

University of Oklahoma Libraries
Western History Collections

Alfred Griffith Collection

Griffith, Alfred. Records, 1842–1931. .66 foot.

U.S. Navy physician. Correspondence (1860–1913) to and from Griffith regarding his participation in the Civil War, his later membership in a U.S. Navy expedition to Darien, Panama, and also regarding the New Hope Seminary in the Choctaw Nation; diaries (1864–1870) regarding Griffith's naval travels abroad, his stay in Lisbon, Portugal, and his emigration to Indian Territory; naval medical reports and requisitions (1870–1871); a petition (1894) from the residents of Sans Bois, Choctaw Nation, requesting that Griffith become their physician; certificates (1900–1917) advising him of his election as superintendent of schools for the southern district of Indian Territory, and of his membership in medical associations; a passport (1871) issued to Griffith for travel in France; manuscripts (1864–1865) by Griffith, detailing his participation in Gen. William T. Sherman's march to the sea through Georgia and North Carolina during the Civil War; and publications (1888–1931), including Grand Army of the Republic encampment programs, a booklet entitled *Songs of the Darien Expedition*, and college graduation and event invitations.

Box G-11:

Folder: Description of contents:

1. Miscellaneous materials: empty envelopes addressed to Griffith.
 Handwritten list of names. Book of blank statements. Souvenir book from France.

2. Publications: "Official Premium Coin Value Book."
 "Handbook on Foreign Patents," 1913.
 "Oklahoma State Medical Association Constitution and Bylaws: 1915."
 "The Minutes of the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church: 1888."
 Program: "St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral, Palm Sunday."
 Program: "Even song."
 Program: "1783-1888: Dickinson College."
 Book: "Practical Suggestions to the Medical Examiners."

3. Publications: "Poor Richard Lactopeptine Almanack: 1914."
 "Medical Pocket Quarterly," Sept. 1921.
 "Journal of the 39th Annual Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic," Blackwell, and Lawton, Okla. May 1929.
 "Journal of the 40th Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, Lawton, Okla. May 1930."

4. Personal writings and journal:
Diary, partly recounting move to Indian Territory from Baltimore, MD.
Book of personal writings and songs, including "Songs of the Darien Expedition."
5. Personal journal of medical notations.
6. Blank notebooks and journals. Number of items: four.

Box G-13:

0. This folder contains all papers and correspondence of Griffith with the Navy, acquaintances, friends and relatives regarding the Darien Expedition. Taken by the U.S.S. Guard, with Griffith aboard in a medical capacity, the expedition went to the isthmus of Panama in Central America. The Isthmus at that time was called Darien. Other correspondence of that year may be found in folder/file 10, labeled "1870," which may also reflect upon the Expedition.

News clipping, "Return of the Darien Expedition, Arrival of the United States Ship Guard, all Well on Board." Encapsulated.

Requisition order by Griffith for medical and Hospital supplies for the U.S.S. Guard, at the Navy Yard in New York. July 20, 1870. Two pages, encapsulated.

Receipt by Griffith issued to the Naval Laboratory for medical and hospital supplies requisitioned by Griffith for the U.S.S. Guard on July 20, 1870. Date of receipt: August 1, 1870. Partially encapsulated.

From D.J. Simon (?) to "Doctor." Re: medical stores of the Darien Expedition aboard the U.S.S. Guard, and a trip to the Battery regarding these. No date.

From Griffith to Surgeon William Maxwell Wood, written from U.S.S. Guard in New York. Re: information regarding a package of poison juice taken from a tree on the Isthmus of Darien (Panama) and sent to Wood by Griffith. Aug. 11, 1870.

From Navy Department, Bureau of Medicine & Surgery, to Griffith. Re: request by the Chief of the Bureau, William Maxwell Wood, that Griffith collect samples of poisonous plants from Darien (Panama). Jan. 24.

1. 1860:
From headquarters of 15th Army Corps. Re: notification of Griffith's reassignment to the 15th Army Corps Hospital in Goldsboro, North Carolina. March 26.
2. 1862:

Circular #8, from Assistant Surgeon General's Office in St. Louis, Missouri. Re: preparation of the "Monthly Statement of the hospital fund." Oct. 23.

From Assistant Surgeon General. Re: instructions for correspondence between Medical Officers and his office. Undated.

3. 1863:
Circular bulletin, from Surgeon General's Office. Re: "Information for Persons Desirous of Entering the Corps of Medical Cadets Attached to the Medical Staff of the U.S. Army." July 1.
4. 1864:
From Surgeon General's Office. Re: ability to make application. March 24.

Copy of letter from: Army Medical Board, to Acting Surgeon General. Re: positive result of Griffith's examination for Medical Cadetship, and recommendation for appointment. April 7.

From Surgeon General's Office. Re: notification of approval for status of Medical Cadet. April 14.

Railway pass: Issued by Assistant Quartermaster's Office for use of the U.S. military railroads for Griffith. For a trip from Nashville, Tenn. to Atlanta, GA. Oct. 7.

From Headquarters, Medical Director's Office. Special Orders No. 99: Re: assignment to Louisville, KY. June 8.

From Assistant Surgeon General's Office in Louisville, KY. Re: new assignment. June 8.

Copy, from headquarters, Medical Director's Office. Re: assignment to the Army of Tennessee for temporary duty. Oct. 29.

From headquarters of Middle Department of 8th Army Corps. Special Orders No. 101: Re: assignment to West Buildings Hospital. April 21.

From Superintendent and Medical Director's Office of U.S. Army General Hospitals. Re: assignment for duty. Oct. 3.

From headquarters of 15th Army Corps. Special Orders No. 85: Re: assignment to 2nd Division of 15th Army Corps. Nov. 18.

From Office Post Medical Director in Chattanooga, TN. Special Order No. 50: Re: assignment to Hospital No. 1. Oct. 9.

From Office Post Medical Director, Chattanooga, TN. Special Order No. 64: Re: Release from duty at Hospital No. 1 for new assignment to Tennessee. Oct. 24.

From Surgeon General's Office. Re: orders to report to Baltimore, MD for new assignment. April 19.

From Assistant Surgeon General's Office in Louisville, KY. Re: orders to report to the Dept. of the Tennessee, in the field near Atlanta, GA. Oct. 4.

From U.S. Sanitary Commission, Totten Hospital, Louisville, KY. Re: surgical operations. July 1.

Ticket: issued by the federal government for the use of soldiers from destination to destination on a railroad. Used/Canceled June 5, 1864. Encapsulated.

Statement of financial transaction. Baltimore: June 14.

Statement of financial transaction. Georgia: Nov. 8.

From John T. King, Annapolis, MD. Re: reply to Griffith's letter and postscript exhortation not to marry until after graduation. With envelope. Sept. 3.

To Griffith's brother. Re: activities of Griffith and his battalion during the Civil War. Dated Fort McAllister, Georgia. Dec. 19.

Memoranda of war march across the South of Griffith and his battalion during and after the Civil War.

Handwritten report of the sick of Co. "G," First Battalion, 16th Infantry. Undated.

Memoranda of war march across the South of Griffith and his battalion during and after the Civil War.

Memoranda of war march across the South of Griffith and his battalion during and after the Civil War.

Memoranda of war march across the South of Griffith and his battalion during and after the Civil War.

Memoranda of war march across the South of Griffith and his battalion in 1864. Original, handwritten.

Memoranda of war march across the South of Griffith and his battalion in 1864. Original, handwritten.

Unattached envelope, cancelled Sept. 7.

NOTE: For a readable copy of "Memoranda of March to the Sea" see Folder 10.

5. 1865:

From H.W. Reese, Louisville, KY. Re: shipment to Annapolis of the medical books Griffith left behind. Oct. 1. With envelope with stamps cut out.

Envelope, empty. Addressed to Griffith from the Surgeon General's Office. Canceled April 19.

Memoranda of the locales of Griffith's company in the South after the close of the Civil War. Handwritten.

From Griffith to his father. Re: Griffith's travels in the war; claim that the rebel claim that Gen. Sherman burned Columbia false and that "it was done by a mob of drunken soldiers without orders from anyone; his division's claim to have captured that city. Fayetteville, N.C. March 12.

From Griffith to his Brother. Re: his division's capture of Fort McAllister; its move to Savannah, the characteristics of that city, the friendliness of the ladies in the ladies of that city for Yankee soldiers; station at Thunderbolt on St. Augustine Creek of the Savannah River; embarkation for Beauforth, S.C. Jan. 31.

From headquarters, (unreadable). Re: reassignment to the Department of North Carolina. April 8.

From J. G. Vandewalker, Lisbon, Noble County, Indiana. Re: reminiscing old times in the military together. On the back is a note by Griffith: "Kept as it recalls a pleasant part of my army life." Sept. 7.

Approval slip: U.S. General Hospital at West Buildings, granting permission to Griffith to be absent from the premises until April, 25. Dated April 22.

From Medical Director's Office, New (unreadable). Re: reassignment to Foster General Hospital in (unreadable). April 9.

6. 1866:

"Contract with a Private Physician." May 11.

From Edward F. Baker, Atlanta, GA. Re: (unreadable). Dec. 24. From Gallagher, Atlanta, GA. Re: Merry Christmas, and the mailing of money vouchers. Dec. 25.

7. 1867:

From Navy Department. Re: appointment as Assistance Surgeon in the Navy of the U.S.A. Oct. 16. With envelope.

From Navy Department, Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail. Re: Orders to report to Vice Admiral Porter in Annapolis, MB as a relief to Assistant Surgeon J.B. Parker. Nov. 20.

From Headquarters, Department of the (unreadable; damaged page), Medical Director's Office in Louisville, KY. Re: cancellation of Griffith's contract as Assistant Surgeon, official notification. May 29.

From Surgeon General's Office. Re: another official notification of cancellation of contract as Assistant Surgeon. June 4.

From Navy Department. Re: invitation to apply to Board of Naval Surgeons for contract as Assistant Surgeon when that position opens. Sept. 30.

From Gallagher. Re: the awful idea of Griffith being assigned to Morgantown; a letter from Nathan Carter; collection of voucher. Jan. 6.

From R. Sweatman, Nashville, TN. Re: shipment of Griffith's medical stores; his reassignment to Vicksburg, MS. April 23. With envelope.

8. 1868:

Invitation to attend the Hop given by the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1869 on Feb. 21, 1968. Encapsulated.

Program of the evening of the Hop, given by the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1869 on Feb. 21, 1968. Encapsulated.

From Navy Department, Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail. Re: Griffith's detachment from the Naval Academy to take passage in the Guard aboard the European Squadron on the U.S. Steamer Swatara. Nov. 17.

From U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. Re: reassignment to the U.S.S. Dale for duty. June 3. With envelope.

Receipt of supplies list. From the Medical Department of the U.S.S. Dale. July 4, 1868. Six pages. With envelope.

From Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. From Alfred Griffith. Re: notification of transmittal of receipt of supplies list for the U.S.S. Dale. Oct. 1.

Report of sick for the U.S.S. Dale. From Alfred Griffith. Second Quarter 1868. Two pages.

From Griffith to his brother. Re: boarding ship U.S.S. Guard in Brooklyn Navy Yard; his new address in the European Squadron while aboard U.S.S. Swatara. Undated.

Copy of letter from David D. Porter, Vice Admiral at the Naval Academy. Re: notification of the end date of the summer cruise aboard the practice ships. Sept. 29.

Hospital tickets, U.S. Naval Academy. Three pages. April 28.

From Navy Department, Bureau of Medicine & Surgery. Re: acknowledgement of letter. Oct. 8.

From Navy Department, Bureau of Medicine & Surgery. Re: acknowledgement of letter and mailing of the copy of U.S. Naval Regulations which Griffith Requested. June 24.

From Navy Department, bureau of Medicine & Surgery. Re: report of sick for 3rd quarter 1868 of the U.S.S. Macedonian. Oct. 5.

From Navy Department, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Re: Application for supplies for the practice ships. July 3.

From U.S. Naval Laboratory. Re: receipt of the medical instruments from the U.S.S. Dale returned to the Lab. Oct. 17.

From Griffith aboard the U.S.S. Dale in New York. Re: request for a copy of U.S. Naval Regulations. June 22.

From Griffith at U.S. Naval Academy to Surgeon E.S. Bogert, Director of U.S. Naval Laboratory. Re: invoice for the surgical instruments aboard the U.S. practice ship Dale. Oct. 5.

9. 1869:

From Navy Department, Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail. Re: detachment from the U.S.S. Swatara and orders to go home and await further orders. June 1.

From Griffith to his brother, from aboard U.S.S. Swatara in the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Re: arrival in Philadelphia from the cruise from Cadiz of some 39 days, and date to be expected home upon the ship's decommission. May 25.

From Griffith to his brother, from aboard U.S.S. Swatara in the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Re: new orders to take the ship to New York, and wishes that he might go home soon. May 27.

- From Griffith to his brother from aboard U.S.S. Steamy Albany in Key West, Florida. Re: report of conditions at Key West and aboard the Albany; description of duties; new orders for the Albany to lead north. August 2 & 3.
- From Navy Department, Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail. Re: orders to go to Key West to meet the Albany. July 12.
10. 1870:
- From Navy Department, Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail. Re: orders to detach from the Albany and go home to await further orders. Jan. 3.
- From Naval Department, Bureau of Navigation and Detail. Re: orders to proceed to New York and report to the U.S. Store ship Guard. Jan. 14.
- From James McMaster, New York. Re: Copy of letter to William Maxwell Wood, Chief of Bureau of Med Surgery; re: recommendation that Griffith be accepted by the Medical Corps. Jan. 15.
- From U.S. Naval Laboratory in New York. Re: transmission of 14 boxes of medical stores. Jan. 17.
- Receipt, from Mansion House in Brooklyn, N.Y. for Griffith for the rent of one week. Dec. 10.
- From Navy Department, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Re: supply of medical stores. July 26.
- From Navy Department, Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail. Re: orders to go to New York Navy Yard. Nov. 29.
- Invoice from New York Herald. Nov. 13, 1870.
- Invoice from The Psychological Journal. Jan. 8.
- Copy, handwritten, of "Memoranda of March to the Sea" of 1864. Dated Hooversville, MD, Feb. 1870.
- From Navy Department, Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail. Re: Orders to leave the U.S.S. Guard. Nov. 8.
- "Return of Hospital Property" for the period Jan. or June to Nov. for the U.S.S. Guard. With envelope.
- Receipt for medical stores. No date or ship indicated.
- Receipt for medical stores received Jan. 21. For U.S.S. Guard.

11. 1871:
From James Kane, Chaplain of U.S.S. Vermont. Re: his father, C. Kane, and impending trip to Europe. March 22.
- Invoice of U.S.S. Relief. March 27.
- Invoice from Aux Quatre Nations in Havre, France. In French. May 29.
- Bill or receipt from Saint Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad. Nov. 30.
- Invoice, Hegeman & Co. Aug. 23.
- Invoice or receipt, from B. Figerour. No date.
- From Ada Griffith, Griffith's niece. To Griffith, stationed in Havre, France. Re: marriage of Miss Emma Poe to Mr. Allen G. Dorsey; death of Olivia Newton. Apr. 28.
- From Navy Department. Re: orders to leave the U.S.S. Relief. Sept. 16.
- Identity passport issued by the Consulate of the U.S.A. in Havre, France for Griffith while in France, and for a trip to Paris. May 24.
- From Navy Department. Re: Acceptance of Griffith's resignation as Assistance Surgeon in the Navy. Oct. 13.
- From Treasury Department, Fourth Auditor's Office. Re: back pay for service on the U.S.S. Relief. Oct. 21.
- From Griffith aboard U.S.S. Relief in Plymouth, England to Chief of the Bureau of Med Surgery. Re: transmittal of the report of vaccinations. July 1.
- From Griffith aboard the U.S.S. Relief in Plymouth, England to Chief of the Bureau of Med Surgery. Re: transmittal of the report of sick. July 1.
- From Griffith aboard U.S.S. Relief in Philadelphia Navy Yard, to Chief of Bureau of Med Surgery. Re: transmittal of report of sick. March 31.
- From Griffith aboard U.S.S. Relief in New York Navy Yard to Chief of Bureau of Med Surgery. Re: transmittal of receipt for medical stores. March 25.
- From U.S. Naval Laboratory in New York. Re: transmittal of medical stores. March 23.

From Navy Department, Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail. Re: Order to leave the New York Navy Yard and report for duty to the U.S.S. Relief. March 14.

From Pilcher in Holly, Michigan. Re: Griffith trip to Great Britain and arrival at New York; life aboard the most pleasant vessel not as nice as land. Aug. 25.

From T.W. Brown, manager of United States Publishing Co. in New York. Re: many thanks for the gloves. Aug. 25. With envelope.

From Pilcher in Holly, Michigan. Re: many thanks for the gloves. Sept. 11. With envelope.

From J.S. Newell. Re: request that Griffith deliver a package to the U.S.S. Plymouth. April 6.

From brother at Dickinson College. Written in French.

From brother at Dickinson College. Written in French.

From Griffith to Paymaster J.R. Carmody. From U.S.S. Relief in Plymouth, England. Re: Thomas Peterson, seaman. June 3.

From Griffith to Paymaster J.R. Carmody. From U.S.S. Relief in Plymouth, England. Re: Thomas Peterson, seaman. June 12.

Order form by Griffith. Four pages. July 1 and May 31.

Reports of sick for the U.S.S. Relief in Plymouth, England, and at Navy Yard in Philadelphia. 2nd quarter and 1st quarter.

Report of Vaccination of the U.S.S. Relief for quarter ending June 30.

Handwritten report by Griffith. Re: disease of Thomas Peterson. Incomplete; page torn away.

Hospital ticket for U.S.S. Relief. For William Clark, seaman, for transfer from Griffith's care to the Philadelphia Navy Hospital for Clark's chronic diarrhea condition. April 6.

Certificate of death for William king of the U.S.S. Relief. Date of death, Aug. 13.

Receipt of medical stores from Naval Laboratory. March 25.

- Invitation to attend commencement exercises at Dickinson College. Also included: name card for graduate T. McGee Griffith.
- Ticket for the Balt. & Ohio Railroad.
- Receipt for pictures made at Brasier and Co's Gallery, Brooklyn.
- Receipt for Griffith from Dr. J.T. King of Baltimore. April 5.
- Receipt for Griffith from Snead & Co. a saddle, bridle, and halter. Jan.26.
- Receipt to Griffith from William Pinder shirt co., Brooklyn. For shirts. July 30.
13. Newspaper clippings from the Baltimore Sun. Two articles regarding Edgar Allan Poe.
14. 1888:
From A.W. Wright of Colfax, Huntingdon Co., Pennsylvania to Griffith, of Oak Lodge, Choctaw Nation. Re: decision to decorate his brother T.M.'s grave by the Grand Army of the Republic. Wright was a member of the church at which T.M. was pastor. June 27.
- From "Auntie" to "My Dear Little Pet". Re: greetings and news from the family. Jan. 14.
- Newspaper clipping, incomplete due to tear at top, apparently sent by A.W. Wright.
15. 1890:
From H.C. Benson of New Almaden, California. To Griffith, teacher at New Hope Seminary in Choctaw Nation. Re: inquiry as to how the work among the Indians is succeeding, and as to families living in the Nation. Benson had been at New Hope in 1843-5 and was very curious to see how people he remembered were doing. March 7.
16. 1892:
Written draft of copy for a newspaper, published at New Hope Seminary at New Hope, Choctaw Nation in February 1892. Original handwritten. Four pages. Several mentions of both Griffith and his family. On legal-sized 8 1/2 * 14" tablet paper. Encapsulated.
- Handwritten medical log of specific cases and their remedies. Six pages.
17. 1894:
Petition, handwritten, from "the undersigned residents of Sans bois Town and vicinity, Choctaw Nation." To Griffith. re: their wish that he become their local

doctor, and written pledge to deliver both patronage and lumber. Two pages. Signed by numerous locals. Handwritten.

From Chief of the Choctaw Nation Green McCurtain to Griffith. Re: invitation to go to Sans Bois to practice medicine, plus incentive of \$50 per year extra. Oct. 8.

18. 1905:
Handwritten copy of newspaper article from "The Sun" in Baltimore, MD of Feb. 12. Re: the Griffith family. Encapsulated.
19. 1910:
Church program from First Congregational Church in Los Angeles, CA of Jan. 30.
20. 1913:
From Jerome A. Ringrose of London, England. Re: Griffith genealogy and coat-of-arms. Nov. 20.
21. 1929:
Newspaper clipping from Kansas City Times of Nov. 21. Re: J. F. Holden's retirement.
22. Membership certificates and confirmation of electoral triumph: Wallet-sized card certifying membership in the American Medical Association for the year 1916.

Membership Certificate for American Association for the year 1916.

Membership certificate for Oklahoma State Medical Association for the year 1917. With envelope.

Certificate of electoral triumph issued by Clerk of the U.S. Court for the Central District of Indian Territory. To Griffith, who won the office of School Director. May 21, 1900. Encapsulated.
23. Undated materials:
Receipt or bill from Bot. of J.H. Mutteen & Co. of Plymouth, England. No date.

Business cards: stores from Nashville, Tenn., and Lisbon, Portugal and Havre, France.

Hand-woven doily, encapsulated. Possibly made of fern root.

Address slip, handwritten, for J.G. Vandewalker.

Railroad ticket: Wilmington to Weldon.

Handwritten article of prose.

Invitation from Prof. D.H. Mahan of West Point Academy to Griffith to attend a dinner. With envelope.

News clippings regarding the death of William Griffith.

Poster, vertical: "A Prophecy Made in 1905."

Drawing of syllable tree by I.E. Lumsden for Griffith. With envelope.

Personal cards of several persons, including his brother.

Poem, handwritten copy: "The Tempest."

Letters (on one page) by Griffith, apparently model letters, or form letters.

Carbon copies of lists of names, handwritten. Barely readable.

Invitation to receptions for Real- Admiral M. Smith at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. With Envelope.

"Return of Hospital Property" forms, properly completed.

Checks, unused, issued by the Bank of Southern California in Los Angeles.

24. Personal journals and diaries of Griffith:
 - #1: Labeled, "Lisbon, Portugal, Jan. 20, 1869."
 - #2: Please see notes in the very back.
 - #3: Labeled "Indian Consistory. McAlester, Oklahoma." Empty.
25. Certificate of Appointment as Assistant Surgeon in the U.S. Navy for Griffith. Signed by Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy. Dated Oct. 16, 1867.