



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

John Payne Civil War collection

1858-1923

Sc MG 199

Home to Harlem Project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Summary

Creator: Payne, John

Title: John Payne Civil War collection

Date: 1858-1923

Size: 0.01 linear feet (1 folder)

Source: Gift, Mount, Ellis, 1978 Gift, Mount, Ellis, 1990

Revision History: This finding aid was updated by Allison Hughes.

Abstract: John Payne was a veteran of the Civil War and agent of the Freedmen's Bureau. The John Payne Civil War collection consists of correspondence and military certificates documenting the Civil War service of Payne, a volunteer of African descent who rose to the post of second lieutenant in the Union army and became an agent of the Freedmen's Bureau after the war. The collection includes letters exchanged between Payne and his uncles, Samuel and William Rees from 1862 to 1868, four military orders (1865), Payne's letter of appointment as second lieutenant in the Louisiana Volunteers of African Descent (1864) and a pension certificate (1923). Payne's letters provide substantive details on the participation of African Americans in the Civil War and their enfranchisement during the Reconstruction period. (15 originals and 7 duplicates).

Preferred citation: [Item], John Payne Civil War collection, Sc MG 199, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

John Payne was a veteran of the Civil War and agent of the Freedmen's Bureau. Payne lived in Harrisburg, Indiana, before the Civil War and was raised as an orphan by his uncles Samuel and William Rees and by the family of William Thomas. Payne joined the Union army as a private in the 15th Regiment Iowa Infantry. Appointed second lieutenant to the 10th Regiment of Louisiana Volunteers of African Descent, he served as aide-de-camp to Brigadier General John Parker Hawkins of the 3rd

Brigade, First Division, of U.S. Colored Troops. He took part in numerous military campaigns throughout the South, in Mississippi and Alabama, including the victorious Battle of Blakely which led to the evacuation of Mobile, Alabama, by the Confederate army. After the war, he worked as an agent of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands in Mississippi.

Scope and Content Note

The John Payne Civil War collection consists of correspondence and military certificates documenting the Civil War service of John Payne, a volunteer of African descent who rose to the post of second lieutenant in the Union army and became an agent of the Freedmen's Bureau after the war. The collection includes letters exchanged between Payne and his uncles, Samuel and William Rees from 1862 to 1868, four military orders (1865), Payne's letter of appointment as second lieutenant in the Louisiana Volunteers of African Descent (1864) and a pension certificate (1923). Payne's letters provide substantive details on the participation of African Americans in the Civil War and their enfranchisement during the Reconstruction period. (15 originals and 7 duplicates).

Key Terms

Subjects

African American soldiers -- Alabama

African American soldiers -- Mississippi

Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877) -- African American troops

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Participation, African American

Geographic Names

Southern States -- History -- 1865-1877

Names

Hawkins, John Parker, 1830-1914

Payne, John

United States. Army. Louisiana Volunteers of African Descent Infantry Regiment (10th : 1863-1864)

United States. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands