Guide to the Confederate States of America, War Department, Nitre and Mining Bureau, District 10 letter MSS.0350

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February 06, 2013
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

Repository: W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama


Title: Confederate States of America, War Department, Nitre and Mining Bureau, District 10 letter

Date: 1864 October 4

Extent: 0.05 Linear feet (1 item, 1 leaf)

Language: English

Abstract: Letter dated 4 October 1864, from W.H.C. Price, Superintendent of the C.S.A. War Department's Nitre and Mining District 10, to P.J. Weaver, requesting his urgent cooperation in the manufacturing of nitre.

Preferred Citation note

Confederate States of America, War Department, Nitre and Mining Bureau, District 10 letter, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama.
Biographical/Historical note

Niter (saltpeter), a key ingredient in gunpowder and other explosives, was mined in caves in various places in the South. Early in the war, several officers began informally overseeing the mining operations. Niter for the manufacture of gunpowder, copper, lead, iron, coal, zinc, and other such materials as might be required for the prosecution of the war. Those activities became more formalized after 16 June 1863, when the First Confederate Congress passed an act authorizing the creation of a formal Niter and Mining Bureau as an independent office within the Confederate War Department. Its first commander was Colonel Isaac M. St. John. The Bureau opened new coalfields in North Carolina and Alabama and coordinated the flow of mineral fuel to Confederate naval stations along the coast. A corps of officers was established for this purpose. During the latter half of the war, the corps reported to Benjamin Huger. Among their battle actions was the Battle of Piedmont during the Valley Campaigns of 1864.

Scope and Contents note

The collection contains a letter dated 4 October 1864, from W.H.C. Price, Superintendent of the C.S.A. War Department, Nitre and Mining District 10, requesting that P.J. Weaver furnish the government with "the dirt under the houses on your plantation" for "the manufacture of Nitre" and also the wood and water needed to process it and five "negro men" and a wagon and team for sixty days. Price states that "the necessity" for Weaver's cooperation is "urgent."

Administrative Information

Publication Information

W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama February 2008

Revision Description

February 2013

Conditions Governing Access note
None

Conditions Governing Use note
None

Provenance
unknown

Processed by
S. Braden, 2008; updated by Martha Bace, 2013

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Letters (correspondence)

Geographic Name(s)

- Confederate States of America--Politics and government
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Social aspects

Subject(s)

- Civil War
- Coal mines and mining
- Farming and Agriculture
- Government, Law and Politics
## Collection Inventory

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