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001 B04  
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005 Small Manuscripts Collection  
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140 Bell Papers  
200 1808  
210 1948  
220 1861-1870  
240 0.47 cf.  
241 1 @ 0.47 box

- 261 Primarily correspondence from James H. Bell, native of Milford, Delaware, to family and friends. These letters were written from Washington, DC where he served as a census clerk beginning in 1861, before joining the Department of the Interior, Office of Indian Affairs during the Civil War.
- 270 The correspondence (1861 - 1870) references Civil War politics and military news. Included in these letters are descriptions of forts close to Washington, troop movements through and around the city and brief news of battles. A 36-page account of Bell's time as a prisoner of the Confederate Army following the battle of Manassas/Bull Run, 1862, is included along with a partial transcript of this account. Following the war, there is correspondence from Delaware soldiers discussing fines and requesting pay, discharge and hospital transfers.

There is a History of Milford, author unknown, written about 1896, describing the lands, structures, businesses and people of Milford beginning before the revolution. Other records include a marriage certificate of J. H. Bell and Sarah Poslets, 1863; wills for Anna Bell and Aaron Williams with letters of administration for these wills, 1835-1882; insurance documents for homes for J. H. Bell and Aaron W. Bell, 1871-1885; Masonic records for J. H. Bell, 1887; a Postmaster commission for Aaron W. Bell, 1866; and a partial diary of R. H. Pierce, 1936. Additionally, there is correspondence from the Sipple family regarding life at home and the travels of Thomas Sipple, who was employed on a ship on the east coast of the United States. Later Sipple correspondence is from family in Boulder, Colorado, 1852-1912.

Also included in this collection is an application for the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the U.S., 1865 - 1948 from Robert Pierce; deeds regarding land deals in Milford, 1808 - 1866; programs and invitations for events in Milford, and early correspondence, 1845-1859, describing the Bell family's life in Milford.

- 290  
310 A typed partial transcript of Bell's account of Manassas is included in this collection.

- 329 WORK STATUS:  
 needs sorting  
 needs unfolding  
 needs foldering/reboxing  
 other:

- ARCHIVIST:  
 review for identification/needs further identification  
 needs processing  
 determine origin/purpose  
 other:

- CONDITION:  
 totally disorganized  
 order not apparent  
 origin questionable

other:

FILM:

- for security
- for preservation
- destroy original
- other:

330 Correspondence for J. H. Bell is arranged chronologically and the remainder is arranged randomly by folder heading.

331 No index

332 Handwritten and typed

350

360 Fair-poor condition. Acid, dirt and storage damage.

370

390 Item List

420

430 During processing, records were removed from over-stuffed acidic folders. The new folders maintain the old folder numbers.

990 June 15, 2011

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sbd