

STEPHENS, WILLIAM ANDERSON.
William Anderson Stephens papers, 1862-1865

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Stephens, William Anderson.
Title: William Anderson Stephens papers, 1862-1865
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 324
Extent: 1 microfilm reel (MF)
Abstract: Microfilm copy of the papers of Confederate soldier William Anderson Stephens, who served in the 46th Alabama Infantry Regiment during the Civil War.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Additional Physical Form

Photocopies of typed copies of some letters available in repository.

Source

Loaned for microfilming, 1960.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], William Anderson Stephens papers, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by MRD, 1966.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

William Anderson Stephens (d. March 15, 1865) entered the Confederate Army in April or May of 1862 in the 46th Alabama Infantry Regiment organized at Camp Shorter in May 1862. He served in the Chattanooga-Knoxville area until September 1862 when he went on Bragg's Kentucky campaign, then to Murfreesboro in early December. From there he went to Vicksburg where he was captured at the fall of the city. He was paroled and sent to Demopolis, Alabama, and was exchanged in October 1862. He fought in Georgia, May-September 1864 in the Atlanta Campaign, followed Hood to Tennessee, was captured, probably at Nashville, and sent to Johnson's Island where he died March 15, 1865 and was buried at Sandusky, Ohio. He was a lieutenant at the time of his death. E. B. Stephens, William's brother, was a prison guard and may or may not have been a regular soldier. Thomas Stephens, perhaps another brother, died while stationed "at Evins Port" in late 1861 or early 1862.

Mrs. William Anderson Stephens was the former Susan Hodnett. Susan had five brothers: John W. Hodnett, who served in Co. K, 13th Georgia Infantry Regiment and died of smallpox on December 10, 1862; T. J. Hodnett; S. G. Hodnett; W. H. Hodnett; and G. T. Hodnett, all of whom served in the Confederate Army. B. F. Hodnett may have been another brother. John A. Hodnett, Co. H, 14th Alabama Infantry Regiment, and H. H. Hodnett were cousins of Susan and her brothers and were also soldiers.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of a microfilm copy of the papers of William Anderson Stephens from 1862-1865. The papers include 106 letters: 52 letters by William Anderson Stephens, addressed to his wife, Susan, but usually written to the whole family, May 18, 1862-February 22, 1865; 1 letter by E. B. Stephens to Susan, his sister-in-law, February 22, 1863; 27 letters by John W. Hodnett, July 23, 1861-October 16, 1862; 6 letters by T. J. Hodnett, August 19, 1862-December 10, 1863; 4 letters by S. G. Hodnett, February 10, 1862-June 28, 1863; 3 letters by W. H. Hodnett, March 29, 1863; 1 letter by G. T. Hodnett, March 29, 1863; 4 letters by H. H. Hodnett, December 14, 1861-March 10, 1862; 1 letter by John A. Hodnett, January 19, 1862; 1 letter by Mary Hodnett to Susan Hodnett Stephens, April 10, 1863; 2 pre-war and 3 post-war letters. Included also are 3 ballads. The letters are fairly typical of the rural, unlettered, home-loving Confederate soldier being concerned with life, food, rumors of troop movements, news of neighbors also serving in the army, and concern for the welfare of home and family.

Arrangement Note

Letters organized into groups by name of writer, then arranged in chronological order within each group.

Container List

W. A. Stephens letters

| Box | Folder | Content |
|-----|--------|--|
| MF1 | | 1862 May 18-June 4, Camp Shorter, Alabama, 2 letters |
| MF1 | | 1862 June 30-July 3, Camp Lookout, Chattanooga, Tennessee |
| MF1 | | 1862 July 13 Knoxville, Tennessee, 2 letters |
| MF1 | | 1862 August 18-December 17, In Tennessee-Blairs Cross Roads, Strawberry Plains, Cumberland Gap, Rolling Mills, 8 letters |
| MF1 | | 1863 January 4-April 15, Vicksburg, Mississippi, 6 letters |
| MF1 | | 1863 October 9-29, Camp 46 Demopolis, Alabama, 2 letters |
| MF1 | | 1863 November 24, Lookout Mountain, Georgia |
| MF1 | | 1863 December 4-27, Near Dalton, Georgia, 5 letters |
| MF1 | | 1864 January 16-May 18, Dalton, Georgia, 12 letters |
| MF1 | | 1864 July 28- late summer, In or near Atlanta, Georgia |
| MF1 | | 1864 September 21, Near Palmetto, Georgia, 5 letters |
| MF1 | | 1864 October 31-November 18, Near Tusculumbia and near Florence, Alabama, 2 letters |
| MF1 | | 1864 December 6, Nashville, Tennessee |
| MF1 | | 1865 February 22, Johnsons Island |

John W. Hodnett letters to his sister, Mary, and a few to other relatives

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|-----|--|--|
| MF1 | | 1861 July 23, Decatur, Georgia |
| MF1 | | 1861 August 1, Richmond, Virginia, Letter on back by H. H. Hodnett |
| MF1 | | 1861 September 1, Jackson River, Allegheny County, Virginia |
| MF1 | | 1861 October 7-8, Greenbrier County, Virginia, 4 letters |
| MF1 | | 1861 December 14, Dublin, Virginia |
| MF1 | | 1862 February 15-June 13, Camp "Caustons Bluff," in or near Savannah, Georgia, 9 letters |
| MF1 | | 1862 June 16-October 16, Camps near Stanton, Gordonsville, and Winchester, Virginia, 7 letters |

T. J. Hodnett Letters

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|-----|--|---|
| MF1 | | 1862 August 19 and December 10, 2 letters and a fragment |
| MF1 | | 1863 June 18-December 10, Shenandoah Valley and Orange Court House, Virginia, 3 letters |

S. G. Hodnett Letters

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|-----|--|---|
| MF1 | | 1862 February 10-June 14, Near Savannah and in "the mountains" of Virginia, 2 letters |
|-----|--|---|

- MF1 1863 February 13, Fort Royal, Virginia. Gives details of death of John W. Hodnett and T. J.'s illness. Part of this letter was written by T. J. Hodnett.
- MF1 June 28, Shepherdstown, Virginia

W. H. Hodnett Letters

- MF1 1862 December, Near Hamilton Crossing, Virginia. Part of letter by S. G. Hodnett.
- MF1 1863 May 23-July 31, Near Fredericksburg and Staunton, Virginia, 2 letters

T. Hodnett to Mary Hodnett

- MF1 1863 March 29, Camp near Hamilton's Crossing, Virginia

B. F. Hodnett to members of his family

- MF1 1863 March 19, Haralson, Georgia

H. H. Hodnett letters

- MF1 1861 December 14, Dublin, Virginia. H. H. is a cousin of John W., Susan and the others.
- MF1 1861 July 10, December 1, 2 letters
- MF1 1862 March 1, Savannah, Georgia

John A. Hodnett to William Hodnett, his uncle

- MF1 1862 January 19, Richmond, Virginia. John A., Co. H, 14th Alabama Infantry Regiment, was a cousin of John W. and Susan, et al.

E. B. Stephens to Mrs. W. A. Stephens, his sister-in-law

- MF1 1863 February 6, Talladega, Alabama "Co. A., Hardy batalion"

Mary Hodnett to Susan Hodnett Stephens

- MF1 1863 April 10, Long Cane, Georgia

Included are 2 prewar and 3 postwar letters

- MF1 1859 November 25, Long Cane, Georgia. Susan Hodnett to William A. Stephens.
- MF1 1860 June 26, George. Hodnett to "Brother."
- MF1 1865 or later February 19, Griffin, Georgia. B. R. Stephens to "Sister".
- MF1 1876 September 22, Haralson, Georgia. Mary Hodnett Taylor to Mother and Sister
- MF1 1891 March 11, Sanduskey, Ohio. John T. Mack, editor of the Sanduskey Register, gives location of Stephens' grave and quotes inscription on his headstone which he hopes will assist her in securing a pension.
- MF1 Three ballads