GUIDE

to the


Manuscript Collection

ARCHIVES OF THE BIG BEND
COLLECTION SUMMARY

of the


The W.C. Adams Collection was donated to the Archives of the Big Bend by Mrs. Brawley Adams on October 14, 1985. Copies were made of the documents and the originals were returned to Mrs. Adams.

The W.C. Adams Collection is a group of papers and documents pertaining to the early Confederate Army in Fort Davis associated with Adams. The collection centers around Adams and the first Confederate troops at Fort Davis. Other prominent people mentioned in the collection are Brigadier General Earl Van Dorn, who also appears under the ranks of Colonel and General in the collection. Lieutenant Colonel James Baylor also appears under the rank of Captain. The bulk of the material deals with Adams and his involvement with the Confederate Army at Fort Davis.

In August 1861, Adams received orders from Baylor and Van Dorn to muster his men and immediately assume post in Fort Davis. Adams and his men did not reach their destination until the second week of September. Upon arrival at Fort Davis, Adams was promoted to Captain of the Texas Mounted Riflemen, Company “c”. It was among the first regiments organized as state militia or minutemen to take over the posts from the Federals. Adams played a major role in this organization. At the time of the orders, Adams was a First Lieutenant stationed at Fort Bliss. He also served Forts Lancaster, Wood, and Inge, prior to his relocation at Fort Davis.

By midsummer of 1862, Adams’ Company “C” ceased to exist in Fort Davis due to the expiration of enlistments. Most of his men reenlisted in other units and documentation belonging to the W.C. Adams Collection ends.

The collection is broadly organized under five categories: Correspondence, Financial Documents, Legal Documents, Records, and Ephemera. Included in the Correspondence and Legal Documents is information of an incident involving a misunderstanding with the Mexican Government due to Fort Davis troops negligence to take orders as directed. Correspondence is the bulk of the collection. The material is housed in one box. Each category is arranged chronologically according to dates within each folder.

Military records for William C. Adams were added to the SPECIAL NOTES: collection on January 23, 1987. They are located in Box #1, Folder #6

By: Melleta Bell
Archival Assistant

August 1, 1986
BIBLIOGRAPHY

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CORRESPONDENCE 1860-1862 & n.d. (21 unbound, 47 leaves) (15 leaves)

Correspondence contains military correspondence of Company “C” in Fort Davis, Texas. Letters are between and inclusive of the following parties: Captain William C. Adams, Brigadier General Earl Van Dorn, Emory Gibbons, and Lieutenant Colonel James Baylor. Two letters pertain to Captain Adams orders to take the post at Fort Davis.

Folder #1 Military Correspondence 1860-1862 & n.d. (21 unbound, 47 leaves) (15 leaves)

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS 1861-1862 & n.d. (11 unbound, 24 leaves) (3 leaves)

Financial Papers contain invoices, vouchers, valuation of horses, and provisions lists pertaining to Company "C" of Fort Davis.

Folder #2 Civil War Military Financial Documents 1861-1862 & n.d. (11 unbound, 24 leaves) (3 leaves)

LEGAL DOCUMENTS 1861-1910 (4 unbound, 13 leaves)

Contains discharge papers, a court martial of Dennis O'Brien, irrigation authorization to J.C. Crawford, and a Deed of Trust belonging to Sarah Adams.

Folder #3 Legal Documents 1861-1910 (4 unbound, 13 leaves)

RECORDS 1861 & n.d. (11 unbound, 32 leaves) (5 leaves)

Included in this section are military records of W.C. Adams at Fort Davis. Records contain lists of Co. "C" 2nd Regiment of the Texas Mounted Riflemen, death record of soldiers, blank disability discharge papers, an honorable discharge, General Orders by Brigadier General Earl Van Dorn, muster rolls, and roll (inventory) of clothing.

Folder #4 Civil War Military Records 1861 & n.d. (11 unbound, 32 leaves) (5 leaves)

EPHEMERA 1898 & n.d. (1 unbound, 8 leaves) (1 leaf)

Ephemera includes a prescription and a San Antonio based newspaper titled "El Cronista."

Folder #5 Ephemera 1898 & n.d. (1 unbound, 8 leaves) (1 leaf)

Folder #6 Military Records 1861-1935 & n.d.