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MS-122: Civil War Institute Collection

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Gettysburg College

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MS-122: Civil War Institute Collection

Description
This collection contains two different types of materials. Series I contains materials relating to the Civil War in general, and are organized by subject. Series II and III contain materials or records pertaining directly to the Civil War Conferences and the Civil War Institute from 1957 – 1963.

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Keywords
Civil War, Battle of Gettysburg, Gettysburg College, Civil War Institute

Disciplines
History | Military History | United States History

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MS – 122: Civil War Institute
(9 boxes, 9.36 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: 1859 -1997
Bulk Dates: 1940-1965

Processed by: Thomas Lester
July 2011

Agency History:
The Civil War Institute originated out of a three day conference on the Civil War, November 17-19, 1957, held at Gettysburg College, as part of the activities commemorating the 125th anniversary of the war. Directed by Professor Allan Nevins of Columbia University1, “the conference was such a success that it was repeated every November through 1961. Each had a different director and was devoted to a different topic. By November 1961 almost every major Civil-War-era scholar had participated in one or more of these conferences.”2

As early as December 1957, President Willard S. Paul spoke to the trustees of the College about his idea to expand the first November conference into a Civil War institute. His hope was to make the College a national center of Civil War studies. In 1959, he named librarian John H. Knickerbocker director, and gave the Institute a small building recently vacated by the bookstore.

Following Knickerbocker’s death in 1964, President “Arnold Hanson decided to abandon the effort. The Books and museum articles were placed in (in many instances returned to) Schmucker Library.” This would not be the end of the Civil War Institute, as Professor Robert Bloom, history professor at Gettysburg College, and others continued to expand the library’s Civil War collection. In 1983, Gabor S. Boritt would hold the first in a series of summer study groups now called Civil War Institutes.3

Scope and Content Notes:
This collection contains two different types of materials. Series I contains materials relating to the Civil War in general, and are organized by subject. Series II and III contain materials or records pertaining directly to the Civil War Conferences and the Civil War Institute from 1957 – 1963.
(The collections was originally catalogued as Record Group 4.6.2.)

2 Ibid, 994.
3 Ibid, 995.
Subject Series I consists of an alphabetical listing of material related to the Civil War. Major subject areas include the Battle of Gettysburg, anniversaries of the Battle of Gettysburg, and Abraham Lincoln. Folders contain material on each subject that can include newspaper articles, magazine articles, images, booklets and pamphlets.

Series II, Civil War Institute Programs and Activities contains mostly materials related to the Civil War Conferences between 1957 and 1963. The Correspondence in Series III contains general correspondence of the Civil War Institute.

Civil War Institute Container List

Box 1 of 9
Series I: Subject
1-1 93rd PA
1-2 Abraham Lincoln Association
1-3 Adams Co. (PA) – Civil War
1-4 Andersonville
1-5 Antietam
1-6 Appomattox
1-7 Balloon
1-8 Ball’s Bluff
1-9 Bassett, Mrs. Prentiss
1-10 Beecher, Henry Ward
1-11 Boyd, Belle
1-12 Brandy Station
1-13 Brown, John
1-14 Buford, John
1-15 Bull Run (Manassas) 1861
1-16 Burns, John
1-17 Carte de Vista (C.W.)
1-18 Chancellorsville
1-19 Charleston, S.C.
1-20 Chicago Historical Soceity
1-21 Chickamauga and Chattanoogra
1-22 Civil War General’s Album (Autographed)
1-23 Clare, Lydia Catherine Zeigler
1-24 Confederate Generals Misc.
1-25 Confederate Historical Society of London Founded, 22 February 1962
1-26 Confederate States of America Army Uniforms
1-27 Confederate States of America – Flags
1-28 Confederate States of America – Postal Services
1-29 Confederate States of America – Seal of the Confederacy
1-30 Confederate States of America – Spies
1-31 Corby, William E. Chaplain of the Irish Brigade, 2 July 1863
1-32 Currier and Ives
1-33 Custer, George Armstrong
1-34  Davis, Jefferson
1-35  Emmet, Daniel D. “I wish I was in Dixie’s Land”
1-36  Everett, Edward
1-37  Flag
1-38  Ford’s Theatre, Washington, D.C.
1-39  Fort Monroe
1-40  Fort Pillow, Tenn.
1-41  Fort Pulaski, Ga.
1-42  Fort Sumter
1-43  Fredericksburg, Va.
1-44  Front Royal, Va.
1-45  Georgia
1-46  Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association
1-47  Gettysburg, Battle of, 1863 – Anniversaries – 100th, 1963 (#1 of 2)
1-48  Gettysburg, Battle of, 1963 – Anniversaries – 100th, 1963 (#2 of 2)
1-49  Gettysburg, Battle of, 1863 (#1 of 4)
1-50  Gettysburg, Battle of, 1863 (#2 of 4)
1-51  Gettysburg, Battle of, 1863 (#3 of 4)
1-52  Gettysburg, Battle of, 1863 (#4 of 4) (Sandburg Account)
1-53  Gettysburg, Battle of – Anniversary, 6th – 1869 (#1 of 2)
1-54  Gettysburg, Battle of, 1863 – Anniversary, 75th, 1938

**Box 2 of 9**

**Series I: Subject**

2-1  Gettysburg, Battle of, 1863 – Anniversary – 124th, 1987
2-2  Gettysburg, Battle of, 1863 – Anniversary – 125th, 1988
2-3  Gettysburg, Battle of, 1863 – Anniversary – 125th, 1988, “Were you there” Letters
2-4  Gettysburg, Battle of, 1863 – Anniversary – 125th (Dr. Glassick’s File As A Commission Member #1)
2-5  Gettysburg, Battle of – Anniversary – 125th (Glassick’s File #2 of 2)
2-6  Gettysburg, Battle of – Battlefield
2-7  Gettysburg, Battle of – First Shot
2-8  Gettysburg, Battle of – Maps
2-9  Gettysburg, Battle of – Postcards
2-10  Gettysburg, Battle of – Monuments
2-11  Gettysburg, Battle of – Reminiscences
2-12  Gettysburg, Battle of – Sheads’ Tour
2-13  Gettysburg Monument Preservation Project
2-14  Gettysburg National Military Park
2-15  Gettysburg naval Vessel (CG64)
2-16  Gettysburg (town), Pennsylvania
2-17  Gettysburg (Town) In the Civil War

The Gettysburg National Park Gift Book

**Box 3 of 9**

**Series I: Subject**

3-1  Grant, Ulysses Simpson
3-2  Hancock, Winfield Scott (1824-1886)
3-3 Hanover (PA) – Civil War
3-4 Harpers Ferry
3-5 Haskell, Franklin Anetas (1828-1864) 36th Wisconsin
3-6 Haupt, Herman
3-7 Holms, Oliver Wendell (1809-1894) My Hunt After The Captain” (Holms, Oliver Wendell, 1841-1935)
3-8 Holt, J.
3-9 Hooker, Joseph (1814-1879)
3-10 Jackson, Thomas J. (Stonewall)
3-11 Johnson, Andrew
3-12 Kansas
3-13 Katz, D.Mark
3-14 Kentucky
3-15 Lee, Robert Edward
3-16 Lexington
3-17 Lincoln, Abraham – Addresses, sermons, etc.
3-18 Lincoln, Abraham – Anecdotes
3-19 Lincoln, Abraham – Anniversaries
3-20 Lincoln, Abraham – Assassination
3-21 Lincoln, Abraham – Autobiography
3-22 Lincoln, Abraham – Bates, Edward
3-23 Lincoln, Abraham – Bibliography
3-24 Lincoln, Abraham – Biography
3-25 Lincoln, Abraham – Birthday (175th)
3-26 Lincoln, Abraham – Birthplace
3-27 Lincoln, Abraham – Bixby
3-28 Lincoln, Abraham – Books and Reading
3-29 Lincoln, Abraham – Boyhood
3-30 Lincoln, Abraham – Cartoon, Satire
3-31 Lincoln, Abraham – Centennial
3-32 Lincoln, Abraham – Chase, Salmon P.

Box 4 of 9

Series I: Subject
4-1 Lincoln, Abraham – Chronology
4-2 Lincoln, Abraham – Collections
4-3 Lincoln, Abraham – Conference
4-4 Lincoln, Abraham – Davis, Jefferson
4-5 Lincoln, Abraham – Douglas, Stephen A.
4-6 Lincoln, Abraham – Drama
4-7 Lincoln, Abraham – Education
4-8 Lincoln, Abraham – Eisenhower, Dwight David
4-9 Lincoln, Abraham – Emancipation
4-10 Lincoln, Abraham – Exhibits
4-11 Lincoln, Abraham – Family
4-12 Lincoln, Abraham – Fiction
4-13 Lincoln, Abraham – Funeral and Memorial Services
4-14 Lincoln, Abraham – Hay, John
4-15 Lincoln, Abraham – Homes
4-16 Lincoln, Abraham – Hooker, Joseph
4-17 Lincoln, Abraham – Iconography
4-18 Lincoln, Abraham – Illinois
4-19 Lincoln, Abraham – Inauguration
4-20 Lincoln, Abraham – Indiana
4-21 Lincoln, Abraham – Inventor
4-22 Lincoln, Abraham – Journey to Washington, February, 1861
4-23 Lincoln, Abraham – Law Practice
4-24 Lincoln, Abraham – McClure, A.K.
4-25 Lincoln, Abraham – Monuments
4-26 Lincoln, Abraham – New Salem, IL
4-27 Lincoln, Abraham – Ohio
4-28 Lincoln, Abraham – Papers
4-29 Lincoln, Abraham – Pennsylvania
4-30 Lincoln, Abraham – Personal Appearance
4-31 Lincoln, Abraham – Personality
4-32 Lincoln, Abraham – Poetry
4-33 Lincoln, Abraham – Political Career before 1861

**Box 5 of 9**

**Series I: Subject**

5-1 Lincoln, Abraham – Portraits
5-2 Lincoln, Abraham – President
5-3 Lincoln, Abraham – Quotations
5-4 Lincoln, Abraham – Railroad
5-5 Lincoln, Abraham – Relics
5-6 Lincoln, Abraham – Religion
5-7 Lincoln, Abraham – Reminiscences
5-8 Lincoln, Abraham – Rutledge, Anne
5-9 Lincoln, Abraham – Sandburg, Carl
5-10 Lincoln, Abraham – Songs
5-11 Lincoln, Abraham – South, Loyal
5-12 Lincoln, Abraham – Speed, James
5-13 Lincoln, Abraham – Springfield, IL
5-14 Lincoln, Abraham – Stanton, Edwin McM.
5-15 Lincoln, Abraham – Stamps
5-16 Lincoln, Abraham – Statesmanship
5-17 Lincoln, Abraham – Thanksgiving
5-18 Lincoln, Abraham – Tomb
5-19 Lincoln, Abraham – Tributes
5-20 Lincoln, Abraham – Views on Slavery
5-21 Lincoln, Abraham – Views on Taxes
5-22 Lincoln, Abraham – Washington, George
5-23 Lincoln, Abraham – Welles, Gideon
5-24 Lincoln Fellowship
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Entry</th>
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<tr>
<td>5-25</td>
<td>Lincoln Lore</td>
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<td>Lincoln, Nancy (Hanks)</td>
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<td>Lincoln, Mrs. Sarah (Bush), 1788-1869</td>
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<td>Lomb, Henry</td>
</tr>
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<td>5-31</td>
<td>Longstreet, James, 1821-1904</td>
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<td>5-32</td>
<td>McClellan, George Brinton</td>
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<td>Maryland</td>
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<td>Meade, George Gordon</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-41</td>
<td>Negroes</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-42</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<td>Noyes, George F.</td>
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<td>Nurses</td>
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**Box 6 of 9**

**Series I: Subject**

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Reynolds, John Fulton</td>
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<td>6-4</td>
<td>Reynolds, John F. (Samuel Moritz House)</td>
</tr>
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<td>6-5</td>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-6</td>
<td>Richmond, VA</td>
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<td>6-7</td>
<td>Rock Island, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>Rogers, John</td>
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<td>6-9</td>
<td>Rothermel</td>
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<td>Ruffin, Edmund</td>
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<td>6-11</td>
<td>Sayler’s Creek, VA</td>
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<td>Shiloh</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-14</td>
<td>Silliman, Justus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-15</td>
<td>Slocum Memorial Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-16</td>
<td>Soldier Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-17</td>
<td>South Mountain, Battle of, 1862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-18</td>
<td>Strother, David Hunter, 1816-1888 – Personal Recollections of the War</td>
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<td>6-19</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-20</td>
<td>U.S. Army, Artillery, 5th Regt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-21</td>
<td>U.S. History, Civil War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-22</td>
<td>U.S. History, Civil War – Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-23</td>
<td>U.S. History, Civil War – Army Signal Corps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6-24 U.S. History, Civil War – Bibliography
6-25 U.S. History, Civil War – Campaigns and Battles
6-26 U.S. History, Civil War – Centennial
6-27 U.S. History, Civil War – Chronology
6-28 U.S. History, Civil War – Finance
6-29 U.S. History, Civil War – Foreign Public Opinion
6-30 U.S. History, Civil War – Journalists
6-31 U.S. History, Civil War – Naval Operations
6-32 U.S. History, Civil War – Negro Troops
6-33 U.S. History, Civil War – New Jersey
6-34 U.S. History, Civil War – New York
6-35 U.S. History, Civil War – Newspapers
6-36 U.S. History, Civil War – Pictures
6-37 U.S. History, Civil War – Regimental History
6-38 U.S. History, Civil War – Soldier Life
6-39 U.S. History, Civil War – Songs and Music
6-40 U.S. History, Civil War – Sources
6-41 U.S. History, Civil War – Spies
6-42 U.S. History, Civil War – Transportation
6-43 U.S. History, Civil War – Veterans
6-44 U.S. History, Civil War – Women

Box 7 of 9

Series I: Subject
7-1 Valverde, Battle of
7-2 Vicksburg, Mississippi
7-3 Virginia
7-4 Washington, D.C. – Capitol
7-5 Wilderness, Battle of the
7-6 Williamsburg
7-7 Wills, David, Class of 1951

Series II: Programs and Activities
7-8 Civil War Institute
7-9 Civil War Round Table
7-10 Civil War Study Group
7-11 McConaughy Family
7-12 The Tragedy of Southern Leadership
7-13 Abraham Lincoln and American
7-14 Essays
7-16 Press Kit, 1961
7-17 Press Kit, 1961
7-18 Press Kit, 1960
7-19 Press Kit, 1960
7-20 Press Kit, 1959
Box 8 of 9

Series II: Programs and Activities
8-1 Civil War Conference – 1957 (Records Received from Dr. Robert L. Bloom)
8-2 Civil War Conference Papers, 1957
8-3 Civil War Conference, 1st, 1957
8-4 Civil War Conference, 1st, 1957 - Correspondence
8-5 Civil War Conference – 1958 (Records Received from Dr. Robert L. Bloom)
8-6 Civil War Conference – 1958 (Records Received from Dr. Robert L. Bloom) - Correspondence
8-7 3rd Civil War Conference, 1959
8-8 3rd Civil War Conference, 1959 - Correspondence
8-9 4th Civil War Conference, 1960
8-10 4th Civil War Conference, 1960 - Correspondence
8-11 5th Civil War Conference, 1961
8-12 5th Civil War Conference, 1961 - Correspondence
8-13 6th Civil War Conference, 1962 – Fortenbaugh Memorial Lectures
8-14 7th Civil War Conference, 1963 (Lincoln Centennial)

Box 9 of 9

Series II: Programs and Activities
9-1 Civil War Institute Established
9-2 Civil War Institute – Annual Records
9-3 Administration
9-4 Civil War Conference Addresses
9-5 Civil War Conference, Photographs
9-6 Civil War Institute
9-7 Amann, William F.
9-8 Civil War Centennial Commission – Penna.
9-9 Civil War – Centennial Commission – Wash., D.C.
9-10 Civil War Institute, 1983
9-11 Civil War Institute, 1984
9-12 Civil War Institute (Misc.), 1984
9-13 Civil War Institute, 1985
9-14 Civil War Institute Pamphlets
9-16 Fluhrer Lecture
9-17 Civil War Institute, 1991
9-18 Civil War Institute, 1993
9-19 Miscellaneous (from correspondence folders)
Guest Book
Guest Book

Series III: Correspondence
9-20 CWI Correspondence (A-J)
9-21 CWI Correspondence (K-Z)
9-22 Correspondence – Collier
9-23 Arensberg
9-24 Smoke, Mrs. K.

For more information about the Civil War Institute

RG 4.6.2 Civil War Institute (Papers of current Institute re-established in 1982)