Collection Summary

Title: William Hamilton Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1838-1896
Bulk Dates: 1862-1865
ID No.: MSS24646
Creator: Hamilton, John, 1815-1896
Creator: Hamilton, William, 1824-1896
Extent: 300 items
Extent: 2 containers
Extent: .4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79024646

Summary: Correspondence of the Hamilton family, primarily of brothers, John Hamilton, Texas pioneer and soldier; and of William Hamilton, lawyer and soldier. Letters of John Hamilton are addressed to his mother, Rosanna Boyd Hamilton, and other family members from his home in Zavala, Texas. William Hamilton's letters were written primarily during his service as a private in Company D, 2nd Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves, U.S. Army of the Potomac, to his mother, Rosanna Boyd Hamilton, in Harrisburg, Pa., and to his brother, A. Boyd Hamilton.

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
Bustamante, Anastasio, 1780-1853.
Hamilton family--Correspondence.
Hamilton.
Hamilton, A. Boyd (Adam Boyd), 1808-1896.
Hamilton, Rosanna Boyd, 1786-1872--Correspondence.
Hamilton, William, 1824-1896.
Houston, Sam, 1793-1863.
Santa Anna, Antonio López de, 1794?-1876.

Organizations
Confederate States of America. Army.
Texas Rangers.
United States Sanitary Commission.
United States. Army of the Potomac--Military life.
United States. Army--African American troops.
United States. Army--Officers.
United States. Army--Organization.
United States. Army--Supplies and stores.

Subjects
African Americans--Texas.
Antietam, Battle of, Md., 1862.
Appomattox Campaign, 1865.
Desertion, Military--Confederate States of America.
Fredericksburg, Battle of, Fredericksburg, Va., 1862.
Frontier and pioneer life--Texas.
Gettysburg, Battle of, Gettysburg, Pa., 1863.
Indians of North America--Texas.
Mexican War, 1846-1848.
Mexicans--Rio Grande Valley (Colo.-Mexico and Tex.)
Slavery--Texas.

**Places**
Maryland--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Mexico--History--1821-1861.
Pennsylvania--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Petersburg (Va.)--History--Siege, 1864-1865.
Rapidan River (Va.)--History.
Rappahannock River (Va.)--History.
Rio Grande (Colo.-Mexico and Tex.)--History.
Texas--History--1846-1950.
Texas--History--Republic, 1836-1846.
Texas--Politics and government--19th century.
Texas--Social life and customs.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Participation, African American.
United States--Politics and government--19th century.
Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Zavalla (Tex.)--History.

**Titles**
*John Hamilton and William Hamilton papers*
*John Hamilton correspondence*
*William Hamilton correspondence*

**Occupations**
Lawyers.
Pioneers.
 Soldiers.

**Acquisition Information**
The correspondence of John Hamilton, Texas pioneer and soldier, and William Hamilton, lawyer and soldier, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1934.

**Processing History**
The John Hamilton and William Hamilton correspondence was processed in bound volumes after being received in 1934. The finding aid was created in 2016. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

**Additional Guides**

**Copyright Status**
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Hamilton and William Hamilton is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).
Access and Restrictions
The correspondence of John Hamilton and William Hamilton 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.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, John Hamilton and William Hamilton Correspondence, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note
The correspondence of William Hamilton (1824-1896) and John Hamilton (1815-1896) span the years 1838-1896, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1861-1865. Letters (1838-1855) of John Hamilton are addressed to his mother, Rosanna Boyd Hamilton, and other family members from his home in Zavala, Texas. Subjects include family matters, the difficulties of life in Texas, relations with Native Americans, African Americans and slavery in Texas, political affairs of Texas and the United States, his service in the Texas Rangers during the Mexican War (1846-1848), and impressions of Mexico, of Mexicans living in the Rio Grande Valley, and of individuals including Sam Houston and presidents of Mexico, Anastasio Bustamante and Antonio López de Santa Anna. William Hamilton's letters written primarily during his service as a private in Company D, 2nd Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves, U.S. Army of the Potomac, are to his mother, Rosanna Boyd Hamilton, in Harrisburg, Pa., and to his brother, A. Boyd Hamilton. Sent from various camps in Maryland and Virginia, the letters concern the Battle of Antietam (1862), Battle of Fredericksburg, Fredericksburg, Va. (1862), Battle of Gettysburg, Pa. (1863), and Appomattox Campaign (1865); operations along the Rapidan River, Va., and the Rappahannock River, Va., in the fall of 1863; and the siege of Petersburg, Va. (1864-1865). They also discuss African American troops, camp life, generalship, military organization, supply problems, the United States Sanitary Commission, and Confederate Army deserters.

Arrangement of the Papers
The collection is organized chronologically in two bound volumes with an index at the end of volume two.
## Container List

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