

Charles Wellington Reed Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Joseph D. Sullivan
Revised by Michael Spangler



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2013

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

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2002

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms001005>

Latest revision: 2013 February

Collection Summary

Title: Charles Wellington Reed Papers

Span Dates: 1776-1926

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1862-1865)

ID No.: MSS37457

Creator: Reed, Charles Wellington, 1841-1926

Extent: 400 items ; 4 containers plus 2 oversize ; 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Artist and soldier. Correspondence, a diary, ink and pencil sketches, watercolors, prints, military papers, books with illustrations by Reed, maps, medals, and photographs relating chiefly to Reed's service in the Ninth Massachusetts Light Artillery Battery during the Civil War.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Reed, Charles Wellington, 1841-1926.

Organizations

United States. Army--Military life.

United States. Army. Massachusetts Artillery Battery, 9th (1862-1865)

Subjects

Art.

Illustration of books.

Soldiers as artists.

Places

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Art and the war.

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

Occupations

Artists.

Soldiers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Charles Wellington Reed, artist and soldier, were given to the Library of Congress by Grace M. Schirmer in 1928.

Processing History

The papers of Charles Wellington Reed were arranged and described in 1965. The collection was reprocessed in 1997, and the finding aid revised in 2002 and again in 2013.

Transfers

Most photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Related Material

The Princeton University Library has a small collection of Reed's letters to his sister, Emma Reed, from 1862 to 1865.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Charles Wellington Reed is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Charles Wellington Reed 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, Charles Wellington Reed Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1841, Apr. 1	Born, Boston, Mass.
1862	Enlisted in Ninth Massachusetts Battery
1862-1865	Participated in many battles of the Civil War including Mine Run, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Petersburg, and Weldon Railroad
1864	Transferred to the Topographical Engineers, Fifth Army Corps
1865	Honorably discharged
1865	Pursued career as artist and illustrator
1895	Awarded Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery on the battlefield at Gettysburg
1926, Apr. 29	Died, Norwell, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles Wellington Reed (1841-1926) span the years 1776-1926, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1862-1865. The collection includes approximately seven hundred sketches in two volumes and a large group of correspondence relating primarily to the Civil War. Other items consist of articles, citations and military papers, clippings, a diary, maps, medals, photographs, printed matter, and oversize material. The material is arranged alphabetically by type of material with oversize items located at the end of the collection.

The collection documents Reed's life as a soldier during the Civil War. Many letters, especially those written to his family, describe in detail his activities as a private in the Ninth Massachusetts Battery. The letters are often prefaced by drawings which further illustrate the rigors and even amusing events of his service. The two volumes of sketches include drawings of army life during the Civil War, some drawn during actual combat. Others are of landscapes, animals, and other studies.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Articles, undated Citations and military papers, 1865-1916 <u><i>See also Oversize, Container OV 1</i></u> Clippings, 1863-1926, undated Congressional Medal of Honor, 1895 <u><i>See also Oversize, Container OV 2</i></u> (2 folders) Correspondence, 1849-1916, undated (12 folders) Diary, 1864
BOX 2	Drawings, sketches, and prints, 1870, 1884, undated <u><i>See also Oversize</i></u> (2 folders) Grant, Ulysses S., drawing of, undated <u><i>See Oversize, Container OV 2</i></u> Maps, 1862-1865, undated <u><i>See Oversize, Container OV 1</i></u> Miscellany, 1776-1899, undated <u><i>See also Oversize, Container OV 1</i></u> Photographs, 1885, undated Printed matter, including books with illustrations by Reed, 1888-1890 (3 folders)
BOX 3	Sketchbooks, 1863-1887, undated Nos. 1-10, leaves 1-415
BOX 4	Unnumbered, leaves 416-650 <u><i>See also Oversize, Container OV 1</i></u>
BOX OV 1	Oversize Citations and military papers, 1869-1896 (Container 1) Drawings, sketches, and prints, 1870, 1884, undated (Container 2) Maps, 1862-1865, undated (Container 2) Miscellany, 1776, 1784 (Container 2) Sketchbooks Unnumbered, leaves 550 and 637 (Container 4)
BOX OV 2	Congressional Medal of Honor, two versions, 1895 (Container 1) Grant, Ulysses S., drawing of, undated (Container 2)