Guide to the Civil War Centennial Publications Collection

MSS.2012.03.01

Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: SJSU Special Collections & Archives
Title: Civil War Centennial Publications Collection
Identifier/Call Number: MSS.2012.03.01
Physical Description: 0.42 Linear feet1 Hollinger Box
Date (inclusive): 1914-1987

Abstract: The Civil War Centennial Publications Collection (1914-1987, bulk 1961-1964) consists of maps, pamphlets and publications related to the American Civil War Centennial. In 1957, an act of Congress created the United States Civil War Centennial Commission and a national public commemoration of the Civil War. The Commission was asked to work with each of the forty-eight U.S. states to create state-level commissions to commemorate the war, and to coordinate Centennial activities. Commemoration activities began in 1957, four years prior to the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Sumter, and ended in 1965 with the 100th anniversary of the surrender at Appomattox. This collection documents the state commissions for Georgia, Kentucky, Illinois, Ohio, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. This collection is arranged into a single series and organized by format and by state: Series I: Civil War Centennial Publications, 1914-1987 (Bulk 1961-1964).

Access
The collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
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Processing Information

Historical Note
The causes for the American Civil War were due to a variety of issues including the election of Republican President Abraham Lincoln, the political tension surrounding slavery, and state versus federal rights. The Republican Party was determined to prevent any spread of slavery and many Southern leaders had threatened secession if the Republican candidate, Lincoln won the election in 1860. After Lincoln's victory, many Southern whites felt that secession had become their only option. The Southerners saw themselves as fighting to preserve slavery. The Northerners, in contrast, saw themselves as preserving the Union and not abolishing slavery. The American Civil War was fought between the Union (the Northern States) and the Confederate (the Southern States), from 1861-1864.

Scope and Content of Collection
The Civil War Centennial Publications Collection (1914-1987, bulk 1961-1964) consists of maps, pamphlets and publications related to the American Civil War Centennial Commission authorized by Congress in 1957. The Commission was asked to work with each of the forty-eight U.S. states to create state-level commissions to commemorate the war, and to coordinate Centennial activities. Commemoration activities began in 1957, four years prior to the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Sumter, and ended in 1965 with the 100th anniversary of the surrender at Appomattox. This collection documents the state commissions for Georgia, Kentucky, Illinois, Ohio, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Arrangement
This collection is arranged into a single series and organized by format and by state: Series I: Civil War Centennial Publications, 1914-1987 (Bulk 1961-1964).

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Civil War Centennial Commission (U.S.)
Civil War Centennial Publications 1914-1987

Scope and Content of Collection

This series consists of maps, pamphlets and publications commemorating the American Civil War (1861-1864). Of note are maps of the battle fields of Shiloh, Fredericksburg, Chickamauga, and Harrisonburg. Publications and pamphlets include historical accounts of battles from both Southern and Northern perspectives, as well as reports published by the Civil War Centennial Commissions of Texas, Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois, which give a comprehensive view of daily life, politics, and military campaigns during the war. Also included is information on several persons of interest, such as Confederate State Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson and Union State Generals Benjamin Butler, Ulysses S. Grant, and William Sooy Smith.

Arrangement

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Physical description

1 box

Box 1, Folder 1
Maps of Civil War battles by state

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3
Southern States Publications (Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and South Carolina) 1940-1968

Box 1, Folder 4
Southern States Publications (Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia) 1914-1964