

James Ahern Papers MS-0058

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Contributing Institution: Special Collections & University Archives

Title: James Ahern Papers

Creator: Ahern, James Thomas

Identifier/Call Number: MS-0058

Physical Description: 3.42 Linear Feet

Date (inclusive): 1975-1988

Language of Material: English .

Scope and Contents

The *James Ahern Papers* document James Ahern's research and writing process as he worked on a book about John Bankhead Magruder (1807-1871), a lieutenant-colonel in the Mexican-American War, general in the Provisional Confederate Army during the US Civil War, and general in the Imperial Mexican Army. Ahern's research covered the full span of Magruder's life including his birth and early life in Virginia, his years fighting in the Mexican-American War in Florida, his years on frontier duty in California and Kansas, his role in the Battle of Yorktown, the Seven Days Battles, and the Battle of Galveston as a Confederate general during the US Civil War, and his later years in Mexico. The collection consists of research material including photocopies of manuscripts on deposit in numerous repositories as well as notes and index cards compiled by Ahern throughout his research. Also included is Ahern's unpublished manuscript about Macgruder, which is broken into chapters and filed with supporting research material.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Source of Acquisition

Linda Ahern

Preferred Citation

Identification of item, folder title, box number, James Ahern Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, San Diego State University Library.

Biographical Note

James Ahern was a criminal investigator for the San Diego County District Attorney's Office. While researching the background of the District Attorney's Office, he ran across some information about John B. Magruder, a Confederate general during the US Civil War. Magruder fascinated Ahern, who was initially interested in his exploits around San Diego, where he served on frontier duty prior to the outbreak of the Civil War.

Ahern ultimately decided to write a biography for Magruder which covered his entire life, from his birth in Port Royal, Virginia in 1807 to his death in Houston, Texas in 1871. He completed his notes and planned to write the biography following his retirement in January of 1988. He passed away on February 9th of that year, and so the book was never completed.

Accruals

1988-001

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Mexican-American War, 1846-1848

Seven Days' Battles, 1862

Organizational Records

Personal Papers

Confederate States of America. Army. Trans-Mississippi Dept.

Magruder, John Bankhead, 1807-1871
Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico, 1832-1867

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| box 1, folder 4 | Big Bethel and Hampton, VA Folder 4 |
| box 1, folder 5 | Lee, Robert E. Folder 5 |
| box 1, folder 6 | Jackson, Lieutenant General T.J. Folder 6 |
| box 1, folder 7 | The Seven Days Folder 7 |
| box 1, folder 8 | The Peninsular Campaign Folder 8 |
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| box 2, folder 2 | The Peninsular Campaign Folder 2 |
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| box 2, folder 4 | At Newport, Rhode Island Folder 4 |
| box 2, folder 5 | Brent, J. Lancaster/Fort Tegen/Military-General Folder 5 |
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| box 3, folder 3 | At West Point Folder 3 |
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