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**WILLIAM W. LAYTON COLLECTION
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**By
John D. Knowlton**

**Portland, Maine
January 2001**

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Administrative Information

Provenance: Gifts of William L. Layton in 1995 and 1997 in honor of the Gerald E. Talbot Collection, African American Collection of Maine, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine.

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Description of the Papers

The William W. Layton Collection consists of 10 original manuscripts, an original lithograph, 2 facsimiles and 14 transcripts and/or photocopies of the manuscripts.

This material, collected by Mr. Layton, a retired federal employee and amateur American historian from Virginia, involves Mainers over a period of years in the 19th Century with emphasis on William Pitt Fessenden and the United States Civil War. The Fessenden material includes a letter of Charles Minor in 1861 to Fessenden on the importance of the U.S. Constitution; Fessenden writing to his son Francis about General Ames and military matters; and Colonel G. Fred Granger writing an appreciation to Fessenden for his raising conscripts for the 9th Maine Volunteers. Two other Fessenden items are his 1857 letter relating to the U.S. Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision and a Congressional subscriber's list of 1866 relating to Fessenden's speech in Congress on the re-admission of southern Congressmen. Other items are: Walter S. Swanton of Bath writing in 1864 about problems of getting mail into Georgia; an 1838 letter of George Nye to his wife about military musters in Bangor and Lewiston; and an 1840 letter to Samuel Silsbee of Bangor from William Radde in New York City on books which Silsbee ordered. There are 2 facsimiles made into book marks which relate to Robert E. Lee's books which he owned while he was Superintendent of West Point. These facsimiles were reproduced from a William L. Layton Collection at Shenandoah University.

The chromolithograph is entitled "Camp of 7th Rgt. Maine Volunteers, Col. T. H. Marshall as seen from the Fortification erected by the Regiment on Murrays Hill, Baltimore, Maryland." The lithograph was made and produced by Sachse & Company, 104 South Charles St., Baltimore, Maryland.

Box	Folder	Description	Date
1	1	Originals	1838-66
		Nye, George H.(?), Lewiston, Maine to Charlie A. Nye [Mrs. George H.(?)], Rome, Maine 4 pages, A.L.S. with Envelope re: military musters in Bangor and Lewiston; domestic affairs, Oct. 22, 1838.	
		Radde, William, New York, New York to Samuel Silsbee, Bangor, 2 pp., A.L.S., with integral address and docket re: books Silsbee ordered, Dec. 7, 1840.	
		Fessenden, William Pitt, Portland, Maine to R. C. McCormick, Jr., 4 pages, A.L.S. re: cannot address a gathering of New York citizens on the U.S. Supreme Court's Dred Scot decision because of ill health; believes the decision to imperil freedom, March 26 1857	
		Minor, Charles, Wilkes Barre to William Pitt Fessenden, United States Senator, 1 page with docket, A.L.S. Re: asks that note to Governor Pickens be delivered; enjoyed Governor Washburn's address; says he [Minor] writes no treason, wishes peace and the Constitution to hold, March 19, 1861.	
		Swanton, Walter S., Bath to W. J. Niles, 3 pages with docket, A.L.S. Re: problems in getting mail into Georgia; southern goods; Sarah's divorce, May 17, 1864.	
		Fessenden, William Pitt, Washington to Francis Fessenden, 3 pages, A.L.S. Re: General Ames and other Army matters, July 3, 1864.	
		Breck, Samuel, Assistant Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. to Paymaster General, U.S. Army, 1 page, contemporary copy Re: stopage of pay for Captain Elijah Low, Provost Marshall, 4 th District of Maine July 7, 1864.	
		Low, Elijah, pay account with U.S., form Voucher 797, signed August 1, 1864.	
		Granger, G. Fred, Col., Headquarters, 9 th Maine, In the trenches on Chaffee's Farm, Virginia to William Pitt Fessenden, 2 pages with docket, A.L.S.(?) Re: thanks for assistance in filing out his Regiment, Oct. 17, 1864.	
		U.S. Congress, Senate, list, 2 pages, autograph Re: sign up sheet for copies of a speech of this date by William Pitt Fessenden on re-admission of southern congressmen to Congress; signers include: Fessenden, Thaddeus Stevens, J. A. Garfield, N. P. Banks, James G. Blaine, Charles Sumner and Roscoe Conklin, Feb. 23, [1866?]	

Box	Folder	Description	Date
1	2	Bookmarks, 2 copies, made from Robert E. Lee's list of books used at West Point. Transcripts of originals, 4: 1857, 1861, 1857-66, 1864 and 1866. Photocopies of originals, 9: 1838, 1857, 1864 (5) and 1866 (2) 1838-66 Photocopies, duplicates, 5: 1864 (4) and 1864-66	undated
2	1	Chromolithograph: Camp of the 7 th Rgt., Maine Volunteers, Col. T. H. Marshall, as seen from the Fortification erected by the Regiment on Murrays Hill, Baltimore, Md., ca. 16&1/2" x 9 & 1/2," framed	[1861]