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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: William K. Applebaugh Papers
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0638
Date: 1857-1926
Extent: 0.3 Cubic feet (2 boxes)

Language: English
Summary: The papers document the life and career of William K. Applebaugh, and his activities as a telegrapher during the U.S. Civil War.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Division of Information, Technology and Society, National Museum of American History.

Provenance

Found in collection by Division of Information, Technology and Society, Electricity and Modern Physics (now the Division of Work and Industry) collections.

Related Materials

Materials at the Archives Center

Western Union Telegraph Company Records (AC0205)

Processing Information

Collection processed by NMAH Staff, undated.

Preferred Citation

Restrictions
Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

Conditions Governing Use
Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical
Telegrapher during the U.S. Civil War.

Sergeant in Co. F, 16th Pennsylvania Cavalry on September 18, 1862, Applebaugh was promoted to Quartermaster Sergeant of the 161st PA Regiment on October 29, 1862, then Sergeant Major of the 16th PA Cavalry on June 20, 1863. On January 6, 1864, he was assigned to the U.S. Military Telegraph Service by General Halleck, and while serving as "1st Engineer" at Headquarters of the Army of the James, Sergeant Major Applebaugh became familiar with all the new electrical equipment developed to improve field communications. Immediately following his discharge on May 27, 1865, he was employed by Western Union and gained rapid advancement in the telegraphy profession.

Scope and Contents
Archival materials documenting the life and career of William K. Applebaugh, and his activities as a telegrapher during the U.S. Civil War.

Arrangement
The collection is divided into two series.
Series 1: Correspondence, 1846-1926
Series 2: Printed Materials, 1857-1874

Names and Subject Terms
This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Communications
Military telegraph
Telegraphers
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Types of Materials:
  - Clippings -- 1840-1940
  - Letters (correspondence) -- 1850-1900
  - Letters (correspondence) -- 20th century.

Names:
## Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 1</th>
<th>February 21, 1861</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
<td>January 1, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
<td>circa 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
<td>January 7, 1863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 6</td>
<td>January 6, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 7</td>
<td>April 2, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 8</td>
<td>September 29, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 9</td>
<td>December 5, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 10</td>
<td>Envelope, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 11</td>
<td>June 1, 1871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 12</td>
<td>Envelope, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 13</td>
<td>November 3, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 14</td>
<td>October 31, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 15</td>
<td>February 29, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 16</td>
<td>April 2, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 17</td>
<td>April 1, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 18</td>
<td>March 31, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 19</td>
<td>April 8, 1862</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 1, Folder 20  April 1, 1865
Box 1, Folder 21  April 2, 1865
Box 1, Folder 22  April 1, 1865
Box 1, Folder 23  April 2, 1865
Box 1, Folder 24  April 28, 1865
Box 1, Folder 25  March 20, 1865
Box 1, Folder 26  May 30, 1865
Box 1, Folder 27  April 14, 1865
Box 1, Folder 28  circa 1890s
Box 1, Folder 29  May 27, 1865
Box 1, Folder 30  October 13, 1926
Box 1, Folder 31  April 3, 1865
Box 1, Folder 32  December 16, 1910
Box 1, Folder 33  *New York Tribune* cartoons on the telegraph, undated
Box 1, Folder 34  Cartoon/illustration first telegraph message from California, undated
Box 1, Folder 35  Telegraph poem and the Atlantic Telegraph A British Monopoly, January 1857 and October 23, 1858
Box 1, Folder 36  *Harper's Weekly*, What May Be Expected After the Great Eastern, July 14, 1860
Box 1, Folder 37  *The Mentor, Bonds Beneath the Sea: The Cables*, undated
Box 1, Folder 38  Poem about the Atlantic Cable, circa 1846
Box 1, Folder 39  *American Phrenological Journal*, The Ocean Telegraph, 1858-09 - 1858-09
Box 1, Folder 40  *American Phrenological Journal*, Edward Everett on the Cable, October 1858
Box 1, Folder 41  Poem, the First Message for the Atlantic telegraph, undated
Box 1, Folder 42  The Failure of the Atlantic Telegraph, undated
Box 1, Folder 43  Note from Cyrus W. Field, undated
Box 1, Folder 44  Article on Atlantic telegraph by Cyrus W. Field, October 1866
Box 1, Folder 45  Picture of Cyrus W. Field, undated
Box 1, Folder 47  Buoy showing the last known position of the Atlantic Cable, circa 1865
Box 1, Folder 46  Poem, A Coil of Rhymes About the cable, undated
Box 1, Folder 48  *New England Magazine*, Girdling the Globe with Submarine Cables, circa 1877

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Series 2: Printed Materials

Box 2, Folder 1  
*Harpers Weekly*, 1857 - 1858

Box 2, Folder 2  
Harpers Weekly, 1865 - 1865, 1859 - 1860

Box 2, Folder 3  
*Harpers Weekly*, 1873 - 1874, 1869 - 1869

Box 2, Folder 4  
*Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*, 1865 - 1865, 1857 - 1859, 1869 - 1869

Box 2, Folder 5  
*Life Illustrated*, 1857 - 1857

Box 2, Folder 6  
*London Illustrated News*, 1859 - 1859

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