

Samuel J. Gibson Diary and Correspondence
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2014

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79005241>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms015002>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2015
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Collection Summary

Title: Samuel J. Gibson Diary and Correspondence

Inclusive Dates: 1864

ID No.: MSS5241

Creator: Gibson, Samuel J., 1833-1878

Extent: 2 items

Extent: 1 folder

Extent: .1 linear feet

Extent: 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79005241>

Summary: Union soldier. Diary kept by Gibson while serving with Company B, 103rd Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, U.S. Army. Documents the capture of the federal garrison at Plymouth, North Carolina, and life as a prisoner of war both on the march and at Andersonville, Georgia, and Florence, South Carolina. Also includes a letter to his wife written from Andersonville Prison.

Online Content: The Samuel J. Gibson Diary and Correspondence are available on the Library of Congress website at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000053>. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition as available. Transcription datasets from the Samuel J. Gibson Diary and Correspondence are available online at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gdc/gdcdatasets.2019667238>.

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

Gibson, Samuel J., 1833-1878.

Organizations

Andersonville Prison.

United States. Army. Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, 103rd (1861-1865). Company B.

Places

Andersonville (Ga.)--History.

Florence (S.C.)--History.

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

North Carolina--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

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

Plymouth (N.C.)--History.

South Carolina--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Prisoners and prisons.

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

Titles

Samuel J. Gibson Diary and Correspondence at the Library of Congress

Samuel J. Gibson papers

Occupations

Soldiers.

Acquisition Information

The diary and letter of Samuel J. Gibson, soldier, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1935.

Processing History

The diary and letter of Samuel J. Gibson were processed circa 1935. The finding aid was created in 2014.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The Samuel J. Gibson Diary and Correspondence 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 one reel. 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.

Online Content

The Samuel J. Gibson Diary and Correspondence are available on the Library of Congress website at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000053>. *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition as available.* Transcription datasets from the Samuel J. Gibson Diary and Correspondence are available online at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gdc/gdcdatasets.2019667238>.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Samuel J. Gibson Diary and Correspondence, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C

Biographical Note

| Date | Event |
|------------------|--|
| 1833, Aug. 6 | Born, Pa. (location unknown) |
| 1858, Sept. 16 | Married Rachel A. McKee (1835-1916), Armstrong County, Pa. |
| circa 1860, Feb. | Daughter Alice E. Gibson born |
| 1861, Nov. 1 | Enlisted, Co. B, 103rd Pennsylvania Infantry |
| 1864, Apr. 20 | Captured as prisoner of war at Plymouth, NC |
| 1864, Dec. 16 | Paroled, Charleston, SC |
| 1865, Mar. 14 | Discharged from army |
| 1866, Mar. 24 | Daughter Etta Nora Gibson born |
| 1868, Apr. 29 | Daughter Mary Ada Gibson born |
| 1878, Dec. 2 | Died, Altona, Knox County, Ill. |

Scope and Content Note

The Civil War diary and correspondence of Samuel J. Gibson (1833-1878) date from 1864. The diary relates the capture by Confederates of the 103rd Pennsylvania Infantry at the federal garrison at Plymouth, North Carolina, April 17-20, and his life as a prisoner of war at Andersonville, Georgia, and Florence, South Carolina. Gibson records the war news and rumors received by the prisoners, the state of his physical and emotional health, the deaths of fellow prisoners, and the importance of his diary in maintaining a sense of time. Also in the collection is a letter of June 12, 1864 to his wife written from Andersonville Prison.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|--|
| FOLDER 1 | Diary, 1864 Digital content available |
| FOLDER 1 | Letter to wife, 1864, June 12 Digital content available |