

1981-115

FOSTER, JOHN GRAY (1823-1874)
PAPERS, 1841-1877
97 Items, 1/2 Box

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

John Gray Foster was born in Whitefield, NH in 1823. He graduated fourth in the class of 1846 from West Point and served as an engineer in the Mexican War. He was in charge of the fortifications at Charleston Harbor from 1860-1861 when the Civil War began. Following the Civil War he became head of the Florida Dept. of the Army Corps of Engineers. From 1867 until his death in 1874, he was head of the Boston office of the Army Corps of Engineers with the title of Major General.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

These papers, mostly correspondence, concern Foster's career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. They relate his thoughts on Fort Sumter of Charleston Harbor in South Carolina and the coming of the Civil War. There is correspondence with friends who also attended West Point and with other engineers. During his later years as head of the Boston Corps of Engineers office he dealt with the problems of railroad lines for West Point.

- Fld 1 Early compositions, 1841 & n.d. (3 items)
- Fld 2 Correspondence, 1843-1848 (3 items)
- Fld 3 Correspondence and military orders, 1850's
(7 items)
- Fld 4 Military vouchers, 1858-60 (5 items)
- Fld 5 Military & personal correspondence, 1860-1861
(13 items)
- Fld 6 Correspondence, 1863 (1 item)
- Fld 7 Correspondence, 1865 (9 items)
- Fld 8 Correspondence, 1866 (11 items)
- Fld 9 Correspondence, 1867 (6 items)
- Fld 10 Correspondence, 1868-69 (9 items)

- Fld 11 Military & personal correspondence, 1870
(15 items)
- Fld 12 Military & personal correspondence, 1871
(8 items)
- Fld 13 Obituaries, 1874 (3 items)
- Fld 14 Misc. Corres. 1877 & n.d. (4 items)

CARDS MADE FOR CATALOG:

U.S. Army -Corps of Engineers
Walker, D.S. (Gov. of Florida)
Civil War
South Carolina, Charleston
Occ-Engineers
Railroads-West Point
New York, West Point