

Accession # 1955.002.005



Louisiana National Guard Archives, Jackson Barracks
New Orleans, Louisiana, October, 2017

Accession Number: 1955.002.005

Collection: Documents created, received, or kept by **Lieutenant J. [Jacque] Alphonse Prudhomme**, Enrolling Officer, Confederate States Army (CSA), Natchitoches, LA between May 8, 1863 and May 15, 1865. This collection contains documents related to the Natchitoches, Louisiana Conscript District including documents to and from other staff in the Natchitoches Conscript District and Prudhomme's chain of command including: 1st Lt (later Capt.) Goodwill (Adjutant), Col E.G Randolph (Commandant Conscript Div), Brig Gen Greer, and Lt General (later General) E. Kirby Smith.

Location: Jackson Barracks Museum of the Louisiana National Guard Museums.

Extent: Approximately 791 items in 2 Document Boxes including a total of 14 folders.

Arranged and described by: Harold Wilson, Volunteer and Beverly Boyko, Archives and Collections Manager, Louisiana National Guard Museums.

Access Restrictions: There are no known access restrictions to this collection. Access is regulated by the policies of the current *Louisiana National Guard Museums Collections Management Plan*.

Acquisition: This collection was part of the original 547 linear feet of 1908-1922 material collected by the LA Commissioner of Military Records (Booth) and stored in 3rd Floor Attic, Presbytere since 1922. It was acquired by the Military Department with the authority of the Louisiana State Museum Board in 1955.

Copyright: Copyright is held by the Louisiana National Guard Museums. For permission to reproduce or publish please contact the archivist at the Louisiana National Guard Museum at Jackson Barracks.

Preferred Citation: [item], J Alphonse Prudhomme Papers, 1955.002.005, Louisiana National Guard Archives, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Scope and Content Note:
1863 – 1865 US Civil War

The documents are stored in 2 Boxes and organized into 14 Folders. The majority of the documents are housed in polyester sleeves; some are folded to fit into the sleeves. Some documents are in a "ledger book" and glued in place, while some others were found "glued" together by apparent accident. Paper quality varies greatly. However, most documents are on onion skin of both off-white and light blue in color. A significant quality is written on random sized sheets of rolled paper stock.

This collection includes documents created, received, or kept by Lieutenant J. Alphonse Prudhomme, (1838 – 1919) Enrolling Officer, CSA, Natchitoches, LA between May 8, 1863 to May 15 1865. The documents are related to the Natchitoches, LA Conscript District, Trans-Mississippi District. The documents are authored by many persons both within the Confederate Army and other persons having business with the Natchitoches District. The following CSA officers were the authors of a significant number of documents included in the collection:

Lt. Jacques Alphonse Prudhomme (1838-1919), Enrolling Office, Natchitoches District
Capt. Goodwill, Assistant to the Adjutant Natchitoches District
Col. E. G. Randolph, Commandant Conscript Division, Shreveport, LA
Brig. Gen. E. B. Greer (1825-1877), Chief of Bureau of Conscription, Trans Miss
General E. Kirby Smith (1824-1893), Command Trans - Mississippi Department

Note: This collection was microfilmed in 1979 as part of the “Adjutant General’s Office Library Collection by the Louisiana State Archives (LAG1.Reels 3 and 4) a copy of which is held at the Louisiana National Guard Museums, Jackson Barracks.

Contents:

Box 1 Folder 1

Prudhomme desk letter book.

This document is a handwritten copy of outgoing correspondence from Prudhomme between July 12, 1864 to May 15, 1865. The book was originally a single bound volume with utilized pages numbered 1 through 163. This document is in poor condition with many water damaged pages unreadable and sections of the book separating from others. (State Archives.LAG1.Reel 4) 1 Item

Box 1 Folder 2

Conscript Reports, Exemption correspondence, and miscellaneous incoming correspondence to Prudhomme. February of 1864 to December of 1864. 60 Items

Box 1 Folder 3

Conscript Reports, Prudhomme’s exemption correspondence, financial items and receipts, and miscellaneous correspondence. January of 1865 to May of 1865. 54 Items

Box 1 Folder 4

Conscript Special Orders and Reporting Orders authored or approved by Randolph, Goodwill and Prudhomme between January 1865 and May 1865. 54 Items

Box 1 Folder 5

Deserter and Absentee Reports between September 1864 and May 1865. These reports are from Goodwill to Prudhomme. 101 Items

Box 1 Folder 6

Correspondance and Special Orders of Goodwill and Randolph. January 1864 – December 1864. 82 Items

Box 1 Folder 7

Letters to Prudhomme authored by Goodwill and Randolph. Exemption letters and logs. February 1864 – May 1865. 146 Items

Box 1 Folder 8

Certificates of Exemption signed by various Justice of the Peace. See Box 2 Folder 14 for example form of letters. Certificates of Disability for service in the field, and medical certificates of exemption from examining surgeons. July 1864 – April 1865. 134 Items

Box 2 Folder 9

Published Orders from Randolph. May 1863 – November 1864. 12 Items

Box 2 Folder 10

Letters from Goodwill attached by glue into a “ledger” style booklet. February 1864 – April 1865. These items are very fragile. 28 Items

Box 2 Folder 11

Exemption orders from Smith, January 1865 – April 1865. 34 Items

Box 2 Folder 12

These are printed items reflecting General Orders from Smith and Greer. August 1863 – November 1863. 13 Items

Box 2 Folder 13

These are printed and handwritten items reflecting General Orders from Greer and Goodwill. August 1863 – April 1865. 48 Items

Box 2 Folder 14

Standard form letters for the use of Justice of the Peace in submitting exemption documentation. These formats are undated. Also includes are instructional circulars February 1864 – May 1865. See Box 1 Folder 8 for Exemptions requested via these forms. 24 Items.

Processing

2017 processing of this collection involved item review of the complete collection as it remained after Hurricane Katrina recovery. Portions of previous inventories were located but found to be incomplete. This project re-organized, re-housed, counted and documented per this Finding Aid all Prudhomme related material found post Katrina.

Related Materials

Several other Civil War period collections were transferred from the State Museum to the Military Dept. at Jackson Barracks at the same time. Some of the items in these collections may be related to or even originally found in this collection. See Accession 1955.002.

Prudhomme Family Papers #613, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. <http://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/00613/> - Excellent biographical information.

“A Planter’s Son Goes to War” by Thomas M. Brennan

<https://www.nps.gov/cari/learn/historyculture/upload/A-Planter-s-Son-Goes-to-War-1-23-3.pdf>

Oakland Plantation

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oakland_Plantation_\(Natchitoches,_Louisiana\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oakland_Plantation_(Natchitoches,_Louisiana))

Remaining Processing Work

- Cross checking this collection to microfilm reels: State Archives.LAG1.Reel 1, Reel 3, Reel 4, and Reel 6 copies of which are at Jackson Barracks although no film reader machine is available.
- The documents in Box 2 Folder 10 are glue into a “ledger” style booklet. Consider removing these documents from the book as documents are subjected to significant damage during examination.