



**The Citadel Archives & Museum**  
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**Grover Criswell Collection**  
A1984.24

**Biography**

Grover Criswell (1934-1999), a 1951 Citadel graduate, was the author of several books on Confederate paper money. He was on the Board of Governors of the American Numismatic Association for twenty-two years and was the founder of the Society of Paper Money Collectors.

**Scope and Content Note**

Mr. Criswell donated his collection of Citadel related material to The Citadel Archives & Museum in 1984. It comprises one linear foot (two boxes). Box 1, folder 1 consists of correspondence (November-December 1859) concerning a petition by the Fourth Brigade, South Carolina Militia to the South Carolina General Assembly. Box 1, folder 2 includes correspondence (1866-1888) concerning the Fourth Brigade's efforts to recover their property from the United States Occupation Forces after the Civil War. Letters 1888-1890 from Cadet Walter Oswald Rivers concerning The Citadel (box 2, folder 1) and letters 1898 from Laurence Rivers concerning Cuba (box 2, folder 2.) Mr. Criswell's collection of letters, documents, programs, telegrams, envelopes pertaining to The Citadel span 1852-1953 and are arranged chronologically.

**Box 1**

**Folder 1**

**Correspondence (9 items) November-December 1859**

Chronological arrangement within folder

Fourth Brigade, South Carolina Militia's petition to South Carolina General Assembly. Requests \$52,500 for removal of the brigade's buildings to create a parade ground on the Citadel Square and to erect a monument to John C. Calhoun. Recommends building two new ordnance depots on unoccupied space owned by the state and not used by the Citadel. Correspondents include James Simons, S.C. House of Representatives; Colonel E. H. Locke; Wilmot G. DeSaussure; Colonel John Cunningham.

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**Box 1**

**Folder 2**

**Correspondence (79 items) 1866-1888**

Chronological arrangement within folder.

Concerns the Fourth Brigade's efforts to regain possession of their property, the Citadel Green and Boylston House, which was occupied by the U.S. Government Forces after the Civil War. Correspondents include James Lowndes representing Board of Field Officers, Fourth Brigade in Washington D.C., James Simons, The Brigade's attorney in Charleston.

1866 March 20

1868 July 1, Aug. 11

1877 Aug. 7, Sept. 8, Oct. 23

1878 May 21

1879 Jan. 18, 25, 13, Feb. 21, April 10, May 1, 5, 6 June 19, 24, July 2, 18, 30

1880 July 5, 10, 12, 16, 21, 23 Sept. 16, Oct. 4

1881 March 15, Sept. 20, 30, Dec. 8

1882 March 18, April 1, 6, 28, May 6, 12, 18, 19 22, June 17, 10, Sept. 25, 26, Dec 21

1883 Jan. 5, March 10, April 6, 16, 18, 21, 28, May 3, 12, 21, Sept. 13, 30, Oct. 23

1884 Jan. 15, 19, 28, March 21, May 6

1885 Jan. 9, 12, 14, 22, May 11, Oct. 26, Dec. 5

1886 Feb. 15, March 24, May 24, July 10, 15, 31 August 7

1887 Jan. 8

1888 Jan. 28

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**Box 2**

**Folder 1 Cadet Walter Oswald Rivers**

Letters (16) written from 1888-1890 from Cadet Walter Oswald (Ossie) Rivers to his family describing his life as a cadet at the Citadel (South Carolina Military Academy). Cadet Rivers, from Walterboro, South Carolina was to graduate in 1891, but died in 1890. At The Citadel he was chairman of the German Club and a member of the Calliopean Literary Society. Letters are arranged chronologically.

1. 1884 April 15  
Ossie to his father. 1 page.  
Mentions family. Not enrolled in SCMA at this time.
2. 1888 January 7  
Ossie to mother. 1 page.  
Mentions plans to debate in the society [Calliopean Literary Society] and to walk post.
3. 1888 February 19  
Ossie to father. 1 page.  
Mentions unsuccessful attempts in obtaining a tintype (photograph) from Anderson's, Norvell's and Cooks's; saw Grover Cleveland and his wife.
4. 1888 December 29  
Ossie to father. 1 page.  
Mentions guard duty, another cadet getting an honorable discharge.
5. 1889 January 5  
Ossie to mother. 1 page  
Went to theater; fourteen cadets went sailing and were lost for six hours. Superintendent hired three tugs to search for them; were found because of their loud singing.
6. 1889 March 2  
Ossie to mother. 1 page.  
Received a merit on his room, Superintendent had a picture taken of the battalion, mentions *Work has started on the west wing and when finished it will be quite an improvement on the old S.C.M.A.*

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**BOX 2**  
**Folder 1**

**Cadet Walter Oswald Rivers**

- Item # 7. 1889 May 24  
Ossie to mother. 1 page.  
His company won the prize for highest average, 91.37 out of 100; finds it difficult to study. Mentions uniform change from *stout grays to cool linens*.
- 1889 June 7  
Composition written by Cadet Rivers on *Man's Attachment for His Mother*.  
SEE Item #18
8. 1889 June 15  
Ossie to his mother. 2 pages.  
Going to Greenville for Citadel summer encampment - 13 days.  
Needs money for summer civilian clothes. Wants a summer job and has been offered a place in Jacksonville, but is afraid of yellow fever.
9. 1889 June 22  
Ossie to father. 2 pages.  
Examinations are coming up, tired of the Academy. Describes cadet glee club and Superintendent's fear that they would disgrace the Academy, but changed his mind after hearing them.
10. 1889 June 29  
Ossie to mother. 1 page.  
Leaves for Greenville summer encampment; went to hop but it was expensive (\$3.00); tired of school, but feels he should complete the last year.
11. 1889 October 12  
Ossie to Launtie (his brother) 1 page.  
Describes drilling; lessons (analytic geometry); roommate Cadet Bamberg.
12. 1889 October 19  
Describes tooth extraction, reading material, drum major "Private Peck", rules against entering other cadets' rooms during study period and the alarm/telegraph system the cadets have devised.

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**BOX 2**  
**Folder 1**

**Cadet Walter Oswald Rivers**

- Item #**
13. 1890  
Poem, *The Bed Bug Reveille*.
  14. 1890 January 2  
Ossie to mother. 1 page.  
Mentions German Club party at German Fusiliers Hall (Rivers is chairman of the club); Chemistry teacher traveled to New York to get complete chemical laboratory. Mentions the return to lamps instead of gas.
  15. 1890 February 1  
Ossie to Launtie. 1 page.  
Fears examinations, mentions visit to Charleston Museum.
  16. 1890 April 19  
Ossie to Launtie. 1 page.  
Worked hard for room inspection, but did not get merit. His battalion marched to Academy of Music to hear address on "Huguenot Society" by Mr. Bayard.
  17. 1958 June 19  
"Walterboro writer describes facts unearthed in research" News & Courier, 1958 June 19.  
Article mentions Citadel reaction to Ossie Rivers' death June 1890; origin of name of Walterboro, history of Walter family and German Friendly Society.
  18. 1889 June 7  
Composition written by Cadet Rivers on *Man's Attachment for His Mother*.

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**Box 2**

**Folder 2            Laurence Rivers Letters 1898 June-Sept.**

Letters (26) arranged chronologically were written by Laurence (Launtie) Rivers to his family in Walterboro, South Carolina concerning his activities in the summer and fall of 1898 at Camp Price, Macon, Georgia.; Camp Ray, Savannah, Georgia and Camp Lawton, Guantanamo, Cuba. He was in the U.S. Army 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Company F and died in Cuba.

[There were four sons in the Rivers family: Walter Oswald Rivers Citadel class of 1891 died in 1890; (Ossie), Laurence (Launtie) died in 1898 in Cuba, P.W. Rivers (Walter or Puck) was a cadet at Porter Military Academy and M.C. Rivers.]

Letters # 2-10            1898 June  
Stationed at Camp Price, Macon Georgia.

Letters #11-15        1898 August  
Stationed at Camp Ray, Savannah, Georgia.  
Letter #15, he is going to see brother, Walter (who is at Porter Military Academy).

Letters # 16-21        Camp Lawton, Guantanamo, Cuba.  
Letter #17            1898 September 6  
Describes camp life at Fort Lawton, Guantanamo, Cuba; daily activities;  
Surrender of 800 Spaniards.

Letter #19            1898 September 18  
Has had yellow fever for 2 weeks.

Letter # 20            1898 September 20  
Mentions removal of Spanish soldiers. Cubans are willing for Uncle Sam to guide them. U.S. is providing food for starving Cubans. Describes people, architecture, food, crops, uniform, spiders and pay (\$43.40/ 2 wks.).

Letter # 21            1898 September 25  
Describes funeral of Sgt. Major Blount, arrival of new companies, encounter with Cubans selling rum.

Letters # 22-26        Sympathy letters to Mrs. Rivers concerning the death of Launtie.  
Letter #25 is account of his death.

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- Box 2**                    **Letters, Documents, Programs arranged chronologically.**
- Folder 3**                    1852 July 1  
Montague Grimke to his father, Henry Grimke of Summerville, S.C. 2 pages.  
Mentions second class (Junior Class) revolt at Citadel
- Folder 4**                    1858  
Bank of South Carolina Five Dollar bill  
Verso handwritten: *Citadel Academy Commencement April 11, 1860, Charleston, S.C.*
- Folder 5**                    1859 October 10  
Col. Stevens, Superintendent of Citadel to Col. James Simons, 4th Brigade concerning the funeral of Brig. Gen. Cruikshank.
- Folder 6**                    1860 April 27  
Letter, envelope and check.  
C.C. Tew to H.L. Elliott concerning a check written incorrectly on Hillsborough Military Academy stationery.  
[Tew was a member of the class 1846 and founded the Hillsborough Military Academy]
- Folder 7**                    1860 November- December; 1861 January  
*Acts of the General Assembly of South Carolina passed in November and December 1860 and January 1861*
- Act to call for convention for Secession
  - Battalion of State Cadets p. 870
- Folder 8**                    1861  
State of South Carolina Certificate for \$100 created by *An Act to authorize the issue of Certificates or stock to provide for the Military Defence of the State.*
- Folder 9**                    *7 Per Cent Cotton Loan of the Confederate States of America for 3 Million [pounds] Sterling or 75 Million Francs.*
- Folder 10**                    1861 July 19  
Appointment of Dr. Samuel Logan surgeon in Confederate States Army.
- 1866 August 21  
Recommendation from Brig. Gen. Johnson Hagood concerning Dr. Samuel Logan's service.

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- Box 2**                    **Letters, Documents, Programs arranged chronologically**
- Folder 11**                1862 February 22  
Poem  
*On Raising the Confederate Flag at The Citadel, S.C.* by I.H. Moses, class of 1862.
- Folder 12**                1862 May  
*This note shall be received in the payment of taxes and other dues to the City of Charleston for fifty cents.* Sketch of The Citadel is featured on the note.
- Folder 13**                1863 May 26  
Telegrams (2) from Madison, Mississippi  
Ellison Capers to his wife  
Concerning the wound he received near Jackson, Mississippi on May 14, 1863.
- Folder 14**                1863 July 2  
Letter, 4 p.  
Leader of Company I of the 4th New Hampshire Regiment stationed at Camp Howell on Folly Island.  
Written on patriotic stationery, Leader mentions siege of Charleston, large quantity of ordnance, battery being built at night (on Folly Island) unknown to the Rebels. 7th United States Regiment nearby.
- Folder 15**                1864 December 10  
Letter concerning receipt of saddles at arsenal in Charleston
- Folder 16**                1864  
Envelope addressed to Cadet O.D. East, Citadel Academy.
- Folder 17**                1865 January 20  
Confederate Army officer Captain George R. Niles, Georgia's Bartow Artillery.  
Written from the Citadel, Niles mentions the defense of Charleston,
- Folder 18**                1865 September  
*Reports and Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina passed at the session of 1864-1865*  
Report (on p. 90) of Major J.B. White, Battalion State Cadets, submitted at the session of 1865.



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- Box 2**            **Letters, Documents, Programs arranged chronologically**
- Folder 19**            1868 February 25  
Headquarters Military Post of Charleston, General Order No. 1  
Death notice of Bvt. Major John McCleary
- Folder 20**            1883  
Program of Washington's Birthday  
Dedicated by the Washington Light Infantry to the South Carolina Military Academy  
(Citadel)
- Folder 21**            1891  
Invitation to Calliopean and Polytechnique Literary Societies graduation
- Folder 22**            1891, 1896, 1900  
Commencement addresses and sermons.  
1891 address by George W. Dargan  
1896 sermon by Lucius Cuthbert  
1900 sermon by George Cornelson, address by Hon. Stanyarne Wilson
- Folder 23**            1891-1892  
*South Carolina Military Academy Association of Graduates In Memoriam to  
The dead of 1891-1892*  
(F.W. Capers, Edward Croft, Samuel Pickens and Lee Hagood were among those who  
were given tributes)
- Folder 24**            1893  
*Semi-centennial of the South Carolina Military Academy 1843-1893*  
Remarks by Col. John Peyre Thomas, Major James Cummings.
- Folder 25**            [1907 May 13]  
*Petition to the Chairman and Members of the Board of  
Visitors of the S.C.M.A.* by William Lyles, Andrew Crawford and Joseph McCullough  
concerning cadet breach of garrison.
- Folder 26**            1910  
Receipts (3) signed by Captain Henry Raines, Quartermaster for payments by Cadet  
Stauback. Form (1) used by cadets for reports to the Commandant.

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**Box 2**      **Letters, Documents, Programs arranged chronologically**

- Folder 27**      [1915]  
Postcard, color.  
*Citadel and Soldiers Returning from the Front, Charleston, S.C.*  
*The Citadel situated on Marion square is the foremost military school of the South. It is the rendezvous for all military and civic occasions. Here is shown the National Guards returning from their duties on the Mexican border.*
- Folder 28**      [1930]  
Postcard Citadel campus
- Folder 29**      1942-1943  
Citadel postal covers commemorating the college's Centennial 1942-1943.  
1. *Established 1842*  
2. *Report for duty March 20, 1843.*  
3. *Fired first hostile shot Jan. 9, 1861*  
4. *Arsenal cadets offered last resistance of war east of Mississippi May 1, 1865.*
- Folder 30**      1943 January  
*Civilian Commando* - Newspaper for Civilian Defense workers
- Folder 31**      1943 March  
*Pocket Reference Guide of Army, Navy, Marine Corps Insignia.*
- Folder 32**      1953 Korean War Safe Conduct Certificate for Chinese or North Korean soldiers signed by General Mark W. Clark.
- Folder 33**      Undated Photograph  
*Ferdinand Percival, S.C. Boy* handwritten on reverse