



**Guide to Rhode Island 11th United
States Heavy Artillery (Colored)
1853-1913**

Phillips Memorial Library, Special and Archival Collections
549 River Avenue
Providence, RI 02918-0001
<http://www.providence.edu/Academics/Phillips+Memorial+Library/>

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Collection Overview

Creator:	Rhode Island 11th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored)
Title:	Rhode Island 11th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored)
Dates:	1853-1913
Quantity:	3 box(es) (1.5 linear feet)
Abstract:	The collection consists of official records of the Rhode Island 11th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored) and the the personal correspondence of Lt. Allen F. Cameron, who was one of the regiment's officers. The regimental records consist of materials such as regimental reports, orders, rosters, and courts-martial records detailing activities of the regiment, life in the Union Army and treatment of black troops by white officers.
Identification:	Ms. us11regiment
Language:	The records are in English.
Repository:	Phillips Memorial Library, Special and Archival Collections 549 River Avenue Providence, RI 02918-0001 http://www.providence.edu/Academics/Phillips+Memorial+Library/

Historical Information

The Rhode Island 11th United States Colored Heavy Artillery had originally been raised and organized as the Fourteenth Regiment Rhode Island Heavy Artillery. On 28 August 1863 the first company was mustered into Federal Service.

As customary for all black units raised during the Civil War, the officers of this regiment were white, all of whom had seen previous service. They were commissioned by the President of the United States, after having passed a rigid examination before a military board convened at Washington of which Major General Silas Casey of the U.S.Army, presided over.

On 19 December 1863 the first battalion left Providence and sailed from Newport for New Orleans, Louisiana, to join General Banks, commanding the Department of the Gulf. On 8 January 1864 the second battalion left Providence to join the first battalion in New Orleans.

In March 1864, while units of the 14th Rhode Island United States Colored Heavy Artillery were stationed at Fort Esperanza, Matagorda Island Texas, Companies A, C, and D were placed under arrest for refusing to accept their pay, which was 3 dollars a month less than what regular white troops were receiving. The ringleaders of the protest were tried by general court-martial, and sent to Fort Jefferson, Florida.

On 15 April the third battalion joined the Regiment at New Orleans. The whole Regiment was subsequently transferred to the Department of the Gulf, and its designation was changed by general order, first on 4 April to the 8th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored), and then in May, to the Eleventh United States Heavy Artillery (Colored). On 5 July Colonel Jacob Hale Sypher of the United States Army was appointed by the President to command the Regiment. The bulk of the service of this Regiment consisted of garrison and picket duty in several posts in the Department of the Gulf.

At the close of the War, a reduction of the military force of the Union was taking place almost daily and with the further services of the Regiment being unnecessary, it was mustered out at Camp Parapet, Louisiana, 2 October 1865.

The Regiment returned to Rhode Island and on 21 October attended a ceremony and parade in Providence where the people of Rhode Island paid tribute to the members of this command.

On landing, a salute was fired by the Marine Artillery and the column was formed on South Main Street where they marched to City Hall. There under the direction of Acting Adjutant-General Crandall, L. H. Humphreys prepared and offered to the returning troops a generous collation. As the men filed into City Hall and took their stand at the tables, the band of Morris Brothers, Pell & Trowbridge's minstrels played "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp", which added to the excitement of the day. After the meal, the column was reformed and marched to Exchange Place, where a dress parade took place in the presence of Governor Smith, his staff, and an large number of spectators.

Afterwards, the Regiment broke into column of companies, and marched up Westminster Street in review before embarking for their encampment at Portsmouth Grove. A few days later, the Regiment was disbanded and the men finally returned to their homes after serving the Union cause for over two years.

Sources:

Barker, Harold R. *History of the Rhode Island Combat Units in the Civil War (1861-1865)*. [n.p., c1964]

Chenery, William H. *The Fourteenth Regiment Rhode Island Heavy Artillery (Colored,) in the war to preserve the union, 1861-1865*. Providence: Snow & Farnham, 1898.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the Rhode Island 11th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored) document the regiment's activities that Lt. Allen F. Cameron was personally involved in and consists of his personal correspondence and official materials of the regiment such as reports, orders, rosters, and court martial records.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in nine series.

Series list

- Circulars
- Correspondence
- Equipage
- General Courts-Martial
- General Orders
- Soldiers
- Special Orders
- Subject files

Index Terms

These records are indexed under the following headings in the HELIN catalog. Researchers wishing to find related materials should search the catalog under these index terms.

- Cameron, Allen F., b. 1836
- Cameron, Allen F., b. 1836 -- Collections
- Rhode Island -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
- United States. -- Army. -- Colored Heavy Artillery Regiment, 11th (1864-1865)
- United States. -- Army. -- Rhode Island Heavy Artillery Regiment (Colored), 14th (1863-1864)
- United States. -- Army -- Military life

United States. -- Army -- Officers

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

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

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Prior to donation to the Providence College Archives, the collection resided with the descendants of Allen F. Cameron.

Preferred Citation

Rhode Island 11th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored). Providence College, Phillips Memorial Library, Special and Archival Collections.

Acquisitions Information

In July of 1973 Bernard Geary of Scituate, Rhode Island, donated the papers of his grandfather, Allen F. Cameron, to the Providence College Archives.

Processing Information

The collection was originally processed in 1976.

Restrictions

Open for research.

Terms governing use and reproduction: Photocopying and scanning of materials is a fee based service available in the repository and is allowed at the discretion of the Librarian of Special and Archival Collections when in compliance to the College's policy on copyright and publication.

Related Material

For histories of Rhode Island Artillery Regiments who served during the Civil War see the list of sources in the Historical Note.

Digitized portions of the Rhode Island 11th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored) collection can be found on the College's Digital Commons website.

There are no known separated materials.

Inventory

Series: Circulars

Dates: 1865

Extent: 9 folders

Material types:

military records
orders (military records)

Scope and Content Note

Generally produced by the Adjutant General's Office, circulars were used to distribute official correspondence (except combat orders) relating to personnel and other administrative matters.

Arrangement

The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 1	Folder 1	Headquarters, Carrollton District	1865 Jan
Box 1	Folder 2	Headquarters, Gulf, Department of	1865 May-1865 June
Box 1	Folder 3	Headquarters, Louisiana, Department of	1865 Aug-1865 Sep
Box 1	Folder 4	Headquarters, Louisiana, Southern Division of	1865 May
Box 1	Folder 5	Headquarters, Louisiana and Texas, Department of	1865 Aug
Box 1	Folder 6	Headquarters, U. S. Colored Troops	1864 Sep-1865 Jan
Box 1	Folder 7	Headquarters, U. S. Forces	1864 Mar-1865 Aug
Box 1	Folder 8	Headquarters, West Mississippi, Military Division of	1864 Oct-1865 Feb
Box 1	Folder 9	War Department, Ordnance Office	1863 Nov-1865 Mar

Series: Correspondence

Dates: 1853-1910

Extent: 29 folders (0.5 linear feet)

Material types:

envelopes

letters (correspondence)

Creator: Cameron, Allen F., 1836-

Biographical Note

Allen F. Cameron, born in 1836, in Quebec, Canada, was one of four brothers who served in the Union Army. He enrolled as a sergeant in the Rhode Island Colored Artillery (Heavy) Fifth Regiment in October of 1861. Among the campaigns he participated in was the Burnside Expedition. By the time of his mustering out in October, 1865, Cameron had attained the rank of first lieutenant of the Rhode Island United States Colored Artillery (Heavy) Eleventh Regiment (originally, the Fourteenth Regiment). Other duties Cameron performed as a Lieutenant included serving on a general court-martial and acting as aide-de-camp at post headquarters.

Upon retiring from the army, Lt. Cameron returned to his previous employment as a weave room overseer in Rockland (Scituate), Rhode Island for approximately one year. He then went to work in the United States Armory at Springfield, Mass. At the time Henry-Martini rifles were being manufactured by the Providence Tool Company and Cameron was appointed a sub-United States inspector assisted to the inspection of seven hundred thousand rifles. He then went to Springfield, Mass., and took in five thousand navy revolvers for the Turkish government. He later was employed by the Winchester Revolver Arms Company of New Haven, Conn.

Source:

Chenery, William H. *The Fourteenth Regiment Rhode Island Heavy Artillery (Colored,) in the war to preserve the union, 1861-1865*. Providence: Snow & Farnham, 1898.

Scope and Content Note

The series is comprised mostly of Cameron family correspondence. It is of particular historical value for the War period from the "off-the-record," human interest viewpoint.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.

Box 1	Folder 10	Family correspondence	undated
Box 1	Folder 11	Gould, Mary E.	1853 Nov 10
Box 1	Folder 12	Congdon, John	1854 Mar 11
Box 1	Folder 13	Webster, Parker V.	1857 Mar 3
Box 1	Folder 14	Clarke, Harrison	1857 Jul 16
Box 1	Folder 15	Sherman, Alfred	1859 Apr 20
Box 1	Folder 16	____, John	1859 Sep7
Box 1	Folder 17	Cameron, Walter	1859 Nov 6
Box 1	Folder 18	Chapman, Elizabeth	1860 Sept 23
Box 1	Folder 19	Hamlin, C. R.	1861 Jul 29
Box 1	Folder 20	Clarke, Harrison	1863 Mar 6
Box 1	Folder 21	Alban, S. H. & A. F. Wyatt	1863 May 14
Box 1	Folder 22	Chapman, Archibald	1863 Nov 30
Box 1	Folder 23	Porter, Kate	1864 Jun 12
Box 1	Folder 24	Sypher, J. H. (Jacob Hale)	1865 Apr 29

Box 1	Folder 25	Allister, A. M.	1865 Sep 23
Box 1	Folder 26	Guinness, R. W.	1865 Oct 11
Box 1	Folder 27	Stafford, Chas. L.	1865 Nov 30
Box 1	Folder 28	Envelope	1865 Dec 4
Box 1	Folder 29	Porter, Alexander	1866 Feb 6
Box 1	Folder 30	Park, E.	1866 Apr 14
Box 1	Folder 31	Aigan, John	1866 May 15
Box 1	Folder 32	Porter, Kate	1866 Aug 26
Box 1	Folder 33	Porter, Kate	1866 Sep 9
Box 1	Folder 34	Porter, Kate	1866 Oct 7
Box 1	Folder 35	Cameron, Walter	1866 Dec 9
Box 1	Folder 36	Aigan, John	1866 Jul
Box 1	Folder 37	Cameron, Walter	1868 Mar 26
Box 1	Folder 38	Barker, John A.	1868 Jun 14

Series: Equipage

Dates: 1865

Extent: 8 folders

Material types:

military records
registers (lists)

Scope and Content Note

This series contains a broad grouping of equipment lists, muster and descriptive rolls, invoices, and other documents relating to rations, ordnance returns and miscellaneous supplies.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 1	Folder 39	Blank forms see oversized	undated
Box 1	Folder 40	Company receipt for equipment received see oversized	1865
Box 1	Folder 41	Correspondence and memos	1865
Box 1	Folder 42	Invoice of Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equipage	1865
Box 1	Folder 43	Invoice of Stores	1865
Box 1	Folder 44	Material, Ordnance, and Supply lists see oversized	1865
Box 1	Folder 45	Monthly Return of Clothing, Camp, and Garrison Equipage	1865
Box 1	Folder 46	Statement of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores see oversized	1865

Series: General Courts-Martial

Dates: 1864-1865

Extent: 16 folders (0.25 linear feet)

Material types:

military records
orders (military records)

Scope and Content Note

The series consists of the charges, specifications and verdicts of several trials of military personnel.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 1	Folder 47	Adams, Charles	1865
Box 1	Folder 48	Fields, John A.	1865
Box 1	Folder 49	Folley, _____	1865
Box 1	Folder 50	Henderson, George	1865
Box 1	Folder 51	Horan, Timothy	1865
Box 1	Folder 52	Lee, Jerome	1865
Box 1	Folder 53	Loup, Constant	1865
Box 1	Folder 54	Maher, Patrick	1865
Box 1	Folder 55	McDonald, William H.	1865
Box 1	Folder 56	Peters, William	1865
Box 1	Folder 57	Rine, William B.	1865
Box 1	Folder 58	Rottaken, H. H.	1864
Box 1	Folder 59	Smith, Jacob	1865
Box 1	Folder 60	Sprauer, Heromnus	1865
Box 1	Folder 61	Van Dusen, Orias	1865
Box 1	Folder 62	Webster, George H.	1865

Series: General Orders

Dates: 1864-1865

Extent: 13 folders (0.25 linear feet)

Material types:

military records
orders (military records)

Scope and Content Note

"General Orders" were permanent directives issued by General Headquarters to all members of a command, concerning policy as well as administrative matters.

Arrangement

The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 2	Folder 63	Headquarters, Gulf, Department of	1865 May-1865 Jul
Box 2	Folder 64	Headquarters, Louisiana, Department of	1865 Aug-1865 Sep
Box 2	Folder 65	Headquarters, Louisiana, Eastern District of	1865 Jul-1865 Sep
Box 2	Folder 66	Headquarters, Louisiana, Southern Division of	1865 Feb-1865 Jul
Box 2	Folder 67	Headquarters, Louisiana and Texas, Department of	1865 Jul-1865 Aug
Box 2	Folder 68	Headquarters, New Orleans, Defenses of	1864 Jul-1865 Feb
Box 2	Folder 69	Headquarters, U. S. Colored Artillery (Heavy) 11th Regiment	1865 Sep
Box 2	Folder 70	Headquarters, U. S. Colored Artillery (Heavy) 11th Regiment 3rd Battalion	1864 Nov-1865 Aug
Box 2	Folder 71	Headquarters, U. S. Colored Troops	1864 Oct-1865 Jan
Box 2	Folder 72	Headquarters, U. S. Colored Troops, 3rd Division	1864 Nov
Box 2	Folder 73	Headquarters, U. S. Forces	1864 Mar
Box 2	Folder 74	Headquarters, West Mississippi, Military Division of	1864 Sep-1865 Jun
Box 2	Folder 75	War Department	1864 Nov-1864 Dec

Series: Soldiers

Dates: 1864-1865

Extent: 6 folders

Material types:

military records

Scope and Content Note

This series is comprised of lists and forms regarding deceased, deserted, discharged and volunteer soldiers. Included in this series are files relating to individual soldiers' target practice scores.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 2	Folder 76	Farnum, Captain	undated
Box 2	Folder 77	Deceased	1864
Box 2	Folder 78	Descriptive Lists of Deserters see oversized	1864-1865
Box 2	Folder 79	Discharged	1864-1865
Box 2	Folder 80	Target Practice Lists see oversized	1865
Box 2	Folder 81	Volunteer Decriptive Lists see oversized	1864

Series: Special Orders

Dates: 1864-1865

Extent: 9 folders

Material types:

military records
orders (military records)

Scope and Content Note

Special Orders, as compared to "General Orders," primarily affected individual soldiers or smaller units within the regiment.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 2	Folder 82	Headquarters, Carrollton District	1865 Jan-1865 Mar
Box 2	Folder 83	Headquarters, Gulf, Department of	1865 Jan-1865 Mar
Box 2	Folder 84	Headquarters, Louisiana, Southern Division of	1865 May-1865 Jun
Box 2	Folder 85	Headquarters, Louisiana and Texas, Department of	1865 Jul
Box 2	Folder 86	Headquarters, New Orleans, Defenses of	1865 Feb
Box 2	Folder 87	Headquarters, U. S. Colored Artillery (Heavy) 8th Regiment	1864 Aug
Box 2	Folder 88	Headquarters, U. S. Colored Artillery (Heavy) 11th Regiment	1865 May-1865 Oct
Box 2	Folder 89	Headquarters, U. S. Colored Artillery (Heavy) 11th Regiment 3rd Battalion	1865 Jan-1865 Sep
Box 2	Folder 90	Headquarters, U. S. Forces	1865 Jun-1865 Jul

Series: Subject Files

Dates: 1868-1913

Extent: 4 folders

Material types:

catalogs
clippings
deeds
receipts

Scope and Content Note

This small series contains miscellaneous items related to Allen F. Cameron, but unrelated to the Eleventh United States Heavy Artillery (Colored).

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 2	Folder 91	Business receipts	1868-1910
Box 2	Folder 92	Descriptive Catalog see oversized	1868 Oct 16
Box 2	Folder 93	Notes, Flyers, and Calling Cards	undated
Box 2	Folder 94	Providence Sunday Journal see oversized	1913 Oct 12
Box 2	Folder 95	Warranty Deed	1875 Apr 9