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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)
Source: Electricity and Modern Physics, Division of, NMAH, SI. Applebaugh, William K.
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.
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:
Electricity and Modern Physics, Division of, NMAH, SI.
## Container Listing

**Series 1: Correspondence**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 1</td>
<td>February 21, 1861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 2</td>
<td>January 1, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 3</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 4</td>
<td>circa 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 5</td>
<td>January 7, 1863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 6</td>
<td>January 6, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 7</td>
<td>April 2, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 8</td>
<td>September 29, 1864</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, Folder 9</td>
<td>December 5, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 10</td>
<td>Envelope, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 11</td>
<td>June 1, 1871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 12</td>
<td>Envelope, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 13</td>
<td>November 3, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 14</td>
<td>October 31, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 15</td>
<td>February 29, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 16</td>
<td>April 2, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 17</td>
<td>April 1, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 18</td>
<td>March 31, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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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