



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**ESTILL-RAY PAPERS**  
**1861-1865**

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(Confederate Collection)

## INTRODUCTION

The Estill-Ray Papers are primarily composed of correspondence and orders which pertain to the duties of G.M. Ray, an agent of the Commissary Department, Confederate States of America. There is also some correspondence from Nathaniel Green Estill which was written while he was serving in the Confederate Army. The donor of this collection is Mrs. Walter Davis, Whitewell, Tennessee.

The materials in this finding aid measure .01 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Estill-Ray Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of twenty-seven items, the bulk of which is correspondence generated between 1861-1864.

The first folder contains orders and correspondence of G.M. Ray, an agent of the Commissary Department, Confederate States of A America. These papers show conclusively that the Confederacy had a great deal of difficulty in obtaining foodstuffs and other provisions for the army. One discovers that commission agents were authorized to impress supplies from unwilling farmers and property holders. They could also call upon Confederate troops to back their requests.

Folder four contains two letters written by Nathaniel Green Estill to his mother and sister in Winchester, Franklin County, Tennessee. The first, written in December 1861, describes his preparations for a winter in camp, his newly acquired culinary skills and, of course, homesickness. In the second, written in Georgia in 1863, Estill expresses his belief that Bragg's army would soon move north on Middle Tennessee and recapture the territory. He never saw further action, however, because he died of wounds which he had received in an earlier engagement.

Following these two letters is a page from the *Winchester Bulletin* of November 1864. An article reports the death of Felix Grundy Estill, a younger brother. He was killed during the fighting around Petersburg, Virginia.

The sixth folder holds a letter from Sam Willis Jones which was written in 1862 in a Federal prison camp. He tells his mother that he is healthy and well treated. Some of the activities in the camp are also described.

Finally, there are two typewritten accounts of family history from Jennie Lois Davis who donated the collection. In one, she elaborates on the adventures of other brothers in the Estill Family. The second is a delightful story of how mother and daughter, Nancy and Jennie Estill, made a rag wool carpet from discarded Union uniforms.

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box 1**

#### **Folder 1**

Correspondence, 28 October 1862. Shelbyville, TN. From: J. Cummings. To: G.M. Ray. re: informs Ray of his appointment as an agent of the Commissary Department, CSA.

Order, 28 October 1862. Shelbyville, TN. From: Cummings. To: Ray. re: remove supplies from Middle Tennessee out of enemy reach – requests Ray to purchase or impress supplies on his route.

Correspondence. 13 February 1863. Atlanta, GA. From: Cummings. To: Ray. re: thoughts on policy – situation in Middle Tennessee.

Circular, Bureau of Subsistence, 28 March 1863. Richmond, VA. From: C.B. Northrop, Commissary General, CSA. To: J.F. Cummings. re: urgent request to procure supplies and not create inflationary market conditions.

Correspondence, 15 June 1863. Shelbyville, TN. From: D.H.C. Spence, Chief of Subsistence, 4<sup>th</sup> Commissary District. To: Ray. re: informs Ray of appointment as an agent – report for assignment.

Order, Office of Commandant, Camp Shelbyville, 23 June 1863. From: L.L. Butler, Major commanding. To: Ray. re: orders Ray to special service – report on 1 August in Fayetteville.

Order, 27 July 1863. Atlanta, GA. From: Cummings. To: Ray. re: travel to Talladega to procure horses – reporting for further assignment. On reverse: Receipt, 31 September 1863. \$495 for cattle from Mrs. Amandy Taylor. Receipt, 29 September 1863. \$195 for oxen from W.H. Berry. Order, 9 August 1863. From: Captain S. Reid. To: Ray. re: report for duty.

Order, 11 September 1863. Calhoun, GA. From: T.B. Ivie. To: Ray. re: collection of cattle – sends \$6,000.

Correspondence, 17 September 1863. Calhoun, GA. From: T.B. Ivie. To: Ray. re: forcing collection of grain and livestock from residents in Chattooga County, GA – obtaining supply agreements – methods of payment.

Correspondence, 8 October 1863. Summerville, GA. From: B. Myers, Jas. Hood (?), James Finley and H.P. Allgood, Justices of the Inferior Court of Chattooga County. To: Ivie. re: request an end to the impressments of supplies due to the hardships endured by the locals.

Correspondence, 11 October 1863. Calhoun, GA. From: Ivie. To: Ray. re: acknowledges receipt of the 8 October letter.

Order, 28 November 1863. Calhoun, GA. From: Ivie. To: Ray. re: requests Ray to send mule teams and to keep stock out of enemy hands.

Order, 30 December 1863. Calhoun, GA. From: Ivie. To: Ray. re: report for duty in Atlanta – On reverse: note of transfer signed by Israel Gibbons, Captain.

Order, 31 December 1863. Atlanta, GA. From: Cummings. To: Ray. re: grants Ray a 15 day leave of absence.

Order, 5 January 1864. Calhoun, GA. From Ivie. To: Ray. re: responsibility for hogs – report to Cummings.

Order, 13 January 1864. Atlanta, GA. From: Cummings (by W.B. Cox). To: Ray. re: reporting for duty at Eufalia, AL.

Order, 20 February 1864. Atlanta. From: Cummings. To: Ray. re: grants Ray a three-day leave of absence.

Order, 24 February 1864. Atlanta. From: Cummings. To: Ray. re: travel to Savannah – report for duty.

Order, 6 May 1864. Camp Randolph, Decatur, GA. From: William F. Andrews, Major. To: Ray. re: report to Cummings for duty in Atlanta.

## **Folder 2**

Announcement, 20 November 1863, Atlanta. Re: implores farmers to provide food for Confederate troops and outlines the laws which authorize the government to collect supplies – announces the appointment of Ray as an agent for Chattooga County.

## **Folder 3**

Price Schedule. Re: gives the amounts which the Confederate Government paid for certain foodstuffs.

## **Folder 4**

Correspondence, 1 December 1861. Camp Fisher, Virginia. From: Nathaniel Green Estill. To: mother and sister. re: preparation for colder weather – lost package – confiscation of property – camp life.

Correspondence, 27 October 1863. Newman, GA. From: N. Estill. To: mother and sister. re: move of Bragg's army – plans to reclaim Middle Tennessee – hospital stay – treatment of family by "Yanks."

**Folder 5**

Newspaper fragment, 1864. Winchester Bulletin. Re: contains article which reports the death (killed) of Felix Grundy Estill.

**Folder 6**

Correspondence, 7 August 1862. Camp Douglas, Chicago. From: Sam Willis Jones. To: mother, Jane Jones. re: life and conditions in a prisoner of war camp.

**Folder 7**

Family History. Personal accounts by Jennie Lois Davis. Genealogical charts.