

Edward Settle Godfrey Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm77022988>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010026>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010
Revised 2023 October

Collection Summary

Title: Edward Settle Godfrey Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1863-1933

Bulk Dates: 1880-1925

ID No.: MSS22988

Creator: Godfrey, Edward Settle, 1843-1932

Extent: 1,100 items

Extent: 7 containers

Extent: 1.5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm77022988>

Summary: Army officer. Correspondence, diaries, military orders, lectures and writings, newspaper clippings, and printed material relating mainly to Godfrey's military career.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Barry, D. F. (David Francis), 1854-1934--Correspondence.

Brininstool, E. A. (Earl Alonzo), 1870-1957--Correspondence.

Bruce, Robert, 1873- --Correspondence.

Camp, Walter Mason, 1867-1925--Correspondence.

Custer, George A. (George Armstrong), 1839-1876.

Godfrey, Edward Settle, 1843-1932.

Graham, William A. (William Alexander), 1804-1875--Correspondence.

Harvey, Winfield S. Winfield S. Harvey diary. 1868-1871.

Kipp, Fremont--Correspondence.

Taylor, William O., 1855-1923--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Army--History.

Subjects

Bear Paw, Battle of, Mont., 1877.

Indians of North America--Wars--1866-1895.

Little Bighorn, Battle of the, Mont., 1876.

Nez Percé Indians--Wars, 1877.

Washita Campaign, 1868-1869.

Occupations

Army officers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Edward Settle Godfrey, army officer, were given to the Library of Congress by his wife, Ida Emely Godfrey, in 1935 and 1936.

Processing History

The papers of Edward Settle Godfrey were arranged and described in 1977. The finding aid was revised in 2010 by Daniel Lorello. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Edward Settle Godfrey is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Edward Settle Godfrey are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Edward Settle Godfrey Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1843, Oct. 9	Born, Kalida, Ohio
1861	Enlisted in Twenty-first Ohio Infantry
1867	Graduated, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. Assigned to United States Seventh Cavalry
1868	Participated in Battle of Washita River, Oklahoma
1869	Married Mary J. Pocock (died 1886)
1876	Participated in Little Big Horn campaign, Montana
1877	Participated in Battle of Bear Paw, Montana
1879-1833	Instructor of cavalry tactics, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1892	Married Ida De La Mothe Emely
1894	Awarded Congressional Medal of Honor for action at Battle of Bear Paw, Montana Brevetted to major
1896	Commissioned major
1901	Commissioned lieutenant-colonel and organized Twelfth Cavalry, Fort Sam Houston, Tex. Commissioned colonel of Ninth Cavalry in Philippines
1904	Commanded cavalry and field artillery school, Fort Riley, Kans.
1907	Promoted brigadier general and commanded Department of Missouri Retired
1932, Apr. 1	Died, Cookstown, N.J.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edward Settle Godfrey (1843-1932) span the years 1863-1933, with the bulk of the material dating 1880-1925. The collection consists of correspondence, military orders, lectures and writings, subject files, and miscellany. The papers are arranged by type of material.

The collection documents Godfrey's military career and the various military campaigns against Native American groups in which he was involved, especially the battles of the Washita, Little Big Horn, and Bear Paw. Also included is material relating to General George A. Custer and a diary of Winfield S. Harvey. Correspondents include D. F. Barry, E. A. Brininstool, Robert Bruce, Walter Mason Camp, William A. Graham, Fremont Kipp, and William O. Taylor.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	General correspondence
BOX 1	Bound
BOX 1	30 Jan. 1863-11 June 1905
BOX 2	5 Dec. 1906-8 Jan. 1920
BOX 3	28 Jan. 1920-24 May 1922
BOX 4	26 May 1922-14 July 1933
BOX 5	Unbound, 1870-1908 (3 folders)
BOX 5	Military orders, 1867-1907, undated (4 folders)
BOX 5	Lectures and writings file
BOX 5	Drafts of lectures, Little Big Horn campaign, 1879-1881
BOX 5	Diary, 1 Aug.-24 Sept. 1876, Little Big Horn campaign
BOX 5	Article about "Custer's Last Battle"
BOX 5	Drafts (2 folders)
BOX 5	Notes
BOX 5	Typescript copy for article as it appeared in <i>Century Magazine</i> , Jan. 1892
BOX 6	Revised article, 1908
BOX 6	Bound copy of revised article and related correspondence, 1915-1920
BOX 6	Miscellaneous
BOX 6	Subject file
BOX 6	Harvey, Winfield S., diary, 1868-1871
BOX 6	Little Big Horn
BOX 6	Accounts of battle, military dispatches, and maps, 1876
BOX 6	Magazine articles, 1893-1927
BOX 6	Newspaper articles, 1876-1930
BOX 6	Reno Court of Inquiry, final argument of Captain Lee against Major Marcus A. Reno, typescript of witnesses' testimony, and casualty list of Seventh Cavalry
BOX 6	History of Seventh Cavalry
BOX 6	Correspondence regarding Seventh Cavalry, 1928-1930
BOX 7	Miscellany
BOX 7	Receipts, certificates, and army miscellany, 1868-1904
BOX 7	Biographical material
BOX 7	Newspaper clippings, 1892-1931
BOX 7	Printed matter
BOX 7	1865-1927
BOX 7	Undated