WATKINS, JAMES W., D. 1896.
James W. Watkins papers, 1861-1864

Emory University
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-6887
rose.library@emory.edu

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Watkins, James W., d. 1896.
Title: James W. Watkins papers, 1861-1864
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 413
Extent: .25 linear feet (1 box)
Abstract: Papers of Confederate soldier James W. Watkins of Franklin County, Georgia, including letters to and from Watkins, his wife, family and friends.
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
Typescripts of the letters are available.

Source
Purchase from Isabelle M. Coffee, 1963.

Custodial History
Isabelle M. Coffee was the great-great niece of James W. Watkins's wife. Coffee purchased the letters from her aunt, Emaline Mathis.

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], James W. Watkins papers, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Appraisal Note
Acquired as part of the Rose Library's holdings in Civil War history.

Emory Libraries provides copies of its finding aids for use only in research and private study. Copies supplied may not be copied for others or otherwise distributed without prior consent of the holding repository.
**Processing**
Processed by MRD, 1963.

This finding aid may include language that is offensive or harmful. Please refer to the Rose Library's harmful language statement for more information about why such language may appear and ongoing efforts to remediate racist, ableist, sexist, homophobic, euphemistic and other oppressive language. If you are concerned about language used in this finding aid, please contact us at rose.library@emory.edu.

---

**Collection Description**

**Biographical Note**
James W. Watkins, d. June 14, 1896, a lifelong resident of Franklin County, Georgia, was a son of Job Watkins, one of the first settlers of lower Habersham County (now Banks County), Georgia. James married Frances Maxwell, who was born about 1833, the youngest of thirteen children of James Maxwell and the granddaughter of the Reverend Thomas Maxwell, Revolutionary soldier and Baptist minister who was imprisoned for his preaching and was defended by Patrick Henry. The Reverend Maxwell came to Elbert County, Georgia about 1790 and preached to the Indians. During the Civil War, Watkins's wife, Frances Maxwell Watkins, took care of their farm and their two nephews, Tom and Jim, whom they were raising.

**Scope and Content Note**
The collection consists of letters to and from James Watkins, his wife, family or friends from 1861-1864. Watkins and his wife could not write, so others wrote for them. Some of the letters were written during the Atlanta Campaign and discuss the Battle of Atlanta, fortifications, prisoners, and daily military life; others were written from other Confederate camps. The collection also contains a typescript of each letter.

**Arrangement Note**
Arranged in chronological order.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1861 August 21 - June 1, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1864 June 22 - September 9 and undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Typescript: Correspondence 1861-1864</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>