

Library Company of Philadelphia

**McA 5786.F**

**CIVIL WAR MISCELLANIES EPHEMERA COLLECTION**

1858-1884  
(bulk 1861-1865)

2.71 linear feet, 4 boxes

- Series I. Celebrations and Memorials (1861-1870)
- Series II. Charitable Activities and Associations (1858-1869)
- Series III. Merchandising (1861-1864)
- Series IV. Military Forms (1861-1865)
- Series V. Miscellaneous Material (1861-1884)
- Series VI. Realia (1862, 1864)

April 2007

**Descriptive Summary****Repository**

Library Company of Philadelphia  
1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5698

**Call Number**

McA 5786.F

**Creator**

McAllister, John A. (John Allister), 1822-1896

**Title**

Civil War Miscellanies Ephemera Collection

**Inclusive Dates**

1858-1884 (bulk 1861-1865)

**Quantity**

2.71 linear feet (4 boxes)

**Language of Materials**

Materials are in English.

**Abstract**

The collection contains tickets, invitations, handbills, advertising, product labels, government forms, and miscellaneous ephemera related to merchandise, charitable and patriotic organizations, and home front activities, primarily in Philadelphia and Baltimore, during the Civil War period. Also included is ephemera concerning the Union martyr E.E. Ellsworth, the author George Francis Train, and documenting Southern relief efforts mounted by Northerners. A small selection of realia contains a set of paper fans, two badges, a pair of buttons, and a piece of rope.

**Administrative Information****Restrictions to Access**

The collection is open to researchers.

**Acquisition Information**

Gift of John A. McAllister; forms part of the McAllister Collection.

**Processing Information**

The Civil War Miscellanies Ephemera Collection material was formerly housed in a folio album that had been created after the McAllister Collection arrived at the Library Company. The material was removed from the album, and arranged and described in 2006, under grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the William Penn Foundation. The collection was processed by Sandra Markham. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this finding aid do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Preferred Citation**

This collection should be cited as: [indicate specific item or series here], Civil War Miscellanies Ephemera Collection (McA 5786.F), McAllister Collection, The Library

Company of Philadelphia. For permission to publish materials or images in this collection, contact the Coordinator of Rights and Reproductions, Library Company of Philadelphia, 1314 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19107-5698. Please include complete citation(s) when making a request. See the Library Company's website, <http://www.librarycompany.org/>, for further information.

## Online Catalog Headings

### Subject Names

American Union Commission  
Ellsworth, E. E. (Elmer Ephraim), 1837-1861  
Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association  
National Sailors' Fair (1864 : Boston, Mass.)  
Pennsylvania Freedmen's Relief Association  
Soldiers' Home (Philadelphia, Pa.)  
Soldiers and Sailors Home Fair (1865 : Philadelphia, Pa.)  
Soldiers' National Cemetery (Gettysburg, Pa.)  
Southern Relief Commission  
Supervisory Committee for Recruiting Colored Regiments (Philadelphia, Pa.)  
Train, George Francis, 1829-1904  
Union League of Philadelphia  
United States Christian Commission  
United States Sanitary Commission  
War Fund Committee (Brooklyn, New York, N.Y.)

### Subject Topics

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Miscellanea  
Bazaars (Charities)--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia  
Tableaux (Art)--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia

### Document Types

Broadsides  
Ephemera  
Memorial works  
Military records  
Playbills  
Clippings  
Application forms  
Fans (costume accessories)  
Badges

## Related Collections

The material in this collection deals only with Union and Northern efforts; similar Confederate and Southern items are in the Library Company's Confederate States of America Ephemera Collection (McA 5795). The Ribbons and Textiles Collection

(McA 10090.F) has related commemorative ribbons. The Civil War Volunteer Saloons and Hospitals (McA 5778.F) and Sanitary Fairs (McA 5781.F) collections have material on other charitable organizations and events during the Civil War period.

### **Biographical/Historical Notes**

When the McAllister Collection was accessioned by the Library Company, large folio scrapbooks were created to hold the ephemera. The collection was sorted and classified by topics, most of which centered on the American Civil War or the period. Albums were created for the Great Central Fair, various heroes (including Lincoln and his generals), the Centennial Exhibition, the volunteer refreshment saloons, etc. One of the albums was titled "Civil War Miscellanies," and it was here that a variety of items that were related to the wartime period, if not the war itself, were filed when they did not fit into one of the other albums' categories.

### **Collection Overview**

The Civil War Miscellanies Ephemera Collection contains printed material related to the promotion of events, organizations, and merchandise in the North during the wartime period. It is arranged in six series: Series I, Celebrations and Memorials (1861-1870); Series II, Charitable Activities and Associations (1858-1869); Series III, Merchandising (1861-1864); Series IV, Military Forms (1861-1865); Series V, Miscellaneous Material (1861-1884); and Series VI, Realia (1862, 1864, undated). As is often the case with ephemera, most of the material is undated, but has content that was meant to be delivered during the wartime period. As well, some of the items extend in time to cover events and opinions given before and after the war, in particular fundraising events held to support widows and orphans or to erase regiments' debts. When known, dates are given in the box and folder list and undated material is assumed to be present; the designation "undated" is given only when no specific dates are in evidence.

Series I, Celebrations and Memorials (1861-1870) contains printed ephemera related to Americans whose lives were touched by the war, and to veterans, both the living and the dead. Among the memorials are those to Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth (1837-1861) of the New York Fire Zouaves (Eleventh New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment), who became one of the first martyrs for the Union cause when he was shot and killed for trying to remove a Confederate banner that was flying above the Marshall House hotel in Alexandria, VA, when the city was occupied by Union forces in May 1861. His name and image were invoked repeatedly during the war, and a few memorial items are filed here. Many others can be seen in the Library Company's Civil War Stationery and Civil War Envelopes collection in the Prints and Photographs Department, and in the Ribbons and Textiles Collection (McA 10090.F).

Along with ephemera, the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association folder has two pieces of correspondence which have to do with the subscription book (blank) held there. It also has drafts of circular letters prepared by John A. McAllister, one in manuscript and the other a pre-

existing printed letter for another organization annotated with changes to suit the Gettysburg association.

Among the celebrations was the Philadelphia City Council's one-day event held to remember the seventy-fourth anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. That day Council passed a series of resolutions affirming the perpetuity of the country as established by the constitution and condemning any state's secession from the Union as "a monstrous political heresy" and "a crime of the deepest dye." That folder holds announcements and programs from the event. Cloth badges can be found in the Ribbons and Textiles Collection (McA 10090.F), and a metal badge, possibly related, is in Series VI of this collection.

The Presentations of Colors folder has ephemera from a number of official flag ceremonies held toward the end of the war and afterward, as well as three manuscript items: two letters and one filled-in printed form regarding receptions held in 1866.

Miscellaneous Celebrations has ephemera for unidentified (or non-specific) events, as well as a ticket to view, from the Kensington Water Works, the launch of the steamer *Ironsides*.

Series II, Charitable Activities and Associations (1858-1869) is arranged in three subseries: Claims and Claims Agents; Fundraising; and Organizations. Their contents are a mix of circular letters, tickets, blank forms, and advertising items meant to assist both veterans and their families.

The first subseries holds forms and advertising ephemera issued by agencies and private companies, the latter primarily Joseph E. Devitt & Co. in Philadelphia, who sought to arrange pensions, disability payments, and back pay bounties due to veterans or their dependents. The material from the War Fund Committee of Brooklyn and Kings County, NY was sent to McAllister by Henry Reed Stiles, the librarian of the Long Island Historical Society (see his letter of November 1, 1864 in McA MSS 001). By their pencil annotations, two of the Philadelphia blank forms appear to be marked up for reprinting.

The Fundraising subseries holds many announcements of and tickets for events and fairs held to collect money for the war effort, or for the support of widows, children, and the wounded. Most of the activity represented took place in Philadelphia, though the Fairs section has a folder of ephemera from the National Sailors' Fair which opened in Boston on November 1, 1864. The Philadelphia fairs include several Children's, Young Ladies, and Floral expositions held around the city, most of which earned money for sick and wounded soldiers. That folder also includes handbills for a fair held in Manayunk, a village that is now part of the city. Miscellaneous events include donation suppers and a raffle for a stove.

Under the Organizations subseries is a folder of Baltimore items which, in addition to items relating to relief agencies, includes two palm cards that were presented to Union soldiers upon

arrival in that city in 1861. Titled "WELCOME TO BALTIMORE!" they were distributed by the "Loyal Citizens of Baltimore" to assure the troops that "We do not view you as barbarians, whose only idea is hatred of the Southern people..." and add wishes of success in their attempt to "preserve unimpaired the National Union." The Refugees from Rebel Armies folder has information about a group of noted Philadelphia men who, recognizing the shortage of laborers in the North near the end of the war, sought to organize a system to finding employment for Confederate deserters so that their "paths to thrift and comfort" would inspire allegiance to the Union. The Southern Relief section has ephemera related to attempts by Northern citizens to assist families in Confederate states through donations of food and other supplies as well as money to purchase goods to send to the South. In an undated circular letter [circa 1867] issued by the Southern Famine Relief Fund, Philadelphians are reminded of their "liberality during the prevalence of FAMINE in Ireland and England."

Series III, Merchandising (1861-1864) has a mix of materials, primarily advertisements, product labels, and other printed items relating to the war and patriotism. Among the patriotic-themed objects in the series are decorated paper collars and cuffs which women were meant to wear with their shirtwaists as an anti-cotton statement in support of the Union cause. The pieces have patent dates of 1854 and 1859, but may also have been produced during the war; also in that file is an advertising placard for Ladies' Patent Electro "Union" Collars and Cuffs that were "Respectfully Dedicated to the Ladies of the Union" and made by the Lockwood Manufacturing Company. The matched set illustrated in the ad is included in the folder. Housed with the oversize material in Box 4 are printed paper flags, one of which is interesting for its hand-stenciled field of stars, and three pieces of wallpaper printed with embossed gold foil stars. Product Labels includes patriotic designs for soap wrappers and textile labels, but the majority of the items are from tobacco goods. The Publications folder primarily contains covers removed from books published during the war, particularly manuals, song books, etc.; one uncut proof sheet of book covers is in Box 4. Soldiers' Products has three folders of advertising matter targeted at servicemen; the miscellaneous folder has, among other things, advertising pieces for an aromatic stomach belt sold by druggists, and a card advising soldiers on the benefits and medicinal use of bark from the sweet gum tree found throughout the Southern states, with a description of the tree so it might be easily identified. Soldiers' Services has mostly to do with shipping goods to regiments and encampments, but there is also a small business card for Lewis Ernede, a furnishing undertaker in Hagerstown, MD, offering his services to move bodies from the Antietam battlefield to local shipping offices at short notice. The folder for Merchants' Advertisements holds two pages of listings from an autograph and manuscript dealer, Edward A. Stevens, in Washington, who offered for sale letters and other documents signed by Civil War generals and officers.

Series IV, Military and Government Forms (1861-1865) has blank forms, mostly government-issued, for use by soldiers and seamen, administrators, and institutions, including hospitals. Many of the forms are marked with notes most likely meant as instructions for printers, suggesting that McAllister might have received them as discards after the forms had been

reissued. Pension and other financial claim forms can be found in Series I, because though they were filed with the government, the collection of information was handled by charitable organizations or private companies. Material relating to taxes and tax legislation is filed in this series although some of the papers are not actual forms. Large forms are filed in Box 4 with other oversize material.

Series V, Miscellaneous Material (1861-1884) contains ephemera including circular letters and blank forms for religious and recruiting organizations, and a small group of realia. Newspaper Clippings has a variety of material related to the war, shipbuilding, local Army camps, etc., as well as two 1860 articles from an unidentified Philadelphia paper with articles on the “envelope mania” for collecting those printed enclosures. There is a folder of material related to George Francis Train, an author and lecturer, including two tickets to his appearances and two of his published speeches. The folder for the Union League of Philadelphia also holds material from the Union Club, the precursor to the League. After the Union League was formed, the members of the Club continued to meet weekly (a club within a club) as they had always done, until the last member died in 1906.

Series VI, Realia (1862, 1864) holds a small collection of three-dimensional items. The bulk of the objects are seven colored paper fans, circa 1862, with raised designs including the legend: THE LADIES MEMORIAL TO THE BRAVE DEFENDERS OF THIS GLORIOUS UNION/ABRAHAM LINCOLN/WE RAISE A BREEZE TO COOL THE HEROES BROW. Also named in the design are Generals George McClellan, Henry Halleck, and Winfield Scott, and Admirals Samuel Du Pont and Andrew Foote. The fans, flat paper mounted on wood stick handles, were produced in Philadelphia by C.Y. Haynes & Co. An uncut version of the design is held in the Library Company’s Print Department. Also in the series is a piece of rope whose paper tag proclaims it to be from a noose used to hang a Confederate spy in August 1864; it was enclosed in a letter dated November 24, 1864, from Francis S. Hoffman to John A. McAllister (McA MSS 001). There is a silver-plated medal/badge with its accompanying display card describing it as the “White Man’s Badge,” marketed to “All who desire it to be distinctly known that they are not negroes with white skins.” It bears the head of Liberty surrounded by the words “THIS IS A WHITE MANS’ [sic] GOVERNMENT.” Another metal badge with the “Constitution and Union” design, a pair of buttons, and a display card for a “Union League Badge” (badge itself is not in the collection) round out the series.

Box    Folder

## SERIES I. CELEBRATIONS AND MEMORIALS 1861-1870

Arranged alphabetically.

1	1	E.E. Ellsworth	1861
	2	Funerals, memorial services, etc.	1861-1870
	3	Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association	1863
	4	Parades See also: Washington's Birthday celebrations	1861-1867
	5	Philadelphia City Council Constitution Celebration	1861-1862
	6	Presentations of colors	1864-1866
	7	Soldiers' National Cemetery, Gettysburg	1863-1865
	8	Union balls	1861-1865
	9	Washington's Birthday celebrations	1861-1863
	10	Miscellaneous	1861-1865



Box    Folder

## SERIES II. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS 1858-1869

Arranged alphabetically.

Claims and claims agents

[1] 11 Private companies 1863

12 War Fund Committee, Brooklyn and Kings County, NY 1863

Fundraising

13 Appeals, miscellaneous 1861-1865

14 Balls 1862-1868

15 Concerts 1861-1869

16 Events, miscellaneous 1861-1866

17 Exhibitions, tableau, etc. 1861-1865

Fairs

18 Boston 1864

19 Philadelphia 1861-1866

See also: Soldier's Home, Philadelphia

See also: Southern relief, miscellaneous organizations

20 Lectures 1862-1864

See also: George F. Train in Series V.

Organizations

21 Baltimore miscellaneous 1861-1864

22 National Homestead Orphanage, Gettysburg 1866

23 Pennsylvania Freedmen's Relief Association 1864

24 Refugees from Rebel Armies 1865

25 Soldier's Home, Philadelphia 1863-1865

Box    Folder

## SERIES II. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS, cont.

## Southern relief

[1]	26	American Union Commission	1865
	27	Miscellaneous organizations	1861-1867
	28	United States Christian Commission	1862-1865
	29	United States Sanitary Commission	1861-1864

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
		SERIES III. MERCHANDISING	1861-1864
		Arranged alphabetically.	
2	30	Advertisements and billheads	undated
	31	Coupons	undated
		Patriotic emblems	
	32	Collars and cuffs	undated
	33	Flags	1861-1863
		See also: Box 4, folder 77	
		Wallpaper	undated
		See: Box 4, folder 78	
	34	Miscellaneous	1861
	35	Product labels	undated
		See also: Box 1, folder 1	
	36	Publications (covers only)	1861-1862, undated
		See also: Box 4, folder 79	
		Soldiers' products	
	37	Camp equipment	undated
	38	Writing cases	undated
	39	Miscellaneous	undated
	40	Soldiers' services	1861
	41	United States Treasury notes (7 3-10 loans)	1864

Box    Folder

## SERIES IV. MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT FORMS 1861-1865

Arranged alphabetically.

[2]	42	Allegiance oath	1861
	43	Disability See also: Box 4, folder 80	1861-1865
	44	Discharge See also: Box 4, folder 80	1861-1865
	45	Enlistment certificates	1861-1865
	46	Hospitals See also: Box 4, folder 80	1861-1865
	47	Local orders	1861-1865
	48	Ordnance	1861-1865
	49	Passes	1861-1865
	50	Paymaster, quartermaster, and sutler See also: Box 4, folder 80	1861-1865
	51	Recruitment	1861-1865
	52	Requisitions	1861-1865
	53	Taxes and assessments, miscellaneous	1861-1865
	54	Voting See also: Box 4, folder 80	1861-1865
	55	Miscellaneous See also: Box 4, folder 80	1861-1865

Box    Folder

## SERIES V. MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL

1861-1884

Arranged alphabetically.

[2]	56	Newspaper clippings	1860-1862, undated
	57	Patriots' League, Hartford, CT	1861
	58	Petitions	undated
	59	Quote cards, essays, short tracts	1864, 1884
	60	Recruitment	1861-1862
	61	Religion	1861-1865
	62	Supervisory Committee for Recruiting Colored Regiments	1863-1864
	63	Train, George Francis	1862-1865
	64	Union League of Philadelphia See also: Box 4, folder 81	1863-1869
	65	Miscellaneous	1862-1867

Box    Folder

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
		SERIES VI. REALIA	1862, 1864
3	66	Buttons	undated
		Badges	
	67	Union and Constitution; Union League badge card	undated
	68	White Man's Badge	undated
	69-75	Paper fans: Beige (1), Blue (3), Pink (2), Yellow (1)	circa 1862
	76	Relic: rope from noose used in hanging	1864

Box    Folder

		OVERSIZE MATERIAL	1861-1865
		From: Series III. Merchandising	
		Patriotic emblems	
4	77	Flags	undated
	78	Wallpaper	undated
	79	Publications	undated
		From: Series IV. Military and Government Forms	
	80	Miscellaneous forms	1861-1865
		From: Series V. Miscellaneous Material	
	81	Union League	1865