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Guide to Rhode Island 11th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored) [Collection] 1853-1913

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Guide to Rhode Island 11th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored)
1853-1913
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Collection Overview

Creator: Rhode Island 11th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored)
Title: Rhode Island 11th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored)
Dates: 1853-1913
Quantity: 3 box(es) (1.5 linear feet)
Abstract: The collection consists of official records of the Rhode Island 11th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored) and the personal correspondence of Lt. Allen F. Cameron, who was one of the regiment's officers. The regimental records consist of materials such as regimental reports, orders, rosters, and courts-martial records detailing activities of the regiment, life in the Union Army and treatment of black troops by white officers.

Identification: Ms. us11regiment
Language: The records are in English.
Repository: Phillips Memorial Library, Special and Archival Collections 549 River Avenue Providence, RI 02918-0001 http://www.providence.edu/Academics/Phillips+Memorial+Library/

Historical Information

The Rhode Island 11th United States Colored Heavy Artillery had originally been raised and organized as the Fourteenth Regiment Rhode Island Heavy Artillery. On 28 August 1863 the first company was mustered into Federal Service.

As customary for all black units raised during the Civil War, the officers of this regiment were white, all of whom had seen previous service. They were commissioned by the President of the United States, after having passed a rigid examination before a military board convened at Washington of which Major General Silas Casey of the U.S.Army, presided over.

On 19 December 1863 the first battalion left Providence and sailed from Newport for New Orleans, Louisiana, to join General Banks, commanding the Department of the Gulf. On 8 January 1864 the second battalion left Providence to join the first battalion in New Orleans.

In March 1864, while units of the 14th Rhode Island United States Colored Heavy Artillery were stationed at Fort Esperanza, Matagorda Island Texas, Companies A, C, and D were placed under arrest for refusing to accept their pay, which was 3 dollars a month less than what regular white troops were receiving. The ringleaders of the protest were tried by general court-martial, and sent to Fort Jefferson, Florida.

On 15 April the third battalion joined the Regiment at New Orleans. The whole Regiment was subsequently transferred to the Department of the Gulf, and its designation was changed by general order, first on 4 April to the 8th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored), and then in May, to the Eleventh United States Heavy Artillery (Colored). On 5 July Colonel Jacob Hale Sypher of the United States Army was appointed by the President to command the Regiment. The bulk of the service of this Regiment consisted of garrison and picket duty in several posts in the Department of the Gulf.

At the close of the War, a reduction of the military force of the Union was taking place almost daily and with the further services of the Regiment being unnecessary, it was mustered out at Camp Parapet, Louisiana, 2 October 1865.

The Regiment returned to Rhode Island and on 21 October attended a ceremony and parade in Providence where the people of Rhode Island paid tribute to the members of this command.
On landing, a salute was fired by the Marine Artillery and the column was formed on South Main Street where they marched to City Hall. There under the direction of Acting Adjutant-General Crandall, L. H. Humphreys prepared and offered to the returning troops a generous collation. As the men filed into City Hall and took their stand at the tables, the band of Morris Brothers, Pell & Trowbridge's minstrels played "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp", which added to the excitement of the day. After the meal, the column was reformed and marched to Exchange Place, where a dress parade took place in the presence of Governor Smith, his staff, and an large number of spectators.

Afterwards, the Regiment broke into column of companies, and marched up Westminster Street in review before embarking for their encampment at Portsmouth Grove. A few days later, the Regiment was disbanded and the men finally returned to their homes after serving the Union cause for over two years.

Sources:

Barker, Harold R. *History of the Rhode Island Combat Units in the Civil War (1861-1865).* [n.p., c1964]

Chenery, William H. *The Fourteenth Regiment Rhode Island Heavy Artillery (Colored,) in the war to preserve the union, 1861-1865.* Providence: Snow & Farnham, 1898.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the Rhode Island 11th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored) document the regiment's activities that Lt. Allen F. Cameron was personally involved in and consists of his personal correspondence and official materials of the regiment such as reports, orders, rosters, and court martial records.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in nine series.

Series list

- Circulars
- Correspondence
- Equipage
- General Courts-Martial
- General Orders
- Soldiers
- Special Orders
- Subject files

Index Terms

These records are indexed under the following headings in the HELIN catalog. Researchers wishing to find related materials should search the catalog under these index terms.

- Cameron, Allen F., b. 1836
- Cameron, Allen F., b. 1836 -- Collections
- Rhode Island -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
- United States. -- Army. -- Colored Heavy Artillery Regiment, 11th (1864-1865)
- United States. -- Army. -- Rhode Island Heavy Artillery Regiment (Colored), 14th (1863-1864)
- United States. -- Army -- Military life
Administrative Information

Custodial History
Prior to donation to the Providence College Archives, the collection resided with the descendants of Allen F. Cameron.

Preferred Citation
Rhode Island 11th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored). Providence College, Phillips Memorial Library, Special and Archival Collections.

Acquisitions Information
In July of 1973 Bernard Geary of Scituate, Rhode Island, donated the papers of his grandfather, Allen F. Cameron, to the Providence College Archives.

Processing Information
The collection was originally processed in 1976.

Restrictions
Open for research.

Terms governing use and reproduction: Photocopying and scanning of materials is a fee based service available in the repository and is allowed at the discretion of the Librarian of Special and Archival Collections when in compliance to the College's policy on copyright and publication.

Related Material
For histories of Rhode Island Artillery Regiments who served during the Civil War see the list of sources in the Historical Note.

Digitized portions of the Rhode Island 11th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored) collection can be found on the College's Digital Commons website.

There are no known separated materials.
Inventory

Series: Circulars
Dates: 1865
Extent: 9 folders
Material types:

- military records
- orders (military records)

Scope and Content Note

Generally produced by the Adjutant General's Office, circulars were used to distribute official correspondence (except combat orders) relating to personnel and other administrative matters.

Arrangement

The series is arranged alphabetically.

| Box 1 | Folder 1 | Headquarters, Carrollton District | 1865 Jan |
| Box 1 | Folder 2 | Headquarters, Gulf, Department of | 1865 May-1865 June |
| Box 1 | Folder 3 | Headquarters, Louisiana, Department of | 1865 Aug-1865 Sep |
| Box 1 | Folder 4 | Headquarters, Louisiana, Southern Division of | 1865 May |
| Box 1 | Folder 5 | Headquarters, Louisiana and Texas, Department of | 1865 Aug |
| Box 1 | Folder 6 | Headquarters, U. S. Colored Troops | 1864 Sep-1865 Jan |
| Box 1 | Folder 7 | Headquarters, U. S. Forces | 1864 Mar-1865 Aug |
| Box 1 | Folder 8 | Headquarters, West Mississippi, Military Division of | 1864 Oct-1865 Feb |
| Box 1 | Folder 9 | War Department, Ordnance Office | 1863 Nov-1865 Mar |
**Series:** Correspondence  
**Dates:** 1853-1910  
**Extent:** 29 folders (0.5 linear feet)  
**Material types:**  
envelopes  
letters (correspondence)  
**Creator:** Cameron, Allen F., 1836-  

**Biographical Note**

Allen F. Cameron, born in 1836, in Quebec, Canada, was one of four brothers who served in the Union Army. He enrolled as a sergeant in the Rhode Island Colored Artillery (Heavy) Fifth Regiment in October of 1861. Among the campaigns he participated in was the Burnside Expedition. By the time of his mustering out in October, 1865, Cameron had attained the rank of first lieutenant of the Rhode Island United States Colored Artillery (Heavy) Eleventh Regiment (originally, the Fourteenth Regiment). Other duties Cameron performed as a Lieutentant included serving on a general court-martial and acting as aide-de-camp at post headquarters.

Upon retiring from the army, Lt. Cameron returned to his previous employment as a weave room overseer in Rockland (Scituate), Rhode Island for approximately one year. He then went to work in the United States Armory at Springfield, Mass. At the time Henry-Martini rifles were being manufactured by the Providence Tool Company and Cameron was appointed a sub-United States inspector assisted to the inspection of seven hundred thousand rifles. He then went to Springfield, Mass., and took in five thousand navy revolvers for the Turkish government. He later was employed by the Winchester Revolver Arms Company of New Haven, Conn.

**Source:**

Chenery, William H. *The Fourteenth Regiment Rhode Island Heavy Artillery (Colored,) in the war to preserve the union, 1861-1865.* Providence: Snow & Farnham, 1898.

**Scope and Content Note**

The series is comprised mostly of Cameron family correspondence. It is of particular historical value for the War period from the "off-the-record," human interest viewpoint.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged chronologically.

<p>| Box 1 | Folder 10 | Family correspondence | undated |
| Box 1 | Folder 11 | Gould, Mary E. | 1853 Nov 10 |
| Box 1 | Folder 12 | Congdon, John | 1854 Mar 11 |
| Box 1 | Folder 13 | Webster, Parker V. | 1857 Mar 3 |
| Box 1 | Folder 14 | Clarke, Harrison | 1857 Jul 16 |
| Box 1 | Folder 15 | Sherman, Alfred | 1859 Apr 20 |
| Box 1 | Folder 16 | ---, John | 1859 Sep 7 |
| Box 1 | Folder 17 | Cameron, Walter | 1859 Nov 6 |
| Box 1 | Folder 18 | Chapman, Elizabeth | 1860 Sept 23 |
| Box 1 | Folder 19 | Hamlin, C. R. | 1861 Jul 29 |
| Box 1 | Folder 20 | Clarke, Harrison | 1863 Mar 6 |
| Box 1 | Folder 21 | Alban, S. H. &amp; A. F. Wyatt | 1863 May 14 |
| Box 1 | Folder 22 | Chapman, Archibald | 1863 Nov 30 |
| Box 1 | Folder 23 | Porter, Kate | 1864 Jun 12 |
| Box 1 | Folder 24 | Sypher, J. H. (Jacob Hale) | 1865 Apr 29 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>Folder 25</th>
<th>Allister, A. M.</th>
<th>1865 Sep 23</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 26</td>
<td>Guinness, R. W.</td>
<td>1865 Oct 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 27</td>
<td>Stafford, Chas. L.</td>
<td>1865 Nov 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 28</td>
<td>Envelope</td>
<td>1865 Dec 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 29</td>
<td>Porter, Alexander</td>
<td>1866 Feb 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 30</td>
<td>Park, E.</td>
<td>1866 Apr 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 31</td>
<td>Aigan, John</td>
<td>1866 May 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 32</td>
<td>Porter, Kate</td>
<td>1866 Aug 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 33</td>
<td>Porter, Kate</td>
<td>1866 Sep 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 34</td>
<td>Porter, Kate</td>
<td>1866 Oct 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 35</td>
<td>Cameron, Walter</td>
<td>1866 Dec 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 36</td>
<td>Aigan, John</td>
<td>1866 Jul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 37</td>
<td>Cameron, Walter</td>
<td>1868 Mar 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 38</td>
<td>Barker, John A.</td>
<td>1868 Jun 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Series:** Equipage  
**Dates:** 1865  
**Extent:** 8 folders  
**Material types:**  
- military records  
- registers (lists)

**Scope and Content Note**
This series contains a broad grouping of equipment lists, muster and descriptive rolls, invoices, and other documents relating to rations, ordnance returns and miscellaneous supplies.

**Arrangement**
This series is arranged alphabetically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>Folder 39</th>
<th>Blank forms</th>
<th>undated</th>
<th>see oversized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 40</td>
<td>Company receipt for equipment received</td>
<td>1865</td>
<td>see oversized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 41</td>
<td>Correspondence and memos</td>
<td>1865</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 42</td>
<td>Invoice of Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equipage</td>
<td>1865</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 43</td>
<td>Invoice of Stores</td>
<td>1865</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 44</td>
<td>Material, Ordnance, and Supply lists</td>
<td>1865</td>
<td>see oversized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 45</td>
<td>Monthly Return of Clothing, Camp, and Garrison Equipage</td>
<td>1865</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 46</td>
<td>Statement of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores</td>
<td>1865</td>
<td>see oversized</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series: General Courts-Martial
Dates: 1864-1865
Extent: 16 folders (0.25 linear feet)
Material types:  
  
military records
  orders (military records)

Scope and Content Note
The series consists of the charges, specifications and verdicts of several trials of military personnel.

Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>Folder 47</th>
<th>Adams, Charles</th>
<th>1865</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 48</td>
<td>Fields, John A.</td>
<td>1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 49</td>
<td>Folley, ______</td>
<td>1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 50</td>
<td>Henderson, George</td>
<td>1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 51</td>
<td>Horan, Timothy</td>
<td>1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 52</td>
<td>Lee, Jerome</td>
<td>1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 53</td>
<td>Loup, Constant</td>
<td>1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 54</td>
<td>Maher, Patrick</td>
<td>1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 55</td>
<td>McDonald, William H.</td>
<td>1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 56</td>
<td>Peters, William</td>
<td>1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 57</td>
<td>Rine, William B.</td>
<td>1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 58</td>
<td>Rottaken, H. H.</td>
<td>1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 59</td>
<td>Smith, Jacob</td>
<td>1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 60</td>
<td>Sprauer, Heromnus</td>
<td>1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 61</td>
<td>Van Dusen, Orias</td>
<td>1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Folder 62</td>
<td>Webster, George H.</td>
<td>1865</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series: General Orders  
Dates: 1864-1865  
Extent: 13 folders (0.25 linear feet)  
Material types:  
  - military records  
  - orders (military records)  

Scope and Content Note  
"General Orders" were permanent directives issued by General Headquarters to all members of a command, concerning policy as well as administrative matters.

Arrangement  
The series is arranged alphabetically.

- Box 2 Folder 63 Headquarters, Gulf, Department of  
- Box 2 Folder 64 Headquarters, Louisiana, Department of  
- Box 2 Folder 65 Headquarters, Louisiana, Eastern District of  
- Box 2 Folder 66 Headquarters, Louisiana, Southern Division of  
- Box 2 Folder 67 Headquarters, Louisiana and Texas, Department of  
- Box 2 Folder 68 Headquarters, New Orleans, Defenses of  
- Box 2 Folder 69 Headquarters, U. S. Colored Artillery (Heavy) 11th Regiment  
- Box 2 Folder 70 Headquarters, U. S. Colored Artillery (Heavy) 11th Regiment 3rd Battalion  
- Box 2 Folder 71 Headquarters, U. S. Colored Troops  
- Box 2 Folder 72 Headquarters, U. S. Colored Troops, 3rd Division  
- Box 2 Folder 73 Headquarters, U. S. Forces  
- Box 2 Folder 74 Headquarters, West Mississippi, Military Division of  
- Box 2 Folder 75 War Department
Series: Soldiers
Dates: 1864-1865
Extent: 6 folders
Material types: military records

Scope and Content Note
This series is comprised of lists and forms regarding deceased, deserted, discharged and volunteer soldiers. Included in this series are files relating to individual soldiers' target practice scores.

Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2</th>
<th>Folder 76</th>
<th>Farnum, Captain</th>
<th>undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 2</td>
<td>Folder 77</td>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2</td>
<td>Folder 78</td>
<td>Descriptive Lists of Deserters</td>
<td>1864-1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>see oversized</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2</td>
<td>Folder 79</td>
<td>Discharged</td>
<td>1864-1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2</td>
<td>Folder 80</td>
<td>Target Practice Lists</td>
<td>1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>see oversized</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2</td>
<td>Folder 81</td>
<td>Volunteer Descriptive Lists</td>
<td>1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>see oversized</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series: Special Orders
Dates: 1864-1865
Extent: 9 folders
Material types:
  military records
  orders (military records)

Scope and Content Note
Special Orders, as compared to "General Orders," primarily affected individual soldiers or smaller units within the regiment.

Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 2  Folder 82  Headquarters, Carrollton District  1865 Jan-1865 Mar
Box 2  Folder 83  Headquarters, Gulf, Department of  1865 Jan-1865 Mar
Box 2  Folder 84  Headquarters, Louisiana, Southern Division of  1865 May-1865 Jun
Box 2  Folder 85  Headquarters, Louisiana and Texas, Department of  1865 Jul
Box 2  Folder 86  Headquarters, New Orleans, Defenses of  1865 Feb
Box 2  Folder 87  Headquarters, U. S. Colored Artillery (Heavy) 8th Regiment  1864 Aug
Box 2  Folder 88  Headquarters, U. S. Colored Artillery (Heavy) 11th Regiment  1865 May-1865 Oct
Box 2  Folder 89  Headquarters, U. S. Colored Artillery (Heavy) 11th Regiment 3rd Battalion  1865 Jan-1865 Sep
Box 2  Folder 90  Headquarters, U. S. Forces  1865 Jun-1865 Jul
Series: Subject Files  
Dates: 1868-1913  
Extent: 4 folders  
Material types:  
- catalogs  
- clippings  
- deeds  
- receipts  

Scope and Content Note  
This small series contains miscellaneous items related to Allen F. Cameron, but unrelated to the Eleventh United States Heavy Artillery (Colored).

Arrangement  
This series is arranged alphabetically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>Business receipts</td>
<td>1868-1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>Descriptive Catalog see oversized</td>
<td>1868 Oct 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Notes, Flyers, and Calling Cards</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>Providence Sunday Journal see oversized</td>
<td>1913 Oct 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>Warranty Deed</td>
<td>1875 Apr 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>