Guide to the William Lovelace Foster letter
MSS.0538

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April 05, 2013
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Foster, William Lovelace, 1830-1869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>William Lovelace Foster letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>1863 June 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>0.1 Linear feet (2 items, 90 pieces ; typescript)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Typescript copies of a lengthy and detailed letter from Foster during the siege of Vicksburg, to his wife, begun before communications were cut off and continued at intervals throughout the siege (June 1863) until the city's surrender to Union forces on 4 July 1863.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Preferred Citation note

William Lovelace Foster letter, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama.
Son of Robert Savidge and Ann Tompkins Foster, William Lovelace Foster was born on 29 January 1830 in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. He was an ordained Baptist minister with a B.A. and an M.A. from the University of Alabama. He married Sarah Mildred Maxwell on 8 July 1856 in Greene County, Alabama. The couple had six children: (1) Martha; (2) Elizabeth; (3) Annie; (4) Simeon Maxwell; (5) Josephine "Josie" A.; and (6) Willie M. In 1862 he enlisted as a Private in Co. F 35th Mississippi Volunteer Infantry Regiment, served as chaplain during the Civil War, and was stationed in Vicksburg, Mississippi, during the Union Army's siege of Vicksburg in June and July 1863.

After the war, Foster accepted a professorship of mathematics at Waco University (now Baylor), but only stayed 6 months, leaving to follow his true calling, that of the ministry. In 1868 he became pastor of the First Baptist Church in Ladonia, Fannin County, Texas, and died there less than a year later on 5 August 1869 at the age of 39.

The collection contains typescript copies of a lengthy and detailed letter to his wife from Vicksburg, Mississippi, begun before communications were cut off and continued at intervals throughout the siege (June 1863) until the city's surrender to Union forces on 4 July 1863.

Publication Information
University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama February 2008

Revision Description
April 2013

Conditions Governing Access note
None
Conditions Governing Use note
None

Provenance
Gift of James G. Blair, 1960

Processed by
unknown, 2008; updated by Martha Bace, 2013

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

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

Subject(s)

- Civil War
- Daily Life and Family
- Soldiers--Correspondence
- War and Military
## Collection Inventory

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