

Accession # 1955.002.001

Louisiana National Guard Archives, Jackson Barracks  
New Orleans, Louisiana, July 2021

**Accession Number:** 1955.002.001

**Collection:** “Booth Collection” aka “The Commissioner of Louisiana Military Records Collection”,  
1862-1922

**Location:** Jackson Barracks Museum, New Orleans, LA

**Extent:** 226 volumes of the Louisiana Muster Rolls Photostats; 24 bound volumes of related post-bellum research material, 8 document and 1 flat box of muster rolls, miscellaneous records, accounts, rosters, POW/hospital rosters, etc.; 13 oversized folders of Civil War period muster and payroll records.

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**Access Restrictions:** There are no access restrictions to this collection.

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**Preferred Citation:** [item], Booth Collection 1955.002.001, Louisiana National Guard Archives, New Orleans, Louisiana.

### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection comprises orders, correspondence, muster rolls, notebooks, research notes, and administrative files. Series 1 through 4 contain original documents produced during the Civil War and pertain primarily to Louisiana’s regiments. Series 1, “Louisiana CSA Infantry records,” consists of the orders, muster rolls, and correspondence of Louisiana infantry regiments. Most of these materials are housed in Box 1, excluding oversized muster rolls. Series 2, “Louisiana CSA Cavalry records,” contains the orders, muster rolls, and correspondence of Louisiana cavalry regiments. The majority of these records pertain to Brent’s Cavalry Brigade and are housed in Box 2, with two additional oversize muster rolls. Series 3 is also housed in Box 2. This series consists of orders and correspondence that pertain to neither the infantry nor the cavalry. Among the miscellaneous Civil War correspondence in Series 3 is a letter from the Office of the Quartermaster, a letter describing Black soldiers detained on post duty, and communication regarding deserters. Series 4, “Civil War Period Louisiana CSA Records,” consists of miscellaneous records, among these materials are a notebook, a roll book, and a newspaper clipping. This series also contains an oversized muster roll from the Crescent Artillery.

Series 5, “Post-Bellum Research Notes,” is made up of materials created after the end of the Civil War. Many of these materials were created during the course of the research project led by AB Booth. These records are housed in Box 3 and in the horizontal Box 4, as well as in bound volumes of typed muster rolls and in photostat volumes. Included in Series 5 are roster lists,

muster rolls, lists of prisoners of war, lists of officers on parole, service pay records, and lists of the dead.

Series 6, produced by the Louisiana Commissioner of Military Records, contains the reports, administrative records, correspondence and accounts produced during the 1908-1922 work to document all ~65,000 Louisiana confederate veterans. Most of the material is correspondence from veterans or family members requesting service recognition in order to apply to the Soldier's Home or for pension benefits. Also included are administrative records regarding funding, office and personnel issues and account books or other financial records. All reports produced by the Louisiana Commissioner of Military Records are included except for the May, 1916 report by A. B. Booth.

This collection was very likely part of the material described by Thomas Harrison, LANG historian in 1956 as approx. 547 linear feet: "166 volumes of photostated (several typed) rolls and related record material of Louisiana confederate soldiers and commands; 369,190 card record of Louisiana Confederate soldiers, alphabetized by commands; and 39,249 card records of Louisiana Confederate soldier paroles, prison records, death lists, etc." along with the "The United Confederate Veterans (UCV) Association Collection" (226 linear feet) and several small collections (Randolph, Brent, Prudhomme). This material was stored in the 3rd Floor Attic of the Presbytere since 1922 and acquired by the LA Military Department in May of 1955. This collection, along with the majority of the Adjutant General Office (AGO) Library and Archives was significantly impacted with an unknown quantity of the collection lost, by Hurricane Katrina related flooding in 2005. The material listed here is all that has been identified as of 2021 and may in fact be all that as survived. None of the 408,439 card records mentioned in 1956 were located in the collection post 2005.

Also found in the LANG Museum archives are the related small collections: Brent (1955.001.002), Randolph (1955.001.003), Taylor (1955.001.004) and Prudhomme (1955.001.005). Also the entire UCV collection was documented as being transferred to LSU archives in 1956, ten (10) record boxes of UCV material (1955.001.006) still remain in the LANG Museum Archive. See also accession 1979.002 for microfilm (11 reels) made of parts of this collection by the LA State Archives in 1987.

### **Historical Note**

General Castleman, the first Louisiana Commissioner of Military Records, appointed by authority of the LA General Assembly (Act No. 156) in Nov 1908, immediately began to lobby the United States War Department for permission to copy the rolls of the Louisiana Confederate Soldiers. His request, along with similar from many other states, was initially refused so he appealed directly to LA Confederate veterans, the Clerks of every District Court and copied the records at Memorial Hall (Confederate Museum in New Orleans). He also began collecting a library of material related to the war (1910, 1912 Castleman Reports).

By 1912 the US Adjutant General and Secretary of War had been replaced so Castleman renewed his lobbying efforts with the War Department whose new policy directed that "State

authorities” could copy the records at their own expense. In order to be the first state allowed to carry out the process, Castleman presented his request in person, was allowed to view the records, and learned that there were 6,000 rolls. Although he immediately began the work with typists transcribing the names he quickly learned of the cost effective benefits of the new “Photostat” machines which he predicted could do the entire job for \$3,500 with an additional \$6,500 per year for 2 years for staff and office expenses. He additionally began a system of index cards for each soldier based on that already in use by the War Department (1912 Castleman Report). Castleman argued that “whilst the State is not at present in a condition to build Monuments, she should prepare and preserve these records in memory of the men who sacrificed their lives, and all, on the field of battle, in the hospital or in Northern Prisons”. He continued the Photostat work under strict guard, allowed 10 rolls at a time, until his death in Jan of 1914 (1922 Booth Report).

In 1914 the new Commissioner of LA Military Records, Thomas J. Shaffer reported that although Castleman had copied over 6,000 rolls and created numerous lists and indexes he had not been allowed to copy the War Dept. reference cards or individual records. Shaffer suggested this work was essential to completing the task set out by Act 73 of 1912 and recommended a 2 year continuation of the funding level of \$8,250/year that had been in place since 1912 (1914 Shaffer Report). Shaffer died in April of 1916 and was replaced by A.B. Booth.

(1916 Booth Report) missing

By 1918 A.B. Booth reported the history of considerable conflict from certain UCV Camps who felt the work of Castleman and Shaffer to be unacceptable possibly due to their use of information from unofficial sources (1912 Shaffer Report p.3). Booth’s report emphasized the need for the work to be completed as a matter of accurate genealogical record keeping in addition to the need for Soldier Home or pension eligibility. At this point the total funds appropriated were at \$55,300 for 8 years of work to produce 153 bound volumes; 77,740 envelopes containing 368,654 photostats of individual soldier record sheets; and 39,249 envelope card records of paroled soldiers, prison records, death lists, etc. He also reported portions of the final published A-Z soldier’s records as at the printer and included an appendix “Guide to Records” list of the contents for each of the 153 volumes and thousands of envelopes (1918 Booth Report).

Booth’s very brief 1920 report noted 65,000 individual records completed with 24,000 indexed and ready for the printers. He noted 980 Military companies organized in LA with 400 of these being state service only, not CSA. He also complained about the appropriation of \$2500 yearly being insufficient and asked for a raise for his stenographers and continued funding through 1922 (1920 Booth Report).

In his final report upon completing the project Booth noted a total appropriation of \$61,100 to the effort. The records were donated to the Battle Abbey of the Louisiana State Museum (LSM). He also mentioned the private purchase by an unknown citizen of a building for the specific purpose of preserving the records and recommended a “competent female person” be hired to

take charge of the records and provide information for a small fee, under the LSM (1922 Booth Report). The 3 volume final work: *Records of Louisiana Confederate soldiers and Louisiana Confederate commands* was published in 1920.

**Provenance and Acquisition:**

This collection has been in the possession of the Jackson Barracks Library since January 1955 when it was part of a group transferred directly from the Presbytere. In 1954 MG Raymond Fleming, Adjutant General of the Louisiana National Guard (LANG) began correspondence with Ben B. Mathews, Executive Director of the Louisiana State Museum regarding the transfer of “war records” housed on the third floor of the Presbytere since the 1920s – for the purpose of preserving the records and using them for military history and genealogical research (Mathews to Fleming 29 Jan 1954). Fleming had just completed a “microfilm survey” of Louisiana muster roll records for other major conflicts at the National Archives but the cost of obtaining the Civil War rolls was prohibitive due to quantity.

The collection, then referenced as “The Commissioner of Louisiana Military Records Collection” was described in the 1934 Handbook and Guide to the LSM as “photographed record sheets bound in 153 volumes containing the card records of paroles, individual prison records, death list, etc., to the number of 368,654” plus 20 volumes of indexes, 700 card boxes, 2 sets of the *War of the Rebellion Series*, twelve volumes of the *Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion* and miscellaneous material. (undated c. 1954 memo by Harrison, AGO Library).

In 1956, Thomas Harrison, the LANG historian, described the collection as approximately 547 linear feet: 166 photostated volumes; 369,190 card records of LA Confed. Soldiers; 39,249 card records of LA Confed. Soldier paroles, prison records and death lists) along with the “The United Confederate veterans Collection” [226 linear feet]) – that had been transferred to the AGO Library and Archives in the Headquarters Building (now Fleming Hall), Jackson Barracks under the authority of the LSM Museum Board (Harrison memo 27 Nov 1956). Also included in these records were the Brent and Dr. J Jones papers, E.G. Randolph Collection, and J.A. Prudhomme Collection (Harrison memo 27 Nov 1956). In May of 1956 “The U.C.V. Archives” were transferred from the AGO Library to the Dept. of Archives, Law Building, LSU Campus in Baton Rouge (11 May 1956 935<sup>th</sup> FA Bn memo); , see <https://www.lib.lsu.edu/sites/default/files/sc/findaid/1357.pdf>

The Collection remained at the LANG AGO Building until around 1963 when the library activity was transferred to another building (“Library and Archives Building” aka old 108th Cavalry building [Bldg#57 in 2005 per Amerski, LANG Museum Curator]; see records re LANG Museum history here: \\nglaa7-cbj8-fsg\Museum4\ARCHIVE\Museum-Library History).

In 1995, Arthur Bergeron, Jr. published an article in *Louisiana History* entitled “The Jackson Barracks Civil War Document Collection” in which he describes 2,839 items and 7 volumes – also available in microfilm at Division of Archives and Records in Baton Rouge (LAG1).

At the time Hurricane Katrina in 2005 the collection was located in the “Library” Jackson Barracks Building #53. At the time of this writing no records have been located to detail when the move from building #57 to #53 was made, nor are there any records of how much of the original collection was still intact. Flooding after the storm damaged most of the library material. All rescued papers and books were stored in refrigerated trucks for months then cleaned and re-housed under FEMA contract with Louisiana Binding Service. Around 2004 the photostated volumes of muster rolls were (re?)bound (now 226 volumes) under the direction of librarian Sherrie Pugh with funding provided by private donors ((LA CW Roster Inventory, E. Santos, 2004). An additional 24 volumes of material were also bound under the FEMA contract and the rest of the loose material cleaned and re-housed if necessary. The entire AGO archive was then stored in the Headquarters Building at Camp Beauregard until 2012 when it was relocated to the new LANG Museum building at Jackson Barracks. (Stan Amerski, LANG Museum curator 2003-current, personal communication). Between 2012 and 2021, as the entire contents of the JB Museum and Library were recataloged, every attempt was made to identify and reunite the surviving portions of the *Commissioner of Louisiana Military Records Collection*.

### Processing

After Hurricane Katrina impacts and two archive relocation moves, four boxes of foldered material had been gathered containing various administrative type documents related to the Louisiana Commissioner of Military Records work. In 2021, all Booth Collection material was reviewed, re-sorted and re-foldered/boxed to produce this finding aid..

### References

Booth, Andrew B. Records of Louisiana Confederate Soldiers and Louisiana Confederate Commands. New Orleans, La, 1920.

Biennial Reports of the Commissioner of Military Records, to the governor of the state of Louisiana, 1910-1922 (available in this collection except 1916)

Bergeron, Arthur, Jr. *Louisiana History* Vol 36, No.3 “The Jackson Barracks Civil War Document Collection, 1995

See Past Perfect Accession 1955.002 multimedia file and \\nglaa7-cbj8-fsg\Museum4\ARCHIVE\Museum-Library History and the JB Museum Collections Accession Files for copies of correspondence and collections inventories detailing history and provenance of the collection.

United Confederate Veterans Association Records, Mss. 1357 Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

<https://www.lib.lsu.edu/sites/default/files/sc/findaid/1357.pdf>

**Container Inventory**

Series            Location            Folder/Object ID

**Series I. Louisiana CSA Infantry Records**

Box 1

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Louisiana Brigade
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> through 33<sup>rd</sup> Louisiana Infantry
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Louisiana Infantry
4. 17<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry
5. 20<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry
6. 22<sup>nd</sup> Louisiana Infantry (Muster Rolls)
7. 24<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry Crescent Regiment
8. 27<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry
9. 28<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry (Thomas' Brigade) Company I
10. 28<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry (2 notebooks)
11. 28<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry
12. 28<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry
13. 28<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry
14. 28<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry
15. 28<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry
16. 28<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry
17. 28<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry
18. 28<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry
19. 28<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry
20. 28<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry
21. 31<sup>st</sup> Louisiana Infantry

Oversize

Muster Rolls

- 2014.002.200 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry (1864)
- 2014.002.188 - 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry (1861)
- 2014.002.189 - 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry (1862)
- 2014.002.190 - 13<sup>th</sup> Infantry (1863)
- 2014.002.191 - 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry (1864)
- 2014.002.192 - 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry (1862-1863)
- 2014.002.193 - 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry
- 2014.002.198 - Crescent Infantry (1862, 1864)
- 2014.002.199 - Sharpshooters (1863)

**Series II. Louisiana CSA Cavalry Records**

Box 2

1. Brent's Cavalry Brigade (February-March 1865)
2. Brent's Cavalry Brigade (April 1865)
3. Brent's Cavalry Brigade (April 1865)
4. Brent's Cavalry Brigade (May 1865)
5. 2<sup>nd</sup> Louisiana Cavalry
6. 3<sup>rd</sup> Louisiana Cavalry
7. 5<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Cavalry
8. 7<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Cavalry

Oversize

Muster Rolls

2014.002.194. 9<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Mounted (1864)2014.002.195. 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry (1863)**Series III. Orders and Correspondence**

Box 2

9. Military District of West Louisiana (1864-1865)
10. Military District of West Louisiana Labor Bureau correspondence regarding enslaved people (1864-1865)
11. Louisiana State Government (1864)
12. Louisiana Office of the Superintendent of Army records regarding muster rolls (c. 1865)
13. Offices of the CSA Adjutant General and Inspector General (1862-1865)
14. Civil War Correspondence
15. Letters Written by Col. Favrot

**Series IV. Civil War Period Louisiana CSA Records**

Box 3

1. Notebook containing lists of rations and supplies (1864-1865)
2. Crescent Artillery Roll Book (1862)
3. Newspaper (c. 1861-1865)

Oversize

Muster Rolls

2014.002.197 - Crescent Artillery Muster Roll

**Series V. Post-Bellum Research Notes**

Box 3

4. Louisiana 1st Regiment Company B: Louisiana Guards
5. Booth's Index of Louisiana Civil War Battles within 1861-1865 LMR Collection 1955
6. Register of the Confederate Dead. Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia. (1869)

7. Appeal for Monumental Aid and Roster of the Dead Confederate Soldiers Buried on Johnson’s Island and at Columbus, Ohio (1892)
8. Service Pay Records (Final Statements filed by Col. M. Favrot)
9. Claims of Deceased Officers and Soldiers
10. Returns of Deceased Soldiers from Hospitals, Regimental and Company Officers from Louisiana
11. Returns of Deceased Soldiers from Hospitals, Regimental and Company Officers from Louisiana
12. Enrollment Statistics from the Louisiana Parishes March 1865

Box 4

1. Rolls of Prisoners of War
2. Paroled Prisoners at Various Places
3. List of Officers in the Medical Corp, Sect. F-S4
4. List of Paroles During Latter Part of the War
5. Paroled Officers
6. Deserters
7. Paroles of the Crescent Regiment 9th La. Infantry
8. Paroles of the Crescent Regiment 9th La. Battalion
9. Paroles of the Crescent Regiment 9th La. Volunteers
10. Paroles of the Crescent Regiment 9th La. Cavalry
11. Paroles of the Crescent Regiment 2nd La. Cavalry
12. Paroles of the Crescent Regiment 27th La. Infantry
13. Paroles of the Crescent Regiment 2nd La. Infantry
14. Paroles of the Crescent Regiment 7th La. Cavalry
15. List of Officers Paroled at Meridian, Miss. May 9, 1865
16. Various Paroles
17. Various Paroles
18. Various Paroles

Volumes (“Document Books” n=24)

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1955.002.001-05     | Muster Rolls A-D, typed   |
| 1955.002.001-06.    | Muster Rolls G-K, typed   |
| 1955.002.001-07.    | Muster Rolls L-O, typed   |
| 1955.002.001-08.    | Muster Rolls T-Z, typed   |
| 1955.002.001-09.    | Miscellaneous Record P-Z, typed   |
| 1955.002.001-10.    | Account of Orleans and Jefferson Railway and International Construction Company in 1898 ledger book |
| 1955.002.001-11a-h. | Nine (9) Roster Books arranged by Unit, typed   |
| 1955.002.001-12a-b. | Prisoner of War Camps and Hospitals Rosters, typed  |
| 1955.002.001-13.    | Cavalry and Artillery Organizations, typed  |
| 1955.002.001-14.    | Record of Louisiana Confederate Soldiers, typed with notes c.1860s                                  |



- 1955.002.001-15. Confederate Soldiers Records, typed and hand-written
- 1955.002.001-16. Muster Rolls, oversized, typed
- 2014.002.201-02,3,4 Three (3) volumes of “Union Enlistment Records”, hand

**Series VI: Administrative Files**

Box 5: Reports of the Commissioner of Military Records; Correspondence

1. Report, Castleman, 1910
2. Report, Castleman, 1912
3. Report, Shaffer, 1914
4. Report, Booth, 1918
5. Report, Booth, 1920
6. Report, Booth, 1922
7. Letter, Booth, “I have completed the work...”, 1922
8. Correspondence, 1916, bound volume ½

Box 6: Commissioner of Military Records Correspondence

1. Correspondence, 1916, bound volume 2/2
2. Correspondence, Requests for Information by Soldier’s Surname, A-C

Box 7: Commissioner of Military Records Correspondence

1. Correspondence, Requests for Information by Soldier’s Surname, D-F
2. Correspondence, Requests for Information by Soldier’s Surname, G-I
3. Correspondence, Requests for Information by Soldier’s Surname, J-L
4. Correspondence, Requests for Information by Soldier’s Surname, M-O

Box 8: Commissioner of Military Records Correspondence, Administration and Accounts

1. Correspondence, Requests for Information by Soldier’s Surname, P-R
2. Correspondence, Requests for Information by Soldier’s Surname, S-V
3. Correspondence, Requests for Information by Soldier’s Surname, W-Z
4. Summary Reports of Requests for Information

Box 9: Commissioner of Military Records Correspondence, Administration and Accounts

1. Correspondence, Administrative Issues: References, Employment etc.
2. Correspondence, The Commercial Camera Co. re. the Photostat



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3. Correspondence, The Pension Board, 1913-22
4. Correspondence, Financial Issues and Records, 1905-22
5. Account Book, 1908-1916
6. Index of Confederate Soldier Who Provided information, 1915-16
7. Lists of Louisiana Confederate States Army Units
8. List and Local Designations of LA CSA Units, bound volume
9. List of Records for LA CSA Units at Confederate Memorial Hall
10. Photocopies and Transcriptions of Civil War Period Letters
11. Research Notes and Newsclippings

1955.002.001-01 226 bound volumes LA Civil War Roster Photostats c. 1920 from National Archive Records