"Glimpse of Potomac with Ponton Bridge"; sketch
173	"Sugar Loaf Mt."; sketch
174	"Maj. Gen'l George G. Meade"; photograph
176	Chess game in camp one night; sketch

Page	Description
177	Unidentified female; photograph
184	"Joseph Cummins Co. D."; photograph
186	Camp; sketch
188	"Spring House. Rappahannock Sta. Va."; sketch
190	"The Dead at Bull Run Battlefield ' <u>Requiescat in pace</u> '" and "Battle-field of Bull Run. (2d day near Groveton.)"; two sketches on one page, by Gilbert Thompson, Oct. 1863
192	"Maj. Gen'l George G. Meade. 1863"; photograph
194	"Comfort."; sketch
196	Corduroy Bridge, Kelly's Ford Aug. 4th '63"; sketch
197	"Kelly's Ford. Va."; sketched map
198	Copse; color drawing
199	"(The [illeg.] cloud of the morning.)"; sketch
200	Tents; sketch. "The Officer's tents Rap. Sta. camp" written on verso of page
202	"Gen'l A. A. Humphries"; photograph
203	"Army Shoes."; sketch
204	"An Honorable Member of the Culinary Dept."; sketch of frying pan
205	Tent; sketch
206	Coffee cup with "Peninsula," "Maryland," "Fredericksburg" and "Rappahannock" printed in the steam; sketch
207	"Our Flag."; color drawing of Army Corps of s flag with "Essayons" (Let Us Try) motto
208	"John Brown Co. B."; photograph
210	"Camp at Brandy Sta. Jan. 1864"; drawing
212	"Procenium"; color drawing
212	"Exterior of Essayons Theatre, Brandy Sta. Va Winter, 1'63-4. Ashleigh Plantation"; sketch
214	"Interior View of Quarters, Winter 1864"; drawing
220	"Our Alley; drawing
222	"Camp of U. S. Eng'r Battln Brandy Station Va. Winter, 1864"; photograph
224	Capt. Charles Turnbull, Alfred R. Waud, General N. Michler, James Daly, Captain Paine; group photograph with identifications on verso
225	"'Ned' Coolidge and Clarke, drummer boy, in character"; photograph
228	"Clarke, the drummer boy in character of the 'Page.'"; photograph
233	"D's Cook Tent, Culpeper in Distance, Nov. '63"; sketch
234	"Confederate Huts. Near Kelly's Ford, Va. Nov. '63"; sketch
234	"Deserted Shelter Tent. Nov. '63"; sketch
234	"Makeshift"; sketch
234	"Meek & Lowly"; sketch
239	"Gen'l G. K. Warren"; photograph
243	"Sert. Geo. L. Cobb, Co. B."; photograph
250	Sketched map of position of 6th Corps and U. S. Engineer Battalion on May 5-6, 1864
251	Confederate flag; sketch
252	Sketched map, May 6, 1864
254	Sketched map, May 9, 1864
255	"Todd's Tavern."; sketch
256	Sketched map, May 10, 1864
257	"Glimpse of the Battle from the tree. May 10"; sketch
257	"Serg't. Coughlin. Co. B."; photograph
259	Serg't. Kimball Co. B."; photograph
262	"Rifle pit, May 6th '64."; sketch
262	"Greenwood (May 5th)"; sketch
262	"Section of Field Rifle Pit"; sketch

Page	Description
262	"A Guess Work Map."; map of vicinity of Spotsylvania Court House
266	"Camp in Woods. Anderson Place. May 20th '64."; sketch
268	Sketched map, May 21, 1864
268	"Bull Run Bridge"; copy from sketch by Beddoe, Co. C
268	"Guinea's Br."; copy from sketch by Beddoe, Co. C
268	"Allen's Mills."; copy from sketch by Beddoe, Co. C
269	Photographic envelope; loose
270	Sketch of bridge position?
270	"Pamunkey River" drawing
272-273	Roughly sketched maps of Hawes Store area
276	Map of Gaines' Mill and New Bridge, near Cold Harbor; sketch
278	"(A Shelter at the front)"; sketch
279	Roughly sketched map of Cold Harbor
280	Map of Wood's Farm?; sketch
284	"Gen'l Benham, Corps of Engr's U. S. A."; photograph
288	"Gen'l N. Michler. Corps of Eng'rs U. S. A."; photograph
298	"Fred. Vogel Co. D."; photograph
308	Group photograph of thirty in the Engineer Battalion, identified on verso with note "By T. H. O'Sullivan Photographer A. of P. Before Petersburg, Va. 1864. Aug. 16."; photograph
322	"Fort Conahey."; photograph
324	"Hopedale. Ms. [Mass.] From Memory, Feb. 12th 1864. Brandy Sta. Va."; loose drawing
326	"Dressing Case. Before Petersburg. Sept. 11, 1864"; sketch
335	"Signal Station. Nov. 64." ; sketch
339	"Soldier's Stove of Tin Cans"; sketch
341	"Gilbert Thompson Hopedale, Ms. [Mass.] Dec. 24, 1864"; photograph