

Society of Ohio Archivists Annual Meeting, April 5, 2013

# Developing & Promoting Digital Archives: A Case Study

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the American Civil War, Miami University Libraries created a digital collection of important Civil War materials.

<http://digital.lib.muohio.edu/civilwar>



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# Project Goals

- Libraries' mission to promote unique materials
- Promote use of manuscripts in Special Collections
- Improve access to the collections



# The Collections

- Civil War diaries of Union soldiers
- Samuel Richey Collection of the Southern Confederacy
- Selections from Miscellanea Collection, including Union soldiers' letters, slavery documents, and Abraham Lincoln letter



# Selection & Metadata

- More is More: Scan Everything!
- Processed Collections Ideal
- Metadata for digital objects extracted from MARC records and finding aids



## The Samuel Richey Collection of the Southern Confederacy 1805-1915

### OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Title:	The Samuel Richey Collection of the Southern Confederacy
Creators:	Sutton C. Richey and Samuel W. Richey
Dates:	1805-1915
Media:	Correspondence, manuscript documents, printed material, photographs, framed items
Quantity:	4 cubic feet
Location:	Closed stacks

### COLLECTION SUMMARY

This collection includes over 500 pieces of correspondence and documents relating to Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America, and Confederate generals, including G. T. Beauregard, Braxton Bragg, Samuel Cooper, Joseph E. Johnson, Robert E. Lee, James A. Seddon, E. Kirby Smith, Richard Taylor, and William H. Thomas, among other noted figures of the Civil War and the mid- to late-19<sup>th</sup> century. Correspondence of Varina Davis, Mary Randolph Custis Lee, and Mary Custis Lee, together with some photographs and other pieces of ephemera, can also be found in the collection.

### PROVENANCE OF THE COLLECTION

This collection was begun by Sutton C. Richey (1837-1900). After studying at Miami University in 1854 and 1855, Richey worked as a druggist in Oxford, Ohio from 1857 to 1891. Richey also served as treasurer of Miami University (1869-1900) and the Village of Oxford (1874-1900).

# Website design

- What system to use and why?
- File formats and record structure (e.g. compound objects)
- Batch upload/edit of metadata



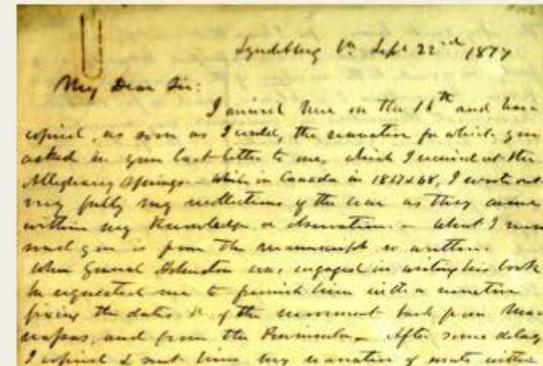


# Web accessibility

- Transcripts are great ... but time-consuming ☹️

- Some crowdsourcing tools:

- <http://opensourceindexing.org>
- <http://scripto.org>
- <http://t-pen.org/>



- Once you have text, you could create audio



**Chrome Text-to-Speech Demo**

Use this application to try out all of the text-to-speech voices in Chrome

# Current website

Miami University Libraries

## DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Oxford, Ohio

Home :: Miami University Libraries Digital Collections :: Civil War Collections ::

- Search
- Browse
- All of Digital Collections
- This Community
  - By Issue Date
  - By Authors
  - By Titles
  - By Subjects
- My Account

### Civil War Collections

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the American Civil War, [Miami University Libraries](#) has created a digital collection of important Civil War materials in our collections. Among the manuscripts housed in the [Walton Havighurst Special Collections](#) are several Civil War diaries, three kept by Miami students and three by local Ohio community members who took up arms to fight for the Union. The diarists, all of whom served as members of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry, record their impressions and experiences on a variety of topics, including their interrupted college studies, the daily life of a soldier, military engagements and news from the home front. The Samuel Richey Collection of the Southern Confederacy includes over 500 pieces of manuscript correspondence, documents and ephemera relating to Confederate President Jefferson Davis, his cabinet members and his generals, including James A. Seddon, G.T. Beauregard, Braxton Bragg, Samuel Cooper, Joseph E. Johnston and Robert E. Lee. The Richey collection also includes correspondence by Varina Davis and general correspondence by clerks, soldiers and civilians during and after the Civil War.

Browse and explore our two NEW sub-collections:

- Civil War Diaries Collection
- Samuel Richey Collection of the Southern Confederacy

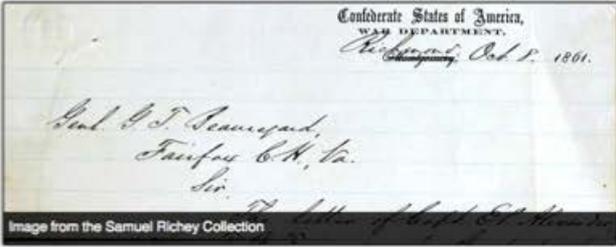


Image from the Samuel Richey Collection

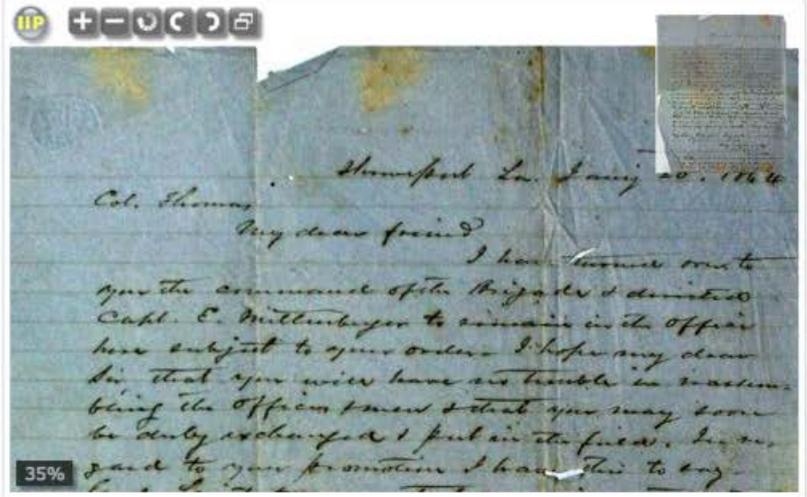
- Civil War Diaries Collection
- Samuel Richey Collection of the Southern Confederacy

Miami University Libraries | Oxford, Ohio 45056 | 513.529.4141 | Home: [Digital Collections](#)

### Correspondence from Henry Watkins Allen to Allen Thomas, dated January 20, 1864

[Show full item record](#)

<b>Title:</b>	Correspondence from Henry Watkins Allen to Allen Thomas, dated January 20, 1864
<b>Author:</b>	Allen, Henry Watkins
<b>Description:</b>	Turned over command of brigade to Thomas; way to secure promotion
<b>Date:</b>	2011-09-02



#### Files in this item

Files	Size	Format	View
<a href="#">S2SS12B2_133.pdf</a>	179.8Kb	PDF	<a href="#">View/Open</a>

#### This item appears in the following Collection(s)

- [Samuel Richey Collection of the Southern Confederacy](#)

Search  Search Advanced Search

Home » Correspondence from Rose O'Neal Greenhow to Jefferson Davis, dated January 18, 1864

Reference URL Share Add tags Comment Rate ★★★★★

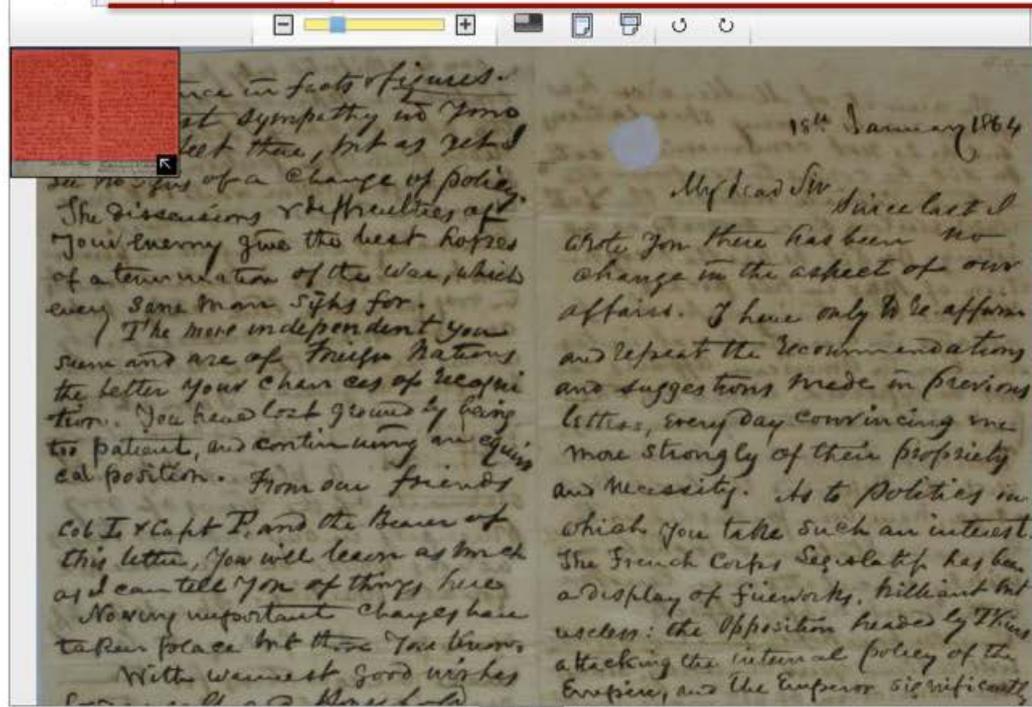
### Correspondence from Rose O'Neal Greenhow to Jefferson Davis, dated January 18, 1864

Correspondence from Rose O'Neal Greenhow to Jefferson Davis, dated January 18, 1864 1 of 2 Next

View Description

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Image Text



Thumbnails Content  
Correspondence from Rose O'Neal Greenhow to Jefferson Davis, dated January 18, 1864



Correspondence from Rose O'Neal...



Corr from O'Ne

Image Text

assistance in facts & figures. The greatest sympathy in your cause is felt there, but as yet I see no signs of a change of policy. The dissensions & difficulties of your enemy give the best hopes of a termination of the war, which every sane man sighs for. The more independent you seem and are of Foreign Nations the better your chances of recognition. You have lost ground by being too patient, and continuing an equivocal position. From our friends Col. I. & Capt. P. and the bearer of this letter, you will learn as much as I can tell you of things here. No very important changes have taken place but those you know.

# Future website

# Promotion of Collection

- Incorporated into Library-wide Civil War programming, including symposium, book discussions, and film series
- Distributed promotional products
- Opportunities in classroom and reading room to publicize



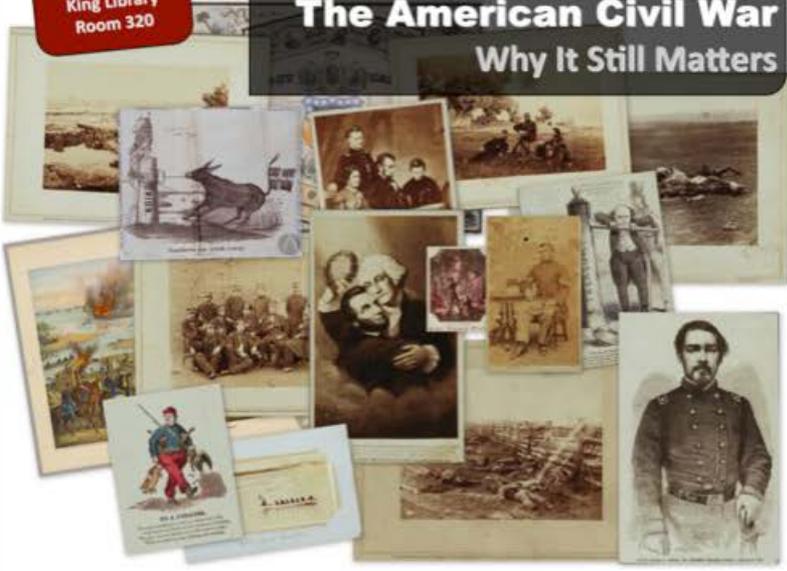
# Publicity Opportunities

**Sat. OCT 22**  
9 am - 12:30 pm  
King Library  
Room 320

## SYMPOSIUM

### The American Civil War

Why It Still Matters



Images of the American Civil War - Alexander Street Press, LLC



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: **Making Sense**  
*of the* **American**  
**Civil War**

### Book Discussion No. 1

Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>  
King Library, Room 320 - from 4 to 5:30 pm



The first conversation begins with a novel of our own time, a work that imagines our way into the past. Geraldine Brooks' *March* tells its story through the characters of another novel: Little Women, Louisa May Alcott's story of sisters and a mother, published in 1868, only three years after Appomattox. Brooks tells the story of the father and husband of those women, the Reverend March. In Alcott's story, he is beloved but significant mainly by his absence. In *March*, we see the story through his eyes, eyes that do not always comprehend clearly what they perceive. We meet with the chaplain in places where he is not wanted, where his values elicit ridicule and contempt. The harsh world of slavery, men, and war challenges everything the March family believes in, including one another. Brooks' novel is a lovely and powerful meditation on America as it descended into the chaos of war.

# Future of Collection

- Scanning and uploading more materials
- Continued outreach and collaboration with faculty to incorporate collection in the classroom...
- Migrating to CONTENTdm

