Guide to the John Gray Foster Papers, 1841-1877

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:
John Gray Foster Papers, 1841-1877

Repository:
New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
https://www.nhhistory.org/

Collection Number:
1981.115

Author of Finding Aid:
Unidentified; reformatted by Korrena Cowing

Creator:
Foster, John Gray, 1823-1874

Language:
The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:
1 box ; 0.21 linear feet

Abstract:
The John Gray Foster Papers, 1841-1877, contain military papers and correspondence spanning most of John G. Foster's army career.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:
No accession information was found at time of processing. New Hampshire Historical Society collection.

Processing Information:
This collection was processed by an unidentified person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unidentified person at an unknown date and reformatted by Korrena Cowing in June 2020. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:
Available for research.

Location:
The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:
The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:
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Preferred Citation:
Item title, John Gray Foster Papers, 1981.115. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:
John Gray Foster was born at Whitefield, NH, on May 27, 1823, son of Major Perley and Mary (Gray) Foster. He graduated fourth in the class of 1846 from West Point and served as an engineer in the Mexican War. He was in charge of the fortifications at Charleston Harbor from 1860-1861 when the Civil War began. Following the Civil War, he became head of the Florida Dept. of the Army Corps of Engineers. From 1867 until his death in 1874, he was the head of the Boston office of the Army Corps of Engineers with the rank of Major General.

John married first Mary I. Moule on January 21, 1851 at Baltimore, MD, born August 3, 1829, the daughter of Samuel and Anne (White) Moule. Mary died June 6, 1871 at Baltimore. John and Mary had one child: Annie M. (1852-1928) born at Baltimore. John married second Anna/Nannie Davis on January 9, 1872 at Washington, DC, daughter of George M. and

Georgianna (Reinagle) Davis. Anna was born May 26, 1850 at Washington, DC. John died at Nashua, NH, on September 2, 1874. She died February 16, 1916 at Framingham, MA.

Collection Scope and Content Note:
These papers, mostly correspondence, concern John Gray Foster's career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. They relate his thoughts on Fort Sumter of Charleston Harbor in South Carolina and the coming of the Civil War. There is correspondence with friends who also attended West Point and with other engineers. During his later years as head of the Boston Corps of Engineers office he dealt with the problems of railroad lines for West Point.

Arrangement:
The materials in this collection are organized chronologically.

Contents List

Box 1

Folder 1	Early compositions, 1841, undated
Folder 2	Correspondence, 1843-1848
Folder 3	Correspondence and military orders, 1854-1858
Folder 4	Military vouchers, 1858-1860
Folder 5	Military and personal correspondence, 1860-1861
Folder 6	Correspondence, 1863
Folder 7	Correspondence, 1865
Folder 8	Correspondence, 1866
Folder 9	Correspondence, 1867
Folder 10	Correspondence, 1868-1869
Folder 11	Military and personal correspondence, 1870
Folder 12	Military and personal correspondence, 1871
Folder 13	Obituaries, 1874
Folder 14	Miscellaneous correspondence, 1877, undated

Subject Terms

People:
Foster, John Gray, 1823-1874
Walker, David S., 1815-1891

Organizations:
International Ocean Telegraph Company
United States Military Academy
United States. Army. Corps of Engineers
West Shore Hudson River Railroad Company

Subjects:
Correspondence
Military orders
Obituaries
Railroads

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

Locations:

Baltimore, MD
Charleston, SC
Fort Caswell, NC
Fort Moultrie, SC
Fort Sumter, SC
Washington, DC
West Point, NY

Occupations:

Engineers