



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the William K. Applebaugh Papers

NMAH.AC.0638

NMAH Staff

Archives Center, National Museum of American History  
P.O. Box 37012  
Suite 1100, MRC 601  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012  
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-3270  
Fax Number: Fax: 202-786-2453  
archivescenter@si.edu  
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

## Table of Contents

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Collection Overview .....         |   |
| Administrative Information .....  | 1 |
| Biographical / Historical .....   | 2 |
| Scope and Contents .....          | 2 |
| Arrangement .....                 | 2 |
| Names and Subjects .....          |   |
| Container Listing .....           |   |
| Series 1: Correspondence .....    | 4 |
| Series 2: Printed Materials ..... | 7 |

## Collection Overview

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives Center, National Museum of American History   |
| <b>Title:</b>      | William K. Applebaugh Papers   |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1857-1926  |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | NMAH.AC.0638   |
| <b>Source:</b>     | National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Electricity and Modern Physics   |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Applebaugh, William K.   |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 0.3 Cubic feet (2 boxes)   |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .  |
| <b>Summary:</b>    | 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

William K. Applebaugh Papers, 1857-1926, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

### 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](mailto: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

### Types of Materials:

- Clippings -- 1840-1940
- Letters (correspondence) -- 1850-1900
- Letters (correspondence) -- 20th century.

### Names:

- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Electricity and Modern Physics

Places:

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

---

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Correspondence

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 1  | February 21, 1861  |
| Box 1, Folder 2  | January 1, 1864    |
| Box 1, Folder 3  | undated            |
| Box 1, Folder 4  | circa 1864         |
| Box 1, Folder 5  | January 7, 1863    |
| Box 1, Folder 6  | January 6, 1864    |
| Box 1, Folder 7  | April 2, 1864      |
| Box 1, Folder 8  | September 29, 1864 |
| Box 1, Folder 9  | December 5, 1864 1 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Envelope, undated  |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | June 1, 1871       |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Envelope, undated  |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | November 3, 1865   |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | October 31, 1865   |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | February 29, 1864  |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | April 2, 1865      |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | April 1, 1865      |
| Box 1, Folder 18 | March 31, 1865     |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | April 8, 1862      |
| 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 |

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



## 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  |

[Return to Table of Contents](#)