



## Guide to the George W. Gordon Papers, 1860-1864

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

George W. Gordon Papers, 1860-1864

**Repository:**

New Hampshire Historical Society

30 Park Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-6688

<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

**Collection Number:**

2014.002

**Author of Finding Aid:**

Susan Kelly

**Creator:**

Gordon, George W., 1834-1864

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English.

**Extent:**

1 box

**Abstract:**

George W. Gordon of Suncook, NH, enlisted in 1861 in the 2nd New Hampshire Infantry Regiment and served for nearly three years until his death at the Battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia, on June 8, 1864. The papers consist of correspondence to his wife describing camp experiences, personal political opinions on the Civil War and Union commanders, reflections on the South, thoughts on battles in which he fought, and experiences serving on court martial duty. It also contains five money orders, two jury notices and seven envelopes.

## Access and Use

### **Acquisition Information and Provenance:**

The papers were donated to the New Hampshire Historical Society by Jane L. Gordon in August 2013.

### **Processing Information:**

This collection was processed by Susan Kelly in June 2014. The finding aid was written by Susan Kelly in June 2014

### **Access Restrictions:**

Available for research.

### **Location:**

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

### **Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:**

All materials are in stable condition.

### **Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:**

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Researchers are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Item title, George W. Gordon Papers, 2014.002. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date Accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Biographical Information of George W. Gordon**

George Washington Gordon was born on February 2, 1834 in Rockingham County, New Hampshire and as an adult resided in Allenstown and Suncook, New Hampshire. In May of 1861, he enlisted as a Sergeant Major in the 2nd New Hampshire Infantry Regiment and served with the regiment until his death at Cold Harbor, Virginia on June 8, 1864. In July, 1861, shortly after the First Battle of Manassas Junction, he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant and later to 1st Lieutenant during the Peninsular Campaign in July of 1862. He achieved the rank of Captain in September, 1862, after the Second Battle of Manassas Junction. His regiment saw considerable action with the Army of the Potomac in Burnside's Brigade, as part of the 3rd Army Corps and with the 18th and 24th Army Corps. Gordon was wounded in battle at both the Second Battle of Manassas Junction and at Gettysburg, when the 2nd New Hampshire was overwhelmed in the Peach Orchard on July 3, 1863. He later served court martial duty and sentenced deserters. He decided to leave the army when his three year enlistment ended, but was killed at Cold Harbor before he could do so. He was survived by his wife Angeline Streeter Gordon and two

children, a daughter Willetta [referred to as Etta] and a son George. He is buried in Head's Cemetery, Hooksett, New Hampshire.

**Collection Scope and Content Note:**

The George W. Gordon Papers consist of correspondence, envelopes, money orders, and jury duty summonses. Most of the correspondence is from Gordon to his wife, but there is also one letter from the Confederate Secretary of War to President Jefferson Davis. The documents are all hand written. Some of the letters contain their original envelopes. This collection contains records representing the creator's Civil War experiences, his emotions, and information relating to his family and personal life.

**Arrangement:**

The George W. Gordon Papers are organized chronologically by date.

Contents List

**George W. Gordon Papers**

- Folder 1 Correspondence, July, 1860- December, 1861
- Folder 2 Correspondence January- April, 1862
- Folder 3 Correspondence May- July, 1862
- Folder 4 Correspondence August- December, 1862
- Folder 5 Correspondence January- July, 1863
- Folder 6 Correspondence August- December, 1863
- Folder 7 Correspondence January - April, 1864
- Folder 8 Correspondence May, 1864
- Folder 9 Correspondence not completely dated
- Folder 10 5 money orders, 2 jury duty summonses, 8 envelopes, and a letter dated December 30, 1863 from the Confederate Secretary of War to President Jefferson Davis of the Confederacy concerning a skirmish at Olive Branch Church involving Major General J.E. B. Stuart

Subject Terms

**People:**

- Appleton, William, 1845-1912
- Bailey, Edward L.
- Burnside, Ambrose, 1824-1881
- Gordon, Angeline, 1833-1919
- Gordon, George E., 1859-1932
- Gordon, George W., 1834-1864
- Gordon, Willetta, 1855-1938
- Grant, Ulysses S. 1822-1885
- Halleck, Henry, 1815-1872
- Hooker, Joseph, 1814-1879
- Marston, Gilman
- McClellan, George, 1826-1885

Palmer, Stephen  
Pope, John, 1822-1892

**Organizations:**

United States. Army. New Hampshire Infantry Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> (1861-1865)  
United States – History – Army of the Potomac  
United States - History - Civil War, 1861-1864

**Subjects:**

Battles.  
Camp Life  
Home Front  
Slavery – United States.

**Locations:**

Alexandria, Virginia  
Arlington House, Washington, D.C.  
Camp Union, Bladensburg, Maryland  
Centerville, Virginia  
Dancoaster, Maryland  
Falmouth, Virginia  
Gettysburg, Virginia  
Harrisons Landing, Virginia  
Hill Gap, Maryland  
Littlestown, Pennsylvania  
Manassas Junction (Bull Run), Virginia  
Point Lookout, Maryland  
Yorktown, Virginia

**Occupations:**

Military

**Related Materials**

The New Hampshire Historical Society contains some objects related to George W. Gordon with accession number, 2014.010.