



Confederate Citizens during the Civil War, 1861–1866

During the Civil War, both the Federal Government and the Confederate States government compiled records relating to Southern civilians, or Confederate citizens. On March 3, 1863, the United States War Department established the Provost Marshal General's Bureau. Among other things, the Bureau documented Confederate civilians who came in contact with the Union army. Army provost marshals patrolled Union-held territory; arrested spies, civilian violators of military orders, and civilians suspected of disloyalty; controlled passage of civilians through military zones; and investigated some claims for property destroyed by the Union army.

The Confederate War and Treasury departments also documented individuals and business firms who provided goods and services to the Confederate war effort. The government recorded transactions with numerous businesses, including railroads, ironworks, lead works, newspapers, merchants, banks, stage lines, steamship companies, and telegraph operations. After the war, the U.S. War Department gathered many of the captured Confederate records, as well as the Provost Marshal records relating to Confederates, into a distinct archival collection.

War Department Collection of Confederate Records (RG 109)

 M345, *Union Provost Marshals' File of Papers Relating to Individual Civilians*. 300 rolls. DP.

This publication documents individual Confederate citizens who came in contact with the Union army. The records include correspondence, provost court papers, orders, passes, paroles, oaths of allegiance, transportation permits, and claims for compensation for property used or destroyed by the Union army, arranged alphabetically by the name of the civilian. The publication also contains some cross references to individuals who appear in M416.

 M416, *Union Provost Marshals' File of Papers Relating to Two or More Civilians*. 94 rolls. DP.

Similar to the records reproduced in M345, this publication documents the activities of two or more Confederate civilians. The records are numbered and arranged in numerical order from 1 to 22,737, with an incomplete place and subject index appearing on **roll 1**. Unnumbered documents as well as papers relating to civilians confined in military prisons, and property confiscated by Confederate guerrillas in Missouri, are reproduced on **rolls 84–94**.

 M346, *Confederate Papers Relating to Citizens or Business Firms*. 1,158 rolls. DP.

This publication reproduces records about Southern civilians and companies who provided goods and services to the Confederate government. Goods often included forage, food, slaves for labor, horses, wagons, and building supplies, while services involved hauling supplies and provisions, transporting prisoners of war, building or repairing equipment, and grazing livestock. The documentation includes financial vouchers, receipts, accounts, and abstracts of expenditures, and is roughly arranged alphabetically by the name of the individual or the business firm. The DP contains a **list of individuals and firms** that

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identifies the location or headquarters of the business; the nature of the business or service rendered, or goods furnished; and dates of operation.

Records of the Adjutant General's Office (RG 94)

During the Civil War, the War Department made efforts to arrest and prosecute civilians, and especially Southerners residing in northern Virginia and the District of Columbia, suspected of treasonous sympathies or activities. Although agents of the Judge Advocate General and the Provost Marshal General investigated the cases, the records ended up in the Adjutant General's Office.

___M797, *Case Files of Investigations by Levi C. Turner and Lafayette C. Baker, 1861–1866*. 137 rolls. DP. This publication reproduces the unbound case files of investigations by Army Judge Advocate Levi C. Turner and Provost Marshal and Special Agent Lafayette C. Baker. The records relate to investigations of subversive activities, often involving Southern civilians. The records are arranged numerically by case file number: the Turner case files are arranged first on **rolls 2–126**, followed by the Baker case files on **rolls 127–37**. An alphabetical name index appears on **roll 1**.

Records of District Courts of the United States (RG 21)

Some U.S. court records, as well as captured Confederate court records, document the efforts of both judicial bodies to confiscate the property of Southern civilians. The U.S. courts focused on the property of disloyal Southern citizens, while the Confederate courts went after the assets of “alien enemies,” or Union sympathizers.

___M435, *Case Papers of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, 1863–1865, Relating to the Confiscation of Property*. 1 roll. This publication reproduces U.S. district court case files relating to the confiscation of property from citizens of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Loudon counties who supported the Confederacy. The unbound case files are arranged numerically by case number and include notices of seizure, libel, and time and place of trial; orders of seizure; and orders for process.

___M436, *Confederate Papers of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, 1861–1865*. 1 roll. This publication reproduces Confederate court records from the Cape Fear District concerning sequestration cases, or the seizure of property belonging to Southern civilians who supported the Union. Some case records also involve charges of harboring deserters, treason, and mail robbery. The records include indictments, subpoenas, jury lists, court orders and rules, and are arranged by subject. (The sequestration cases, identified by defendant's name, are not arranged alphabetically.)