

James Jenkins Gillette Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Patrick Kerwin



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2000

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Collection Summary

Title: James Jenkins Gillette Papers

Span Dates: 1857-1884

ID No.: MSS22822

Creator: Gillette, James Jenkins, d. 1881

Extent: 2,000 items; 6 containers plus 1 oversize; 2.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: U.S. Army officer, U.S. Army commissioner of subsistence, and U.S. commissioner of claims from Mobile, Alabama. Correspondence, military papers, receipts, court records, and a docket book relating to Gillette's military service and his activities as claims commissioner.

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.

Personal Names

Elliott, Tom, fl. 1862-1863--Correspondence.

Gillette, James Jenkins, d. 1881.

Maxwell, Sally--Correspondence.

Organizations

Mobile and Ohio Railroad Company.

New York (State). Militia.

Republican National Convention.

United States. Army. Maryland Infantry Regiment, 4th (1862-1865)

United States. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

United States. Commissioners of Claims.

United States. Congress--Elections.

Subjects

Antietam, Battle of, Md., 1862.

Atlanta Campaign, 1864.

Bull Run, 1st Battle of, Va., 1861.

Bull Run, 2nd Battle of, Va., 1862.

Chancellorsville, Battle of, Chancellorsville, Va., 1863.

Courts--Alabama--Mobile.

Gettysburg Campaign, 1863.

Presidents--United States--Election--1880.

Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)

Shenandoah Valley Campaign, 1862.

Locations

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

Mobile (Ala.)--History.

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

Richmond (Va.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

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

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

United States--Politics and government--1877-1881.

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

Occupations

Army officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of James Jenkins Gillette, U.S. Army officer, U.S. Army commissioner of subsistence, and U.S. commissioner of claims from Mobile, Alabama, were given to the Library of Congress by Mrs. Prentiss P. Bassett, 1945-1951. An addition was given by Edwin R. Langer via Jane E. Fortmann, 1988

Copyright Status:

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

Access and Restrictions:

The James Jenkins Gillette Papers 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, James Jenkins Gillette Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James Jenkins Gillette (died 1881) span the years 1857-1884 and consist of correspondence, military papers, receipts, court records, and a docket book pertaining primarily to Gillette's military service and his activities as claims commissioner. Letters and drafts of letters from Gillette to his family document his Civil War experiences as an engineer with the Seventy-First New York Militia Regiment, camp life and training, the Battle of First Bull Run, and life as a prisoner of war at Richmond, Virginia. Official correspondence concerns military supplies in the Shenandoah Valley campaign, the Battles of Second Bull Run, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and Atlanta. Also included is a small group of letters from Gillette's friend, Tom Elliott, to Sally Maxwell, 1862-1863.

The addition consists of a letterbook, 19 February-22 July 1862, and a morning report book, 24 January-21 May 1862, kept by Gillette while serving with the Fourth Maryland Infantry, which later merged with the Third Maryland Infantry, and as acting commissary for the First Brigade, Second Division, Second Army Corps of Virginia.

Other papers relate to Gillette's work as United States commissioner at Mobile, Alabama, particularly the proceedings of the chancery court in Mobile, the receivership of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, the elections of 1878 and 1880, especially the selection of delegates to the Republican National Convention at Chicago in 1880. Also documented in the collection are Gillette's experiences in the South prior to the Civil War and his work with the Freedmen's Bureau at Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Mobile, Alabama, 1865-1868.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Chronological file
BOX 1	1857-1869 (10 folders)
BOX 2	1870-1879 (7 folders)
BOX 3	1880-1887, undated (8 folders)
BOX 4	Court and chancery records, 1869-1886, undated (8 folders)
BOX 5	Docket book, 1870-1878
BOX 5	Letterbooks, 1871-1878 (2 vols.)
BOX 6	Military papers, 1862-1879
BOX 6	Photograph, 1863
BOX OV 1	Addition
BOX OV 1	Letterbook, 19 Feb.-22 July 1862
BOX OV 1	Morning report book, 24 Jan.-21 May 1862