

KINNEY (JOHN CODDINGTON) PAPERS

Mss. 2273

Inventory

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
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Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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SUMMARY

Size.	10 items
Geographic locations.	Ship Island, Miss.; New Orleans, La.; Thibodaux, La.; Red River area; Morganza, La.; Mobile, Ala.
Inclusive dates.	April 1862 – October 1864
Bulk dates.	N/A
Language.	English
Summary.	Letters from Kinney to a young, female friend in Connecticut provide detailed descriptions of his military service on Ship Island, in occupied New Orleans, and in the 4 th Division under command of General Cuvier Grover during the Red River Expedition. He provides observations and opinions regarding Federal generals, skirmishes in the Thibodaux area, camp life, Battle of Irish Bend, and more. Two letters (1864) describe Kinney's assignment, training, and duties in the Signal Corps and a hunting and fishing trip through the swamps of Dauphin Island.
Restrictions on access.	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
Related collections.	None.
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	John Coddington Kinney Papers, Mss. 2273. Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack locations.	Misc:K

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

John Kinney, a Yale University graduate, was a Union officer in the 13th Connecticut Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 4th Division, 19th Army Corps.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Kinney writes to a friend, Eliza, in Connecticut from Ship Island, Mississippi, commenting on the island, its vegetation and animal life, soldiers' activities, and living quarters (April 17, 1862). He later writes from New Orleans mentioning General George B. McClelland's defeat in the Peninsular Campaign and his dissatisfaction in the choice of generals and their appointments. He states that General Benjamin F. Butler is a "rascal" but believes he is conducting the campaign wisely in New Orleans (July 14, 1862). Kinney also writes about the estimated Federal and Confederate troop strength in the area between New Orleans and Port Hudson after the Battle of Baton Rouge, and the possibility of Federal defeat, also commenting on the military situation in the city of New Orleans. He mentions a prank in which someone changed the name of a saloon from Beauregard Exchange to Beauregard Exchanged (August 20, 1862).

Kinney writes from Camp Stevens in Thibodaux, La., expressing sorrow over the death of his brother (November 13, 1862) and referring to his becoming part of the Banks Expedition and the scarcity of action in the Thibodaux area (December 23, 1862). He later writes from the field near Alexandria, La., of the march from Baton Rouge to Brashear City, the Battle of Irish Bend, and the march back to Opelousas, Washington, and Alexandria under the command of General Cuvier Grover. He mentions stealing from plantations in Alexandria because of the lack of food and wood, despite it being against military orders (May 11, 1863). While on sick leave in New Orleans, Kinney mentions U.S. Army prisoners, Sherwood and Bissell, captured by the Confederates while ashore from the gunboat *Arizona* above Port Hudson and now at the hospital in New Orleans (July 31, 1863). From his camp in Thibodaux, Kinney discusses men who enlisted in the service and their business and professional future in comparison with men who remained out, fearing he will be good for nothing after his service is over (November 3, 1863). After being assigned to the Signal Corps, he writes from Morganza, La., describing the training and duties of a Signal Officer and mentions the advantages of the Corps over other services (July 5, 1864). Finally, Kinney writes from the U.S.S. *Hartford*, the flagship of Admiral David G. Farragut, describing a hunting and fishing trip through the swamps of Dauphin Island near Mobile, Ala. (October 22, 1864).

INDEX TERMS

Dauphin Island (Ala.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Kinney, John C. (John Coddington), d. 1891.

Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives.

Red River Expedition, 1864.

Ship Island (Miss.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

United States. Army. Signal Corps.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Misc: K	--	1	April 1862 – October 1864