

**Papers of Samuel Kendig Rupley  
and  
Genealogical Information on the Kendig and Rupley Families,  
Originally of Lancaster and Cumberland Counties, Pennsylvania**

In 1969 my father, Allen Shurter Rupley, grandson of Samuel Kendig Rupley, arranged for donation of S. K. Rupley's collection of Civil War telegrams to the Library of Congress. These had been signed by President Lincoln and by Generals Grant, Meade, and others. S. K. Rupley served with the Army of the Potomac as a military telegrapher. His Civil War service was from 15 Sep 1862 to 14 Jun 1865.

As part of these arrangements, A. S. Rupley assembled in 1970 an album consisting of three parts (in different order in the album than following):

- Part 1. Telegrams and Military Memorabilia of Samuel Kendig Rupley, Donated to the Library of Congress.
- Part 2. Personal Papers and Letters of Samuel Kendig Rupley.
- Part 3. Genealogical Information relating to Ancestors and Descendants of Samuel Kendig Rupley: Rupley and Kendig ancestors and the Rupley, Schwartz and Wyatt descendants of S. K. Rupley.

Part 1 above follows this introductory page. Parts 2 and 3 are in separate files.

Copies of the family album containing the above information and documents were distributed to various family members.

S. K. Rupley kept the collection of telegrams, letters and other documents in an old steel box. On his death it came down to his daughter Mary Rupley Schwartz, then on her death to her son John Rupley Schwartz, and on his death to his cousin A. S. Rupley.

The following pages describe this collection.

**Part 1.**

**Telegrams and Military Memorabilia  
of  
Samuel Kendig Rupley**

**Donated to the Library of Congress**

The first documents of this section are:

The listing in the Library of Congress Catalog for the papers of Samuel K. Rupley.

Correspondence between L. Quincy Mumford, the Librarian of Congress, and Allen S. Rupley, regarding donation of the papers of Samuel K. Rupley.

The cover page for the military papers section of the album sent to family members.

A draft letter (very much a draft and unedited) from Allen S. Rupley to family members to be sent along with each copy of the album, giving detailed background on the family arrangements connected with the donation. The letter may retain some interest through showing the sequence of events involved in making what appears to be a simple donation.

Following the above pages are a selection from the documents submitted to the Library of Congress, scanned from the photographic reproductions used in the albums (and thus not high-quality images).

## Library of Congress Reference:

### Papers of Samuel K. Rupley

LC Control No.:

mm 73029116

LCCN Permalink:

<http://lccn.loc.gov/mm73029116>

Type of Material:

Archival Manuscript Material (Collection)

Personal Name:

Rupley, Samuel K., b. 1844.

Main Title:

Papers of Samuel K. Rupley, 1863-1908.

Description:

78 items.

1 container.

Biographical/Historical Data:

Military telegrapher.

Summary:

Telegrams sent during the Civil War by Union officers and others, including Ulysses S. Grant, Winfield Scott Hancock, Abraham Lincoln, George G. Meade, and Samuel F. B. Morse; military passes; and other papers. Notes: MSS29116

Acquisition Source:

Gift, Allen S. Rupley, 1969.

Subjects:

Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885.

Hancock, Winfield Scott, 1824-1886.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.

Meade, George Gordon, 1815-1872.

Morse, Samuel Finley Breese, 1791-1872.

United States. Army.

Military telegraph.

United States --History --Civil War, 1861-1865 --Communications.

Telegraphers. itoamc

Local Shelving No.:

MMC-3079

Repository:

Library of Congress Manuscript Division Washington, D.C.

CALL NUMBER:

MMC-3079

-- Request in:

Manuscript Reading Room (Madison, LM101)

ALLEN S. RUPLEY

MAIL  
RFD CLINTON CORNERS  
NEW YORK

TELEPHONE  
CLINTON CORNERS  
914 COLFAX 6-3716

C O P Y

November 25, 1969

Mr. L. Quincy Mumford  
Librarian of Congress  
Washington, D.C. 20540

Dear Mr. Mumford:

With reference to my letter of November 16, 1967 and your reply of December 6, 1967 concerning a collection of original Civil War telegrams collected by the late Samuel K. Rupley during his service as telegrapher in the U.S. Military Telegraph Service, I now wish to donate these documents to the Library of Congress. Enclosed herewith is a small black morocco album containing original telegrams and other papers relating to the military career of the late Samuel K. Rupley totaling in all 77 items (General Order No. 15 is duplicated) among which are the telegrams signed by the Generals listed in my letter of November 16, 1967. It also includes a telegram signed by Samuel F.B. Morse which, although it has no reference to the War era, has been included with the thought that you are the best qualified to determine where an item of this type might be lodged.

I would appreciate your recording this gift as being from all of the grandchildren of the late Samuel K. Rupley, namely:

Judge John R. Schwartz

H. Clifford Rupley

Edward A. Schwartz

Grace Kendig (Rupley) Wyatt

Helen Grace (Schwartz)  
Vorhess

Allen S. Rupley

Dr. Donald K. Schwartz

I would appreciate your acknowledging receipt of this book of telegrams and other items, mentioning that the gift will be recorded in the name of the grandchildren set forth above.

Sincerely,

A. S. Rupley

Enclosure:



THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540

December 12, 1969

Dear Mr. Rupley:

It is with deep personal satisfaction that I acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 25 and the black morocco album containing original telegrams and other papers relating to the military career of Samuel K. Rupley. Any collection of autographs which boasts the names of Lincoln, Grant, George G. Meade and Burnside--not to mention Samuel F. B. Morse--is most impressive, and we are deeply grateful to you and the other grandchildren of Samuel K. Rupley for making this fine gift to the Library. Thank you for your splendid contribution to our national manuscript collection, and please accept my most cordial wishes for the holiday season.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Quincy Mumford".

L. Quincy Mumford  
Librarian of Congress

Mr. Allen S. Rupley  
RFD Clinton Corners  
New York 12514

SAMUEL KENDIG RUPLEY  
SECOND SECTION

The first part of this section (Pages 13-35) are photographic reproductions of Civil War telegrams and other documents pertaining to Grandfather Rupley's Civil War Service. All of these were contained in a bound black morocco album. All the documents contained on Pages 13-32 were securely glued in the album and the documents were photographed in that position. The documents on Pages 33-35 were loose in the album.

The album intact was delivered to the Library of Congress with my letter of November 25, 1969 as a gift from all of the Grandchildren of Samuel K. Rupley (see 2nd page). Receipt of the gift was acknowledged on December 12, 1969 by L. Quincy Mumford, Librarian of Congress - see Page 36 for copies of both letters.

About ten months before Judge John R. Schwartz' death, he told me that he had the book of telegrams and in his opinion they should go to my son John. We did not argue this point as I knew that his mother and my father had discussed this in Brooklyn (about 1934) after my son John was born and they agreed that these telegrams, etc., be given to the United States Government entity which is custodian for Civil War Memorabilia. As Mary Rupley Schwartz died shortly thereafter no action ensued. I related this to Judge John Schwartz and we agreed to carry out the agreement of his mother and my father. Hence the gift of these documents to the Library of Congress which was found to be the logical depository.

Pages 37-40 is historical data of the Rupley and Kendig family from which Samuel Kendig Rupley was descended. The data was obtained from documents obtained from Nancy Rupley Armstrong of Houston, Texas, Dr. Poucher, who did research on the Rupley family, and from documents that my father Harry M. Rupley had compiled and recorded.

April 12, 1970

ROUGH DRAFT

October 1, 1969

Mr. [REDACTED]  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Dear [REDACTED]:

This book contains copies of various letters, telegrams and other memoranda collected by your grandfather Samuel Kendi Rupley the original of which came to me through your mother Mary Schwartz and Judge John R. Schwartz.

The first section (pages 1 to 10 inclusive) contain reproductions and letter from brothers, sisters, aunts and others to Samuel K. Rupley as well as letters from his wife Mary Rupley and a statement by Samuel K. Rupley concerning the disposition of certain personal property. Also included are copies of other unrelated documents. These were all contained in a small steel box which came to me from your brother John. The original of these documents are in my possession. They have no value other than a sentimental value and if any of you would like them to keep I would

be happy to make them available otherwise I will pass them on to my son John, as he is the only descendent who bears the Rupley name from this branch of the family. If additional copies of any or all of these documents are desired, they can be provided in modest numbers with no charge.

The second section of the book (pages 11 to 34 inclusive) contain copies of Civil War telegrams and related papers which our grandfather collected during his war service and were all contained in a small, oblong book bound in black morocco which was put together about 1908 and left to my father who placed them in the custody of your mother Mary Schwartz and thence from John Schwartz to me.

There have been numerous discussions during the years as to the proper disposition of these documents particularly as they have historical value and some monetary value. Shortly before the death of your brother John, he and I had several conversations with regard to their proper home and we agreed that they should be given to whatever government institution had supervision of Civil

War papers and John requested me to have someone investigate in Washington in this regard. Mr. Francis Flanagan, Vice President of W. R. Grace & Co. in Washington, made such an investigation and advised me that the Library of Congress was the main repository of the papers of Abraham Lincoln, W.S. Grant and other Civil War personalities both military and civil and gave us his opinion that they were the logical depository for the documents we had. In subsequent correspondence with Mr. L. Quincy Mumford of the Library of Congress he confirmed that they were the main depository for such papers and solicited them for the Library of Congress collection. Accordingly, I have delivered this book of telegrams and related Civil War papers to the Library of Congress and attached hereto is their acknowledgement of them and as you will see they were given in the name of the grandchildren of Samuel K. Rupley

I have the master negatives of all of the 77 items included in this section and if additional copies are desired I can obtain them at a modest cost.

I know that various members of the family have feelings about where these telegrams should go but your brother John, my sister Grace and myself strongly felt that they should not be retained by the family and be a matter of controversy and the only question was where they would find the best use for their historical value.

Be@re making the gift to the Library of Congress I consulted with an independent lawyer as to my right to make such a gift providing him with the various documents executed by our grandfather with respect to them and he assured me that I had a legal right to dispose of them in the manner contemplated. I sincerely hoep that all members of the family agree with this as the best disposition of these papers. Incidentally, I had them appraised by an expert who placed the value \$1,815 on the whole album.

Sincerely,

The Messages, Autographs & Papers contained in  
this book were personally collected by me, while  
in the United States Military Service, during the  
Civil War, excepting that of Prof. Saml. F. B. Morse,  
and are all original

Subscribed and sworn before me  
this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 1908.

Samuel K. Ripley

Claude H. Potts.  
Notary Public.

Head Quarters Armies of the United States,

City-Point, April 3, 5 P.M. 1865

Mrs. Adenich

Washington, D.C.

Petersburg & Richmond are

both in our ~~hand~~ hands; and I and I have  
been to the former & been with Bob four or  
five hours - He is well & in good spirits.  
Come down as you propose.

Adenich

Head Quarters Armies of the United States,

Gravelly Run, March 29<sup>th</sup> 1865 -

A. Lincoln, President, City Point  
Griffin was attacked near where the  
Inaker road intersects the Boydton  
plank road. At 5:50 pm. Warren  
reports the fighting pretty severe but  
the enemy repulsed leaving 100 prisoners  
in our hands. Warren advanced  
to attack at the horn named but  
found the enemy gone, he thinks  
inside of his main works. Warren's  
pickets on his left, along Boydton  
plank road reported the enemy's  
Cavalry moving rapidly northward  
and they thought Sheridan after  
them. Sheridan was in Dinwiddie  
this afternoon.

U. S. Grant  
A. C.

555 pm,  
Picketing

Head-Quarters Armies of the United States,

Gravelly Creek, March 29<sup>th</sup> 1862

A. Lincoln, President, City Point Va.

The enemy attacked Griffin's div. 5<sup>th</sup> Corps near where the Quaker road intersects the Boydton road about 4 P.M. The enemy were repulsed leaving about 60 prisoners in our hands. There was some loss of life on both sides.

A. S. Grant  
Lt. Gen.

520 P.M. Ricketts

# United States Military Telegraph.

By Telegraph from ..... 4.45 PM Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> .....

Dated Hancock's Kelly, 1864.

To Brig. Genl. Ingalls  
City Point.

This thing is played out. The  
soldiers who vote have a right to  
know who is elected. Can you  
send us the ~~the~~ information.

John Gibbon  
Maj. Genl.

GENERAL ORDERS, }

No. 68. }

WAR DEPARTMENT,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, April 16, 1865.

The following order of the Secretary of War announces to the Armies of the United States the untimely and lamentable death of the illustrious ABRAHAM LINCOLN, late President of the United States:—

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Washington City, April 16, 1865.

The distressing duty has devolved upon the Secretary of War to announce to the Armies of the United States that at twenty-two minutes after seven o'clock, on the morning of Saturday, the fifteenth day of April, 1865, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, died of a mortal wound inflicted upon him by an assassin.

The Armies of the United States will share with their fellow citizens the feelings of grief and horror inspired by this most atrocious murder of their great and beloved President and Commander-in-Chief, and with profound sorrow will mourn his death as a national calamity.

The Headquarters of every Department, Post, Station, Fort and Arsenal will be draped in mourning for thirty days, and appropriate funeral honors will be paid by every Army, and in every Department, and at every Military Post, and at the Military Academy at West Point, to the memory of the late illustrious Chief Magistrate of the Nation, and Commander-in-Chief of its Armies.

Lieutenant General GRANT will give the necessary instructions for carrying this order into effect.

EDWIN M. STANTON,

*Secretary of War.*

On the day after the receipt of this order at the Headquarters of any Military Division, Department, Army, Post, Station, Fort and Arsenal, and at the Military Academy at West Point, the troops and cadets will be paraded at 10 o'clock, A. M., and the order read to them; after which all labors and operations for the day will cease, and be suspended, as far as practicable, in a state of war.

The national flag will be displayed at half staff.

At dawn of day thirteen guns will be fired, and afterwards, at intervals of thirty minutes, between the rising and setting sun, a single gun, and at the close of the day a national salute of thirty-six guns.

The officers of the Armies of the United States will wear the badge of mourning on the left arm and on their swords, and the colors of their commands and regiments will be put in mourning for the period of six months.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL GRANT.

W. A. NICHOLS,

ASSIST. ADJUTANT GENERAL

OFFICIAL:

ASSIST. ADJUTANT GENERAL.

## Head-Quarters, Army of the Potomac,

*April 16th, 1865.*

General Orders, }  
No. 15.

The Major General Commanding announces to the Army that official intelligence has been received of the death, by assassination, of the President of the United States. The President died at 7.22, on the morning of the 15th instant.

By this Army, this announcement will be received with profound sorrow, and deep horror and indignation. The President by the active interest he ever took in the welfare of this Army, and by his presence in frequent visits, especially during the recent operations, had particularly endeared himself to both officers and soldiers, all of whom regarded him as a generous friend.

An honest man, a noble patriot, and sagacious statesman has fallen ! No greater loss, at this particular moment, could have befallen our country. Whilst we bow with submission to the unfathomable and inscrutable decrees of Divine Providence, let us earnestly pray that God, in His infinite mercy, will so order, that this terrible calamity shall not interfere with the prosperity and happiness of our beloved country !

GEO. G. MEADE,

*Major General Commanding.*

HEAD QUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

November 18<sup>th</sup>

1864.

Special Orders

No. 312.

[EXTRACT.]

1. The Telegraph Offices at these Head Quarters, and at the Head Quarters of the several Corps, having been furnished with watches, the standard time throughout the army, will be that kept at the Office at these Head Quarters.

The Operators at Corps Head Quarters will daily regulate their watches accordingly, and Corps, Division and Brigade Commanders will regulate their watches by the watch of the Operator at the Head Quarters of their Corps.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL

*Meade.*

(sa) *E. Williancy*

Assist. Adj't. General.

HEAD QUARTERS SECOND ARMY CORPS,

November 18<sup>th</sup> 1864.

OFFICIAL:

*Sgt. Carners,*

Assist. Adj't. General.

Telegraph Operator &c.

*official La Rose Opn*

Alexandria Virginia

June 1<sup>st</sup> 1844

We the undersigned members of the  
Clarks map of the Genl Dept respectfully  
request Mr Ruple to take charge  
of the map and account, as caterer  
for the same -

A. C. Cuyler

J. C. Roth

W. C. Ransom

W. C. Biscoe

Am. Mearns

R. S. Tatman

G. A. Tapp

J. A. Sherer

Geo. R. Page

W. D. Damm

A. A. Morgan

and others too numerous to mention

To all whom it may Concern.

*Paid #100 Bounty  
and all Pay & Allowance  
June 15/15  
York Am new*



BOUNTY PAID  
WASHINGTON  
Feb 19 1865  
A. D. ROBINSON,  
Paymaster U.S.A.  
ACT JULY 23, 1864.

Know ye, That *Samuel K. Casper*  
a Private of Captain *John C. Spens*  
Company, (I.) 150<sup>th</sup> Regiment of New York State  
VOLUNTEERS, who was enrolled on the *fifteenth* day of *September*  
one thousand eight hundred and *sixty-two* to serve *three (3)* years or  
during the war, is hereby **Discharged** from the service of the United States  
this *fourteenth* day of *June*, 1865, at *Richmond*  
*Virginia* by reason of Authority of the War Dept. dated *May 29* 1865  
(No objection to his being re-enlisted is known to exist.)

Said *Samuel K. Casper* was born in *Laurel*  
in the State of *Pennsylvania*, is *Twenty one* years of age,  
*five* feet *eight* inches high, *fair* complexion, *grey* eyes,  
*dark* hair, and by occupation, when enrolled, a *Telegraph Operator*.  
Given at *Richmond* Va. this *fourteenth* day of  
*June* 1865.

*A. D. Bowen*  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt 5<sup>th</sup> Regt & Adm  
Commanding The Regt.

\*This sentence will be erased should there be anything in the conduct or physical condition of the soldier rendering him unfit for the Army.

Henry L. Davis, Esq.<sup>K</sup> *Morreau Station*  
*Saratoga, C<sup>o</sup>.*

Finley may come. Please telegraph when  
he can arrive at depot here.

*Sam. F. B. Morse.*



122h 14<sup>5</sup>h

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