



Guide to the John Hobart Davis Papers, 1832-1920

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

103 Perkins Library, Duke University

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Summary

Collection Title:

John Hobart Davis papers, 1832-1920

Creator:

Davis, John Hobart, 1843-1918

Extent:

1 Linear Feet
400 Items

Physical Location:

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Language:

English

Language:

English.

Collection ID:

RL.00290

Permalink:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/davis/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], The Papers of John Hobart Davis, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The papers of John Hobart Davis span the years 1832-1920, but the bulk of the collection is the Civil War correspondence, 1862-1865. Davis chiefly wrote the letters to his sister, Elisa E. Davis, with a few letters to other family members, such as his brother Frank. Private Davis was stationed at Camp Beaufort, Me. (1861, Dec. - 1862, Feb.); Ship Island, Miss. (1862, Mar. - 1863, Feb.); Fort

Jackson, La. (1863, Feb. - Aug.); Pass Manchoc, La. (1863, Aug. -Sept.); Fort Stephens, La. (1863, Oct. - 1864, July); and Washington, D.C. (1864, Aug. - 1865, Apr.).

Topics discussed in the collection include Davis' attitude toward Blacks, especially his prejudice toward Black officers, foraging raids behind enemy lines and the Battle of Blair's Landing, (also known as Pleasant Hill Landing) as well as aspects of camp life, such as guard duty, artillery practice, drills, and practice skirmishes, pay furloughs, sutlers, camp recreation, and breaking up camp. Some letters are illustrated with maps or drawings. Included also are diaries, photographs, and miscellaneous writings.

Biographical/Historical

John Hobart Davis, a resident of Portland, Maine, volunteered for a three-year term of service with the U.S. Army in 1861. As a private in F Company of the 13th Maine Infantry Regiment, he was variously stationed at locations in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Washington, D.C. Davis was a clerk, and later was in charge of ordnance and then of supplies. In Washington, D.C., he served in a U.S. Army Hospital in the ordnance department and then as paymaster. He was discharged in December, 1864.

After the war, Davis returned to Portland and became an officer in the Casco Bank. In 1869, he married Jennie E. Constable, and they had two sons, Marshall and Raymond. He died on November 11, 1918.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

All or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. The library may require up to 48 hours to retrieve these materials for research use.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The status of copyright interests in these papers is unknown. For further information, see the section on copyright in the Regulations and Procedures of the Rubenstein Library.

Acquisition Information

The papers of John Hobart Davis, Civil War soldier and bank officer from Portland, Maine, were a gift to the Rubenstein Library in 1986.

Processing Information

Processed by: Sharon Estes Knapp

Completed March 16, 1987

Encoded by Stephen Douglas Miller

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Names and Subjects

- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Campaigns
- Louisiana -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
- Washington (D.C.) -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
- Mississippi -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
- Racism
- Red River Expedition, 1864
- United States. Army. Maine Infantry Regiment, 13th (1861-1865)
- United States. Army -- African American troops
- Davis, John Hobart, 1843-1918

- Davis, John Hobart, 1843-1918

Collection Inventory

Correspondence Series

1861, Dec. - 1862, Feb.	Box 1
1862, Mar. - Dec.	Box 1
1863, Jan. - June	Box 1
1863, July - Dec.	Box 1
1864, Jan. - Apr.	Box 1
1864, July - Dec.	Box 2
1865, 1920	Box 2

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Writings and Diaries Series, 1860-1874 and undated

Writings and Diaries	Box 2
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Miscellany Series, 1832- 1870 and undated

Miscellany	Box 2
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