The Haskell Monroe Collection: Life in the Confederacy
The Haskell Monroe Collection

Life in the Confederacy

Mission Statement

The Haskell Monroe Collection: Life in the Confederacy is a digital humanities project that seeks to summarize, classify, and publish Professor Haskell Monroe’s extensive bibliography about first-hand accounts of life in the Confederate States of America. It provides scholars, educators, and students an array of resources to engage, continuing the legacy of Professor Monroe’s passion for education and historical research. This project is made possible through a partnership between the Monroe family, the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, the MU Libraries, and the History Department at the University of Missouri Columbia.

Recently Added Items

Haskell Monroe’s Life in the Confederate States, 1861-1865: A Bibliography, August 1997

This is the bibliography that 'The Haskell Monroe Collection: Life in the Confederacy' Project is based on

Documents Relating to El Destino and Chemonic Plantations, Middle Florida, 1828-1868. Part I

Refugees of 1863

By Sally May Arin

View All Items
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Search Results
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Collections

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Items by Publication Date: 1990s

Items by Publication Date: 1980s

Items by Publication Date: 1970s

Items by Publication Date: 1960s
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The Haskell Monroe Collection: Life in the Confederacy

Search in this collection: Search words about or within the items

1 to 20 of 671 items in this collection

1860-1865. A romance of the valley of Virginia by Emma Lyon Bryan
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Featured Item

Vicksburg And After: Being the Letters of a U.S. Col....

Refugees of 1863

Refugees of 1863

By Sally May Akin*
Welcome to the Haskell Monroe Collection: Life in the Confederacy

This exhibit aims to provide an introduction to *The Haskell Monroe Collection: Life in the Confederacy*. Along with being introduced to the collection and its history, this exhibit will also provide a guide and suggestions on how to search and use its content.

Further, it will highlight some of the excellent primary source material within the collection related to such matters as life in the South during the Civil War, medicine, slavery, the war experience of civilians and soldiers, and many other exciting topics. It will also provide an overview and suggestions of how this website and its collection can be utilized by students, teachers, scholars, and non-specialists alike.
Born March 18, 1931, Haskell Monroe dedicated his life to education and the pursuit of historical knowledge. After graduating from Rice University in 1952 with a Ph.D. in History, he became a professor at Texas A&M University. He was appointed President of the University of Texas at El Paso in 1980, and in 1987 became Chancellor at the University of Missouri and moved to Columbia, Missouri. Even as Chancellor, with all of his duties and time demands, Professor Monroe’s heart was always in the classroom as he continued to teach and make time for his students. After his retirement in 1995, Monroe moved back to College Station, Texas, and remained Dean of Faculties Emeritus at Texas A&M until his death on November 13, 2017.

Throughout the 1980s and 90s, Haskell Monroe and his wife, Joann (“Jo”), traveled the country and collected primary source material relating to southern social life during the Civil War. Where the story of battlefields, politics, and warfare was well-trodden ground, Monroe sought a different narrative, one that told the story of how everyday people experienced the Civil War in the Southern Confederacy. Before his death in 2017, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe had amassed a bibliography and archival collection exceeding 2,000 pieces of primary source material, some of which are presented in this collection.

In 2018, Jo Monroe presented the collection to the University of Missouri’s Matt Gaunt and the MU libraries. In response, Gaunt brought on Rachel Berkus with the MU libraries and Jay Sexton of the History department and Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, to create the Haskell Monroe Graduate Fellowship in Civil War-era history. Awarded to Ph.D. student Brendan Floyd in 2019, he was tasked with creating a digital humanities project summarizing, classifying, and publishing Mr. Monroe’s extensive bibliography of first-hand accounts of life in the Confederate States. The resulting project is what lays before you.
The Collection

The mission of The Haskell Monroe Collection: Life in the Confederacy is the creation of a digital humanities project that seeks to summarize, classify, and publish Professor Haskell Monroe’s extensive bibliography of first-hand accounts of life in the Confederate States from 1861 to 1865. It provides scholars, educators, and students an array of resources to engage, continuing the legacy of Professor Monroe’s passion for education and historical research. This project is made possible through a partnership between the Monroe Family, the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, the MU Libraries, and the History Department at the University of Missouri Columbia.

The collection contains over 2,000 items, of which about 1,270 are digitized and presented here. Though this website does not host these sources, it gives their bibliographical information, abstracts and summaries, and links to where they can be found (due to copyright issues, some are behind paywalls). It allows individuals to search the sources by topic and provides suggested searchable terms. By creating different exhibits with the collection, we invite teachers and students to use these resources in their classrooms and hope they are informative to anyone who wants to learn more about the Civil War. To assist with this endeavor, we also provide lesson plans centered on different primary sources in the website's collection and exhibits.

Further, we provide links to our Zotero website and Hathi Trust collection to help individuals access the entirety of the collection, encouraging further research. We hope to publish historical research on the website generated from our collection using a peer-review system.

In doing all this, we hope this collection will be useful to advanced scholars, teachers, professors, students, and anyone with an interest in history. In this way, we remain faithful to Professor Monroe’s passion for education and historical research while keeping in the spirit of why Dr. and Mrs. Monroe brought these sources together. Enjoy!
Searching the Collection

Given there are thousands of sources in this collection, and they range from journal and magazine articles to books, memoirs, correspondences, and a wide variety of other formats, searching them can feel like a daunting task. We created multiple ways to search, suggested some terms, and created collections to help you out.

First, the search bar on each page allows you to search everything on the website by keyword. It also allows you to limit and refine your search by clicking on the three dots on the search box’s right-hand side.

If you are unsure what you are looking for and want to browse our collection, you have the option of doing that by item, collection, or exhibit.

• Items: If you want to browse individual items in our collection, there are a few different ways.
  ○ Browse all allows you to look through the collection with no filters
  ○ Browse by Tag allows you to search our sources by categories (or tags) we have attached to the items.
  • This search can work in two ways:
    ▪ First, if you click on the ‘browse by tag’ tab, you are brought to a word cloud with all of our tags—the bigger the word, the more items attached to it. By clicking on the tag, you will be brought to all the items associated with it.
    ▪ Second, if you are looking at an item and want more items that relate to it somehow, you can click on a tag under it, and it will take you to that category.

• Tag Prefixes: Each item has six or more tags associated with it, and each tag has a prefix.
  The prefixes are there to help organize and refine your search even more. Here is a list of the prefixes and their meaning:
  ▪ loc = Location: the geographic area the item is about. For example, if you are looking for items from Kansas City, Missouri, you would click on loc:Kansas City MO.
  ▪ geo = Geography: indicates if this item is about a rural or urban era
  ▪ ts = Type of source: what kind of primary source this item is: diary, narrative, official document, correspondence, memoir, autobiography, biography, or article.
  ▪ era = era: the period the item talks about; these range from general ‘Civil War,’ ‘Antebellum,’ or ‘ Reconstruction,’ to specific dates, depending on the item.
Publishing the War: Different Types of Sources

The Haskell Monroe Collection: Life in the Confederacy contains a wide range of primary source material published in various ways. Like any primary source, the items in this collection need to be engaged critically. As many of these accounts of the war and its aftermath were written years after the events they depict, they reveal much about both. Rather than taking them at face value, the reader needs to pay attention to their publication time and especially keep in mind that many of them were either written during the emergence of or influenced heavily by the Lost Cause culture of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Several of the items in the collection are published through magazines and journals. Many of them are edited by historians with commentary to provide context.

At the same time, others were published as by-products of and perpetrators for Lost Cause ideology. One example of these publications is the Confederate Veteran. Suppose you are interested in learning about Lost Cause ideology or this magazine’s place in its history. In that case, we invite you to explore our exhibit "Historical Events in the Confederate Veteran," created by University of Missouri student and Haskell Monroe Collection intern Catherine Hutinet.
Sampling the Sources:
Diversity in Voices

This section of the exhibit provides a sampling of the thousands of sources in the Haskell Monroe Collection: Life in the Confederacy. Thematically organized, each page has a description of the topic and four sources related to that theme, with many more in the collection. Hardly limited to these themes, they have been curated to give the user a preview of what they might find in the more extensive collection.
Women of the South

When thinking of the Civil War, many conjure images of men fighting on the battlefield or politicians navigating this contentious time in American history. While those experiences are important, women also played a vital role in defining this era. Not only as wives, mothers, and sisters but also as political actors, laborers, nurses, caregivers, spies, and various other roles.

These are four examples of the hundreds of primary source materials we have concerning the female experience during the Civil War. Within our collection, you will find their memoirs, diaries, letters, and much more about their experiences in hospitals, under occupation, as refugees, at the war front, homeslaves, during Reconstruction, and other struggles they faced during this era.

← Men of the South

A Diversity in Voices: Sampling the Sources

Ways of the South

The Northern Perspective

Welcome to the Haskell Monroe Collection: Life in the Confederacy

Haskell Monroe's Legacy

The Collection

A Diversity in Voices: Sampling the Sources

Men of the South

Women of the South

The Northern Perspective

The Voice of the Enslaved

Plantation Life

Freedmen and Formerly Enslaved

Foreign Observers

Children

Prisoners of War

Civilians

The Medical Community

Reconstruction
The Voice of the Enslaved

The story of the Civil War cannot be told outside the context of slavery. Thus, many of the sources in this collection are connected to slavery in some way, shape, or form, and while some of them deal with the history of slavery, most of them narrate the experiences of the enslaver or enslaved. The problem is, however, many of the sources that address the enslaved experience were written by white people and not the enslaved or formerly enslaved themselves. To address this issue, we have highlighted a few of the amazing sources contained within our collection that were authored by the enslaved or formerly enslaved in order to give them a voice and have them tell their own story, the way they experienced it. These sources are also a testament of remembrance or as Allen Parker wrote in the dedication of his book (noted here): "To my mother, whose eyes were not permitted to see the emancipation of her race, but who died a slave and now lies buried in an unmarked and neglected grave on the old plantation in the sunny South, near where she spent her life in unpaid toil for others, this little book is affectionately dedicated."

"My Dear Husband": A Texas Slave's Love Letter, 1862" is a letter written by an enslaved woman to her husband who was taken by his master to be a camp servant during the war.

"The Story of My Life and Work" by Booker T Washington and "Recollections of Slavery Times" by Allen Parker both deal with their respective recollections of enslavement.

"Memories of Slavery Days in Kentucky" is a compilation of enslaved voices that deal with the experience of slavery.
Foreign Observers

How was the American Civil War understood in an international context? Traditionally viewed as a domestic affair, the Civil War was of great interest to the international community. In this respect, you will find remarkable accounts in this collection of foreign observers documenting their thoughts and experiences in the United States during this time. As they negotiated the Union and Confederate societies, they struggled with issues like slavery, the war, and economics while experiencing hospitals, plantation, politics, and the battlefield. This aspect of the collection reveals a unique international voice interpreting this tremendous time in American history.
The Medical Community

What was it like to be in a hospital during the Civil War? With the daunting numbers of sick and wounded, how was medicine practiced? During the Civil War, disease ravaged the Northern and Southern forces, and as the conditions worsened during the war, so too did the death these microbes served. On top of these waves of diseases that the war conditions unleashed, the medical community was utterly unprepared for the death and suffering the conflict caused.

The men and women who worked in these environments leave testimony not only to their hardships but their perseverance in the face of such death and destruction. "The expression of American personality through this war," Walt Whitman wrote, "is not to be looked for in the great campaigns, in the battle-fights. It is to be looked for . . . in the hospitals, among the wounded."

Our collection provides a window into this world, with first-hand accounts from doctors, nurses, soldiers, and civilians reminiscing of their experiences with medicine in hospitals, homes, and battlefields throughout the South.
The Enslaved Experience in the Confederate Veteran

Despite going to war over the issue, the discussion of slavery in the Confederate Veteran was secondary to the boasts and reminiscences veterans. When it was present, the articles chose to glorify the enslaved experience. Highlighting people they believed aligned with the Confederacy, the magazine chose to emphasize their loyalty to the cause.

Native Americans and the Monroe Collection

When many people think about the Civil War, they tend to think about it in binary terms -- North and South or Union and the Confederacy. But this war was infinitely more complicated and effected the lives of everyone that lived through it and experienced the horrors of its Woodshed and Native Americans were no exception. This exhibit highlights some of the sources in the Monroe Collection pertaining to Native Americans.

Paternalism and Slavery

This exhibit highlights primary sources from the Haskell Monroe Collection, guided by and annotated with historical scholarship, on the topic of paternalism and slavery in antebellum America. It also presents a brief look at the historical debate surrounding paternalism and slavery as it emerged in the early twentieth century and continued into the twenty-first. In this way, the viewer may explore our source material, see how historians have used it, and understand that though facts concerning the past may exist, our understanding of them is always evolving. In other words, the past may be static, but history is not.

Historical Events in the Confederate Veteran

Founded by Sumner Archibald Cunningham, the Confederate Veteran (1893-1952) was one of the leading contributors to the creation of the Lost Cause movement. This exhibit explores how the magazine fueled the Lost Cause movement through the recollection of historical events during the Civil War.

Welcome to the Haskell Monroe Collection: Life in the Confederacy

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A View From the Outside: Foreign Observers of the Civil War
Historical Events in the Confederate Veteran: Introduction

Introduction:

Founded by Sumner Archibald Cunningham, the Confederate Veteran (1895-1952) was one of the leading contributors to the creation of the Lost Cause movement. This exhibit explores how the magazine fueled the Lost Cause movement through the recollection of historical events during the Civil War.

This exhibit will explore how biases and Lost Cause ideology shaped the collective memory of historic events described in the Confederate Veteran magazine.

The Confederate Veteran magazine:

After the death of Jefferson Davis in 1889, former Confederates like Sumner Archibald Cunningham sought a way for Confederate veterans to unify and reminisce over their version of the Civil War. Following Davis’s death, Cunningham published a pamphlet encouraging other veterans to help fund a statue for Davis in Richmond. After an overwhelming response, Cunningham expanded the publication from a pamphlet to a full magazine, the Confederate Veteran. Soon, the magazine became the mouthpiece for Confederate organizations like the United Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The magazine encouraged veterans to submit their own stories and published war-time reminiscences, defenses for slavery, resistance to reconstruction, and "The Last Roll," a column of obituaries that grew with every issue.

By 1900, the Confederate Veteran was the most popular periodical of its kind with over 20,000 subscribers. The magazine ran for nearly 40 years before it dissolved during the Great Depression in 1932. In this time, the Confederate Veteran became a platform for "Lost Cause" sentiments by pandering to nostalgia for a version of the war that was created through a fabricated narrative published in its pages.
Secession and the Early Months of the War

Intro:
Lincoln's election in 1860 was the catalyst for a chain reaction of secession in Southern states beginning in South Carolina on December 20, 1860. The following materials discuss the reaction of young people to secession. Each article from the Confederate Veteran emphasizes pride in the South following secession and attempts to justify Southern actions as a defense to aggressive behavior in the North.

"A Boy and His Flag"
Confederate Veteran v.36 (1920)
Author Mrs. William Lane discusses the diaries of Lewis D. Crenshaw Jr. of Gadsden after the fall of Fort Sumter and gives a romanticized account of being "filled with that patriotic enthusiasm" upon seeing the raising of the first Confederate flag over Richmond.

"The Rebel Letter"
Confederate Veteran v.32 (1924)
The magazine published the letters of Julia C. Potnams, a young girl in 1861. In reaction to secession, Potnams justifies the cause biblically and portrays the Northern states as "aggressors."

"A Sassy Little Rebel Girl"
Confederate Veteran v.27 (1919)
One of the longer articles in the magazine, Kinnie E. Smith describes her immediate reaction to the war as a student and talks about secession as a result of the "terror at the venom displayed by the North."
One of the Five Greatest Sieges of all History:

Vicksburg
Conclusion
and Further Reading

Legacy of the Lost Cause and Further Reading

Legacy of the Lost Cause:

One of the most difficult and dangerous aspects of the Lost Cause narrative is how appealing the narrative is. Using romanticized and poetic language, people like Confederate Veteran founder Sumner Archibald Cunningham played into powerful emotions like guilt and nostalgia for a simpler time before the war. It used the recollections of women and children to soften its delivery and to succeed in its goal of gaining subscribers and continuing the Lost Cause sentiment.

While it may be easy to assume the Lost Cause is just a relic of the past and is no longer a reflection of modern America, this too would be a fabricated narrative. Especially given recent events like opposition to the removal of Confederate monuments in cities like Richmond, the Lost Cause narrative is alive and well in the United States. In fact, while the original Confederate Veteran magazine ended following financial hardships during the Great Depression, it was revived in 1984 and continues to be published six times a year under the same name and format as its original manifestations.

John A. Simpson described in his article "The Cult of the Lost Cause," that "defeat in 1865 haunted Southern memories... The only cure to their special dilemma of defeat required a total revision of the Southern role in American history." Defeat in 1865 still haunts the collective memory of the south through the continuance of the Lost Cause narrative and will continue to do so until the narrative is truly a relic of the past.

Further Reading:

Articles


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