

Library Company of Philadelphia

McA 5792.F

CIVIL WAR LEADERS EPHEMERA COLLECTION

1860-1865

1.88 linear feet, 2 boxes

Series I. Small Ephemera, 1860-1865
Series II. Oversize Material, 1860s

March 2006

Descriptive Summary**Repository**

Library Company of Philadelphia
1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5698

Call Number

McA 5792.F

Creator

McAllister, John A. (John Allister), 1822-1896.

Title

Civil War Leaders Ephemera Collection

Inclusive Dates

1860-1865

Quantity

1.88 linear feet (2 boxes)

Language of Materials

Materials are in English.

Abstract

The Civil War Leaders Ephemera Collection holds ephemera and visual materials related to a group of prominent American politicians and military heroes active in the middle of the nineteenth century: Robert Anderson, William G. Brownlow, Jefferson Davis, Abraham Lincoln, George B. McClellan, and Winfield Scott.

Administrative Information**Restrictions to Access**

The collection is open to researchers.

Acquisition Information

Gift of John A. McAllister; forms part of the McAllister Collection.

Processing Information

The Civil War Leaders Ephemera Collection was formerly housed in four folio albums that had been created after the McAllister Collection arrived at the Library Company. The material was removed from the albums, arranged, and described in 2006, under grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the William Penn Foundation. The collection was processed by Sandra Markham. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this finding aid do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Preferred Citation

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Online Catalog Headings

Subject Names

Anderson, Robert, 1805-1871
Brownlow, William Gannaway, 1805-1877
Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865
McClellan, George Brinton, 1826-1885
Scott, Winfield, 1786-1866

Subject Topics

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Caricatures and cartoons
Fort Sumter (Charleston, S.C.)

Document Types

Ephemera
Cartes de visite
Comic cards
Metamorphic pictures
Caricatures
Portraits
Prospectuses
Tobacco package labels
Memorial works.
Maps
Scrapbooks
Clippings

Related Collections

Mourning ribbons were removed to McA 10090.F Ribbons & Textiles Collection.

Biographical/Historical Notes and Collection Overview

The Civil War Leaders Ephemera Collection holds ephemera and visual materials related to a group of prominent American politicians and military heroes active in the middle of the nineteenth century. The items were formerly affixed in four folio-size albums devoted to Abraham Lincoln (5792.F), George B. McClellan (5793.F), Robert Anderson (5794.F), Winfield Scott (5794.F), William Brownlow (5794.F), and Jefferson Davis (5795.F). The volumes were dismantled as many items had previously been removed during the twentieth century for exhibition loans or photography, and had been incorporated into the Library Company's Print and Photograph Department or other item-level cataloged collections such as broadsides. What

appears here is the remainder of the ephemeral material. It is arranged in two series: Small Ephemera; and Oversize Material; the first has small-format loose ephemera, and the second holds folio sheets which still have ephemera affixed. Within those two series, the material is grouped by subject and arranged in alphabetical order.

ROBERT ANDERSON (1805-1871) was a graduate of West Point and an active participant in the Black Hawk, Seminole, Mexican and American Civil wars; his folder holds eight pages of material related to the general and his Civil War military career. There are portrait prints and photographs of Anderson and family members, including some taken by Philadelphia photographer Frederick Gutekunst (1831-1917) and retailed by McAllister & Brother, and others by the Mathew Brady studio in New York; two of the latter are inscribed to John A. McAllister by the general. Elizabeth Anderson wrote to McAllister in April 1863 to order additional copies of the Gutekunst profile likeness, saying "It is so great a favorite every where that it is in vain that I try to keep one for my own book." (McAllister Papers, McA MSS 001). In addition to images of the Andersons, there are print and photograph views of Ft. Sumter, as well as maps of the area such as the *Sketch of Charleston Harbor* by W. A. Williams, Civil Engineer (Boston: L. Prang & Co. [186-?]). Other items include seven poems about Anderson clipped from contemporary newspapers.

WILLIAM GANNAWAY "PARSON" BROWNLOW (1805-1877) was a Methodist minister, journalist, and politician in Tennessee. His folder contains five pages of material including a number of carte de visite photographs of Brownlow, his wife Elizabeth, and his daughter Sue Sawyers, with additional engraved and lithographed portraits of Brownlow. Non-pictorial matter includes a two-page sheet of the *Knoxville Daily Bulletin* dated Monday, October 19, 1863, which carries a report on calls made to Brownlow and Horace Maynard (at the time attorney general of Tennessee), prospectuses for Brownlow's newspaper the *Knoxville Whig* (which he reestablished in the fall of 1863), and a prospectus for and copy of Thomas Hartley's broadside printing of Brownlow's farewell address. The last page in the folder holds an invitation to John A. McAllister to attend a reception for Brownlow held at the Academy of Music on June 13, 1862.

JEFFERSON DAVIS (1808-1889) was the leader of the Confederate States of America. A native of Kentucky and a graduate of West Point, he gave served with the army in the Black Hawk and Mexican wars. Davis represented Mississippi in both houses of Congress between 1847 and 1861 except for a period in the mid-1850s when he served as Franklin Pierce's secretary of war. Davis left Congress with other delegates from Secessionist states and was chosen president of the Confederacy in 1861. After his capture by Union troops in 1865, he was imprisoned and indicted for treason. Upon release, he spent his remaining years traveling and writing, including his two-volume work *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government* (1881).

Material in the collection includes full-page tear sheets, clipped articles, and poems from *Harper's* and other popular papers of the time, a handful of small portrait and satirical collecting cards and cartoons including metamorphic pictures.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1809-1865) was a twice-elected president of the United States (in 1860 and 1864) who served during the Civil War. His assassination in April 1865 led to a national outpouring of grief, with a resultant outpouring of mourning ephemera and iconography which was of great interest to contemporary collectors. The collection preserved by McAllister includes some material from Lincoln's presidential campaigns, but the majority of the material is related to his death: memorial cards, tickets, programs, photographs, and newspaper clippings. Mourning ribbons were removed to the Ribbons & Textiles Collection (McA 10090.F).

GEORGE BRINTON MCCLELLAN (1826-1885) was a native of Philadelphia who attended the University of Pennsylvania and West Point. He served as a general in the Union Army and ran as the Democratic candidate for president in 1864 but lost to Abraham Lincoln. McClellan was elected governor of New Jersey in the late 1870s. There are nine pages of material in the collection; they hold several photographic, engraved, and lithographed portraits of the general and candidate, including those from tobacco labels. The pages have poems about McClellan cut from newspapers, and two advertisements from dealers selling McClellan-related items.

WINFIELD SCOTT (1786-1866) was a military commander for more than fifty years, and was involved in every American war from 1812 through the Civil War. He was also an unsuccessful candidate for president in 1852. Scott's folder holds three pages of engraved and photographic portraits, including one from on a tobacco label, as well as two autographs, and some campaign cards.

Box Folder

SERIES I. SMALL EPHEMERA

1860-1865

Arranged alphabetically by subject: Davis; Lincoln; and McClellan.

1	1	Davis, Jefferson	1861-1865
		Lincoln, Abraham	
	2	Election campaigns and inaugurations	1860-1865
		Mourning	
	3	Cards, embossed	1865
	4	Emblems and portraits	1865
	5	Monument proposals	1865
	6	Newspaper clippings	1865
	7	Resolutions	1865
	8	Tickets and announcements of services and events	1865
	9	Newspaper clippings	
	10	Portraits	undated
	11	Miscellaneous	1865
	12	McClellan, George Brinton	1860s

Box Folder

SERIES II. OVERSIZE MATERIAL

1860s

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

2	13	Anderson, Robert
	14	Brownlow, William Gannaway
	15	Davis, Jefferson
	16	Lincoln, Abraham
	17	McClellan, George Brinton
	18	Scott, Winfield