

**DAVID FRENCH BOYD PAPERS.
WILLIAM T. SHERMAN LETTERS**
Mss. 890, 893, 3362
Inventory

Compiled by
Luana Henderson

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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SUMMARY

- Size.** 0.3 linear ft., 1 microfilm reel
- Geographic locations.** Baton Rouge, La.; Washington, D.C.; St. Louis, Mo.; San Francisco, Calif.; Cairo, Egypt.
- Inclusive dates.** 1859-1891
- Language.** English
- Summary.** Letters concern higher education, politics, and personal affairs, as discussed between William T. Sherman and David F. Boyd.
- Organization.** Arranged chronologically
- Restrictions on access.** Originals housed in the vault are restricted. Use microfilm instead.
- Related collections.** David French Boyd Papers, Mss. 40, 99, 794, etc.
Walter L. Fleming Collection, Mss. 890, 893.
- Copyright.** Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
- Citation.** David French Boyd Papers. William T. Sherman Letters, Mss. 890, 893, 3362, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
- Stack locations** MSS.MF:B, U:179; VAULT:26

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

General William T. Sherman was a colleague and close friend of David French Boyd, a Confederate Army officer and Louisiana educator. As members of the original five-member faculty, both men taught at Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy. At the time, Sherman served as superintendent (1859-1861). He resigned his post upon Louisiana's secession from the United States and joined the United States Army at the onset of the Civil War. After the war, he remained in the army as a lieutenant general. When Ulysses Grant was elected president, Sherman was promoted to general and given command of the entire U. S. Army, retiring in 1884. Sherman adamantly rejected any idea of seeking political office. One of his most important contributions after the war was the establishment of the School of Application for Cavalry and Infantry, which evolved into the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He settled in New York City in 1886, where he died on February 14, 1891. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery, St. Louis, Missouri.

David F. Boyd was a colonel in the Confederate Army. After the war, Boyd accepted the position of superintendent of the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy at Alexandria, Louisiana, when it reopened in 1865. In 1869, the school was destroyed by fire and the institution was relocated to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Boyd led the Seminary through its development into Louisiana State University (LSU). In the mid-1870s, David Boyd used his own personal finances to support school. The financial situation improved in 1877 when LSU merged with the Agricultural and Mechanical College located in New Orleans and received more funding from the state. It was renamed Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College upon the merger.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Letters consist of William T. Sherman's original letters (1861, 1867-1886, 1890), typescripts (1861-1886, 1890-1891), and transcriptions of Sherman's letters handwritten by David F. Boyd (1859-1864, 1875). Letters prior to the Civil War (Boyd's transcriptions, no originals) pertain to Sherman's role as superintendent of the Louisiana State Seminary and Military Academy and his views on the political conflict between the North and South (1859-1861). Letters by Gen. William T. Sherman to David F. Boyd, written primarily during Reconstruction, pertain to voting fraud in Louisiana, African American civil rights and suffrage, activities of the Ku Klux Klan, the election of 1876, the jetty system in New Orleans, LSU, and local, state, and national political issues. Letters offer advice to Boyd, reminisce about past events, and reflect Sherman's efforts to secure a post for Boyd at the Military Academy at Cairo, Egypt.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

<u>Date</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1859-1864, 1875	William T. Sherman's letters to Gen. G. Mason Graham, John Sherman, David F. Boyd, and faculty of Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy. They pertain to Sherman's role as superintendent and the political conflict between the North and the South.
1861, 1864-1869	Letters written to David F. Boyd concern Boyd's experience as a Confederate prisoner of war relative to his status and comfort. One letter by Sherman (1864) requests courtesies for Boyd, a prisoner of war, and is penciled on the back of an intercepted order from General Johnston to General Pemberton. Sherman also discusses topics relative to Boyd's operation of the Seminary and the fire that burned it down. He reminisces about earlier times and expresses his own opinions regarding politics and conditions in the South during Reconstruction, and he speaks of planned visits to see Boyd. A letter to the Command Officer of Baton Rouge requests that he receive Boyd after the fire that burned down the Seminary. 19 items.
1870-1871	Letters from Sherman to Boyd concern the hiring of new faculty, the acquisition of arms for the Seminary, and financial difficulties due to reduction in pay. Sherman provides letters of recommendation to Boyd and discusses civil strife and other difficulties in the South. He also tells of his planned trip to Europe. 10 items.
1872-1874	Letters pertain to Sherman's planned trip to Egypt and the Nile River region. They also reveal Sherman's thoughts on the South and southern politics, particularly Louisiana. He refers to Boyd's search for funding and professors for the LSU and expresses admiration for Boyd's work. He discusses efforts to aid Louisiana during the Mississippi River flood, cutbacks in the army, and publications concerning martial law. He also mentions family matters. 14 items
1875-1877	Letters show Sherman's interest in seeing Boyd take a position at the University of California and Louisiana politics, particularly the Wheeler Compromise. He sympathizes with Boyd's poor financial situation, informing him of a lucrative job as supervisor of the military university in Cairo, but also relates possible problems relative to the offer in Cairo. Sherman again reminisces of the Civil War and the political events and opinions regarding it. Another letter mentions a speech given by Boyd, and Sherman offers advice on the operation of the University and voices his concerns for its future. 28 items.

- 1878 Letters refer to Boyd's attempt to secure Lt. William Taylor Mumford as a professor of military sciences, the acquisition of arms for LSU, and the criminal proceedings against Governor Nicholls. He continues his discussion on Louisiana politics and the future of the state, and he laments the effect the U.S. Congress has on his own salary. Sherman mentions his children's endeavors and the outbreak of yellow fever in Louisiana. Also included are telegrams concerning Louisiana politics and the judicial proceedings against a Mr. Anderson. 10 items.
- 1879 Letters relate to planned trips to Florida and New Orleans, Louisiana, national politics, and requests for favors by former soldiers, cadets, and employees of Sherman and Boyd. Sherman also discusses a plan by Democrats in Congress for the use of troops to keep the peace at election polls. Other topics include factual errors in a book titled *Destruction and Reconstruction*, recommendations to Boyd on applicants to fill positions at the University, dishonesty in Louisiana politics and finances, and the death of General Hood. He also talks of Hood's war papers, military recruitment, and the Congressional requirement of a small number of new cadets to military institutions. A letter to General G. Mason Graham forwarded to Boyd expresses views on Mumford and Lt. Michael F. Jamar. 12 items.
- 1880-1883 Sherman relates his opinion on military college administrators and problems regarding Michael F. Jamar, the first professor of military science. He attempts to convince Boyd to seek greater opportunity outside of Louisiana, particularly in West Virginia. He discusses his travels in America and his plans to visit the South and select areas of the West. He does more reminiscing of earlier times, and he relates his present duties and describes his plans for retirement. 10 items.
- 1885-1891 Sherman shares his thoughts on states' rights versus federalism. He recalls personal attacks directed towards him by Jefferson Davis and recalls events of the war and friends who passed away. He comments on family visits, family news, his own future travels, and he mentions reactions he has seen amongst southerners on various trips in the South. Letters are accompanied by an extract from an article relating David F. Boyd's experiences with William T. Sherman preceding the Civil War until Sherman's death, written on Sherman's funeral. 7 items.

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found throughout the entire collection.

African Americans--Suffrage.
Boyd, David French, 1834-1899.
Educators--Louisiana.
Education, Higher--Louisiana.
Jetties--Mississippi River.
Ku Klux Klan--19th century.
Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy.
Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, La.)
Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Prisoners and prisons.
United States--Politics and government--1865-1900.
Voting--Louisiana.
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)--Louisiana.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Prisoners and prisons.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents</u>
U:179	1	1-11 12-14	Typescripts (1861-1891). David F. Boyd transcriptions (1859-1864, 1875).
MSS.MF:B	--	--	Reel 1: Microfilm of original Sherman letters accompanied by typescripts (1864-1891). Note: April 4, 1861 letter not on microfilm.
VAULT:26	1	1-9	Original letters (1861, 1864-1891) are restricted. Use microfilm.

APPENDIX

Microfilm [location-MSS.MF:B]

Typed transcripts-no original letter

July 26, 1875
Jan. 20, 1876
March 16, 1879
July 23, 1882
February 22, 1891

Original letter-no typescript

March 19, 1877
May 7, 1877
June 7, 1877
March 19, 1878
November 8, 1878
June 14, 1880
June 2, 1881
May 13, 1881

Not on microfilm:

April 4, 1861

Original letters [location-Vault:26]

No typescript

March 19, 1887
May 7, 1877
June 7, 1877
March 19, 1878
November 8, 1878
June 14, 1880
June 2, 1881
July 23, 1882

Typescripts [location-U:179]

No original letter

May 13, 1861
March 2, 3, 1864
October 29, 1865
April 12, 1866
May 20, 1867
January 31, 1868
June 23, 1868
August 9, 17, 1868
January 27, 1869
February 22, 1869
September 16, 1869
October 25, 1869
December 14, 1869 (two letters)
July 26, 1875
January 20, 1876
March 16, 1879

APPENDIX (continued)

Typescripts (continued)

January 2, 1881

February 22, 1891

David F. Boyd transcriptions

[location-U:179]

No original letter

July 23, 26 1859

October 23, 1859

November 21, 1859

September 7, 1859

December 12, 21, 25, 1859

January 1, 4, 6, 7, 13, 29, 1860

February 8, 10, 13, 16, 17, 21, 1860

March 1, 5, 7, 15, 30

April 12, 17, 26, 1860

May 23, 1860

June 12, 16, 27, 1860

July 4, 6, 16, 23, 1860

August 2, 12, 19, 30, 1860

September 16, 20, 30, 1860

January 5, 16, 20, 1861

February 23, 1861

May 13, 1861

February 13, 1864

March 3, 1864

April 7, 1864

July 29, 1875