

Guide to the George W. Gordon Papers, 1848-1917, bulk 1860-1864

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

George W. Gordon Papers, 1848-1917, bulk 1860-1864

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

2014.002, 2022.077

Author of Finding Aid:

Susan Kelly; updated by Korrena Cowing

Creator:

Gordon, George Washington, 1834-1864

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box, 1 oversized folder, and 4 photographs ; 0.33 linear feet

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. These 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 the battles in which he fought, and experiences serving on court martial duty. It also contains five money orders, two jury notices, seven envelopes, photographs, military papers, and information on the Grand Army of the Republic.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The George W. Gordon Papers were donated to the New Hampshire Historical Society by Jane L. Gordon in memory of the George E. Gordon family of Suncook, NH, on August 28, 2013. A second accession, 2022.077, was a gift of the Hutchinson family on October 24, 2022.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Susan Kelly in June 2014 and accession 2022.077 was added by Korrena Cowing in October 2023. The finding aid was written by Susan Kelly in June 2014 and updated by Korrena Cowing in October 2023. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research. This collection has been digitized and is available on the New Hampshire Historical Society's online catalog.

Location:

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

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users 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:

George Washington Gordon was born on February 2, 1834 in Rockingham County, NH, the son of Joseph Q. and Lydia (Hayes) Gordon. As an adult George resided in Allenstown and Suncook, NH. In May of 1861, he enlisted as a Private (appointed to Sergeant Major on June 10) 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.

George married Angeline B. Streeter on September 18, 1854 at Lawrence, MA. The daughter of Joel and Angeline Streeter, she was born July 20, 1833 at Lisbon, NH. George was survived by his wife Angeline Streeter Gordon and two children, a daughter Willetta [referred to as Etta] (1855-1938) and a son George (1858-1932). George was buried in Head's Cemetery, Hooksett, NH. Angeline died January 19, 1919 at Manchester, NH, and was buried at Hooksett with George.

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 George W. Gordon to his wife, but there is also one letter from the Confederate Secretary of War to President Jefferson Davis. The documents are all handwritten and 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.

Additional materials include an 1887 roster for the Grand Army of the Republic, 1878 bylaws to the George W. Gordon Post No. 39 of the Grand Army of the Republic, Gordon's military commissions, pension information, and photographs of Gordon, his family, and others. Also included are two volumes: *The Young Man; or Guide to Knowledge, Virtue, and Happiness* by Frank Ferguson and *Take Care of Your Health: Advice to Soldiers* by W. W. Hall, M.D. The materials in this collection date from 1848 to 1917, with the bulk of materials dating from 1860 to 1864.

Arrangement:

The George W. Gordon Papers are organized alphabetically by type, then chronologically. Accession 2022.077 has been added to the end of the collection and is organized alphabetically by type.

Contents List

Box 1

- Folder 1 Correspondence, 1860 July-1861 December
- Folder 2 Correspondence, 1862 January-April
- Folder 3 Correspondence, 1862 May-July
- Folder 4 Correspondence, 1862 August-December
- Folder 5 Correspondence, 1863 January-July
- Folder 6 Correspondence, 1863 August-December
- Folder 7 Correspondence, 1864 January-April
- Folder 8 Correspondence, 1864 May-November
- Folder 9 Correspondence, undated

Folder 10 Miscellaneous papers, 1860-1864
 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

Accession number: 2022.077

Folder 11 Grand Army of the Republic Roster of NH Posts, 1887; By-laws of George W.
 Gordon Post no. 39, 1878
Folder 12 Military papers, 1861-1879, 1911-1917
Folder 13 Photographs, circa 1850s-1860s
Folder 14 Printed matter, 1848, undated
 The Young Man; or Guide to Knowledge, Virtue, and Happiness by Frank
 Ferguson, 1848
 Take Care of Your Health: Advice to Soldiers by W. W. Hall, M.D.,
 undated
Folder 15 Statement of labor and materials used in Ms. A. B. Gordon's house, undated

Separated Materials:

The following documents from accession 2022.077 were moved to Oversized Manuscripts Box
'G' due to their size:

Appointment of George W. Gordon as Sergeant Major in the 2nd Regiment, 1861 June 13
Appointment of George W. Gordon as 2nd Lieutenant of Company I in the 2nd Infantry
Regiment, 1861 July 29
Appointment of George W. Gordon as Lieutenant of Company D in the 2nd Infantry
Regiment, 1862 August 8
Appointment of George W. Gordon as Captain in the 2nd Infantry Regiment, 1862
September 1

The following photographs from accession 2022.077 were moved to the Encased Photograph
Collection Boxes 28-29:

James B.T. Baker daguerreotype, 1852
[H: 3.625" x W: 3.25" x D: 0.5"; a lock of blonde and brown hair is encapsulated
behind the image.]
George W., Willetta "Etta", and Angeline Gordon daguerreotype, 1857
[H: 3.625" x W: 3.25" x D: 0.5"; a lock of brown hair is encapsulated behind the
image.]
Unidentified woman ambrotype, 1850s-1860s
[H: 2.875" x W: 2.375" x D: 0.75"]
Unidentified woman ambrotype, 1850s-1860s
[H: 6.125" x W: 4.875" x D: 1"]

Subject Terms

People:

Appleton, William, 1845-1912

Bailey, Edward L.
Baker, James B.T., circa 1832-1916
Burnside, Ambrose Everett, 1824-1881
Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889
Gordon, Angeline Streeter, 1833-1919
Gordon, George E., 1859-1932
Gordon, George Washington, 1834-1864
Gordon, Willetta, 1855-1938
Grant, Ulysses S. 1822-1885
Halleck, H. W. (Henry Wager), 1815-1872
Hooker, Joseph, 1814-1879
Marston, Gilman, 1811-1890
McClellan, George B. (George Brinton), 1826-1885
Palmer, Stephen
Pope, John, 1822-1892
Seddon, James A. (James Alexander), 1815-1880
Shute, Charles H., 1838-1907

Organizations:

Grand Army of the Republic
United States. Army of the Potomac
United States. Army. New Hampshire Infantry Regiment, 2nd (1861-1865)
United States. Pension Bureau

Subjects:

Battles
Correspondence
Military appointments
Military life
Pensions
Photographs
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Locations:

Alexandria, VA
Allentown, NH
Bladensburg, MD
Centerville, VA
Cold Harbor, VA
Doncaster, MD
Falmouth, VA
Gettysburg, PA
Harrisons Landing, VA
Littlestown, PA
Manassas, VA
Point Lookout, MD
Washington, DC
Yorktown, VA

Occupations:
Soldiers

Related Materials

Museum

The New Hampshire Historical Society's museum has several objects related to George W. Gordon with accession number 2014.010. A sample is listed below. See the online catalog for more information.

Belt, Sword, 1861-1864, 2014.010.07

Coin, 1852, 2014.010.09.4

Shell, Artillery, 1862-1864, 2014.010.011

Sword, 1862, 2014.010.04