

The Filson Historical Society

**John Chester White
Papers, 1822-1919**

For information regarding literary and copyright interest for these papers, see the Curator of Special Collections.

Size of Collection:
5 Cubic Feet

Location Number:
Mss./A/W585

**John Chester White
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Scope and Content Note

Papers include typed manuscript of John Chester White's "The War of the Union against Secession, 1861-1865," an unpublished month-by-month narration of the "War between the States" in five volumes (completed circa 1919). Papers also include a folder of memoranda about the manuscript (Box 1, folder 1), as well as two boxes of additional papers (boxes 14, 15) including biographical sketches of Confederate and Union officers, illustrative material, newspaper clippings and miscellaneous printed matter, including a memo from the U.S. War Department (1905) on the general officers appointed by the President in the armies of the Confederacy.

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Biographical Note

John Chester White was born in New York on 8 March 1841 to John Chester White and Lavinia Maxwell White. John Chester White the elder died in 1843 in Hudson, New York. White the younger graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1861 and afterward enlisted in the Pennsylvania infantry; he later enlisted in the Regular Army Infantry in 1863 and by the end of the Civil War, he was a full first lieutenant.

In 1880, the White family was living in Fort Warren in Boston, Massachusetts; White was a Captain, first artillery, and was married to Mary E. White. They had four children: Chester (11), Alice (9), Mary W. (7), and Charles B. (5).

White retired from the U.S. Army on 20 September 1883, and later traveled abroad.

In 1890, White married Aurtine F. White and was living in Brockton, Massachusetts. He was a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, the Military Historical Society of Massachusetts, and the National Geographic Society.

In 1900, White was living in Brookline, Massachusetts with his wife and daughter Alice; he died in 1921.

White had kept a journal from his entry into the army and had transcribed it after the Civil War, adding and filing printed material on the war, battles, and individuals. He believed that by writing his work, he was fulfilling a “neglected niche in our military annals which called for the supply of a connected narrative of the services of Regular officers and soldiery—from outbreak to close of the hostilities.” While the manuscript of his book resides at The Filson, the typescript of his journal, along with some other papers, is held by the Library of Congress.

Information for this biographical note was gleaned from the collection, as well as the Federal Census, 1880-1910

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Folder List

Box 1

Volume I (1861), pages 1-179, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."

Folder 1a: Memoranda about the manuscript of "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."

Folder 1b: Title page and forward to "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."

Box 2

Volume I (1861), pages 180-453, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."

Box 3

Volume II (1862), pages 1-151, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."

Box 4

Volume II (1862), pages 152-366, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."

Box 5

Volume II (1862), pages 367-591, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."

Box 6

Volume III (1863), pages 1-157, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."

Box 7

Volume III (1863), pages 158-275, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."

Box 8

Volume III (1863), pages 276-468, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."

Box 9

Volume IV (1864), pages 1-252, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."

Box 10

Volume IV (1864), pages 253-446, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."

Box 11

Volume VI (1864), pages 447-611, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."

Folder 11a: Newsclippings and images relating to Volume IV

Box 12

Volume V (1865) "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."

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Folder List (continued)

Box 13

- Folder 13a: Epilogue, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."
Folder 13b: Appendix A, Roll of Honor and Appendix B, List of Officers going into C.S.A., "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."
Folder 13c: Appendix C, Military Prisons: North and South, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."
Folder 13d: Appendix D, List of regular officers who held volunteer commissions and commands, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."
Folder 13e: Appendix E, Transportation and Supply, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."
Folder 13f: Appendix F, Aeronautics in the Civil War, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."
Folder 13g: Appendices G-K, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."
Folder 13h: Maps, "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."

Box 14

- Folder 14a: Letters to John White Chester, 1911-1915
Folder 14b: Biographical sketches of Confederate and Union officers
Folder 14c: Portion of handwritten manuscript of "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."
Folder 14d: Memoranda for Volume I of "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."
Folder 14e: Memoranda for Volume V of "The War of the Union Against Secession, 1861-1865."
Folder 14f: Memoranda
Folder 14g: Lease by Charles P. Barton and George Du Reece to J. R. T. Barbour for 10 acres of land in Bullitt County, Kentucky, near Huber's Station on the L. and N. Railroad, July, 1891.
Folder 14h: Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and miscellaneous printed matter
Folder 14i: U.S. War Department Memorandum relative to the general officers appointed by the President in the armies of the Confederate States, 1861-1865, compiled from official records (The Military Secretary's Office, War Department), 1905.

Box 15

- Folder 15a: Civil War pictures
Folder 15b: Army pictures of the period following the Civil War
Folder 15c: Pictures of Graduates of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, officers of 1st U. S. Infantry, etc.
Folder 15d: Newspaper clippings
Folder 15e (ovsz): Map of Gettysburg Battlefield
Loose: Seven envelopes of clippings and images

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Subject Headings

Cold Harbor, Battle of, Va., 1864

Dixon, Thomas, 1864-1946

Fort Sanders, Battle of, Knoxville, Tenn., 1863

Gettysburg, Battle of, Gettysburg Pa., 1863

Knoxville (Tenn.) – History – Siege, 1863

Libby Prison

Mine Run Campaign, Va., 1863

Petersburg Crater, Battle of, Va., 1864

Petersburg (Va.) – History – Siege, 1864-1865

United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865

United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Destruction and pillage

United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Equipment and supplies

United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Influence

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

United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Press coverage

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

United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Underground movements

Warren, Gouverneur Kemble, 1830-1882