Biography
Edward Croft was born in Greenville, South Carolina on January 4, 1836. He graduated from The Citadel in 1856. After graduation, he was appointed Aide on Governor Allston’s staff. For two years he was engaged in reviewing the militia of the State. He then became a planter in Edgefield County until the outbreak of the Civil War.

In 1861 Croft enlisted as Captain in the Fourteenth Regiment of South Carolina Troops. He served along the coast of South Carolina as well as in the Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania campaigns. He was severely wounded in the Seven Days battles around Richmond in 1862. In the Battle of Gettysburg, he was shot through the chest and the right hand. These wounds were so severe that he could not be moved. Unable to retreat with the rest of General Lee’s army, he was captured by the Federal forces. Once he had recovered enough to travel, he was made part of a prisoner exchange.

His wounded right hand never healed. Despite the loss of his sword arm, Col. Croft rejoined his regiment. He took part in battles around Richmond and Petersburg in the campaign of 1864 and 1865. Though wounded in the battles near Petersburg in 1865, Col. Croft declined to leave. He continued in the service in General Lee’s army until the surrender at Appomattox.

Edward Croft was promoted to the rank of Major and then to Lieutenant-Colonel of his regiment. He commanded the regiment at the Battle of Gettysburg and in the campaigns around Richmond and Petersburg. On several occasions, he commanded the Brigade. At the close of the war, Col. Croft returned to planting. He passed the Bar exam but never practiced law. When The Citadel re-opened in 1882, Croft served as a member of the Board of Visitors from 1882 until his death on May 9, 1892 in Greenville, South Carolina at the age of fifty-six.

Source: The History of The South Carolina Military Academy by John Thomas
Scope and Content Note
The papers were donated to The Citadel Archives & Museum in 1983 by Mr. Edward S. Croft, a 1936 graduate of The Citadel. The papers consist of appointments, certificates, special orders, reports relating to Croft’s military career. The material is arranged by item number within one folder.

1. Photographs [1862] of Col. Edward Croft (ambrotype and print) Photo #916
2. 1856 South Carolina Military Academy diploma. (Filed with Citadel Diplomas)
3. [Date illegible] Bond for Money for $2,500 between Edward Croft and George Wade of Columbia, South Carolina.
4. Bullet (Minie ball that hit Croft in the wrist at Gettysburg, .58 caliber.)
5. 1861 Aug. 13. Appointment of Croft as Captain of the Ryan Guards signed by South Carolina Governor Francis Pickens.
7. 1862 Oct. 7. Letter of recommendation from South Carolina Governor Francis Pickens to Gen. Randolph, Secretary of War recommending Croft for Artillery service with rank of captain.
8. 1863 April 2. Appointment of Croft as Major in 14th S.C. Regiment, Feb. 20, 1863 signed by Confederate States Secretary of War, James Seddon.
10. 1863 Oct. 7. Appointment of Croft as Lieutenant Colonel in 14th S.C. Regiment, September 10, 1863 signed by Confederate States Secretary of War, James Seddon.
11. 1863 Aug. 1. Parole signed by [Major] Croft to not participate in war until ready to return to duty and to report to nearest Commander of Federal Forces.
Edward Croft Papers  
1983.13.1-.19

13. 1864 Jan. 16. Examining Board, Georgia Hospitals, Augusta, Georgia  
Certificate recommending extension of furlough due to wound received at  
Gettysburg.

14. 1864 Feb. 11. Examining Board, Georgia Hospitals, Augusta, Georgia  
Certificate recommending extension of furlough due to wound received at Gettysburg.

15. 1864 March 19. Examining Board, Augusta, Georgia  
Certificate recommending extension of furlough due to wound received at Gettysburg.

16. 1864 April 18. Examining Board, Augusta, Georgia  
Certificate recommending extension of furlough due to wound received at Gettysburg.

17. 1865 April 10. Appomattox Court House, Virginia.  
Parole. Col. Croft granted permission to return to his home.

18. [Undated] Clipping, "Edward Croft as a Soldier."  
Paper read at a meeting of the Edward Croft Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Charleston, S.C. Article describes McGowan's S.C. Brigade at Gettysburg. Croft was Field  
Commander of the 14th Regiment.