

000 9200  
001 S23  
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005 Small Manuscripts Collection  
006 John Shilling Collection  
140  
200 1833  
210 1944  
220 1864-1897  
240 0.12 cf.  
241 1 @ 0.24 box  
261 Primarily artifacts, newspaper clippings and correspondence  
regarding the life and military career of John Shilling.  
270 John Shilling was born on February 15, 1832 in Halsted, Kent  
County, England to John and Susannah Shilling. After emigrating  
to American, Shilling's family settled near Felton. On November  
13, 1861, Shilling joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Delaware Regiment and fought in  
notable Civil War battles including Antietam, Fredericksburg and  
Cold Harbor. At a battle near Petersburg, Shilling's bravery  
while capturing a South Carolina battle flag earned him a Medal  
of Honor.

Shilling served as the chaplain for his regiment beginning  
December 1, 1864. Following the war he became a minister in the  
Methodist church and served congregations in Maryland and  
Delaware. Prior to the war, Shilling married Margaret Kirkbride  
with whom he had seven children. Following Margaret's death,  
Shilling married Emma Massey on July 27, 1869. Shilling and  
Massey had four children. He died in Wilmington on July 22, 1884  
and was interred in the Riverview Cemetery.

This collection includes Shilling's birth certificate (1833),  
correspondence from family members regarding the history of the  
pieces in this collection (1943, 1944), a piece of what is  
presumably the captured battle flag as well as stripes from  
Shilling's uniform (no date). A Medal of Honor circular (1897)  
identifies Shilling as a 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant in Company H of the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Delaware Infantry. According to this document, the medal was  
awarded to him on September 6, 1864 at Weldon Railroad, VA for  
capturing the flag a few weeks earlier on August 21. Newspaper  
clippings (1864-1902) found among these documents includes  
recollections about Shilling's capture of the rebel flag in  
Virginia. These clips also identify Shilling as the pastor of the  
Brandywine M.E. Church from 1869-1872 and 1880-1884. Finally,  
this collection contains liturgical documents marking Shilling's  
commissions as a deacon and an elder of the Methodist Church  
(1865, 1873).

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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:

330 Arranged in alphabetical order.

331 No index.

332 Printed, handwritten.

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

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430 During processing newspaper clippings were photocopied.

990 January 5, 2012

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sbd