

**Guide to the Thomas Kevill Confederate Veterans Certificate, 1890
MS0504**

**The Mariners' Museum Library
at
Christopher Newport University**

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DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository: The Mariners' Museum Library
Title: Thomas Kevill Confederate Veterans Certificate
Inclusive Date: 1890
Catalog number: MS0504
Physical Characteristics: 1 membership certificate
Language: English
Creator: Kevill, Thomas, 1826-1896

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Thomas Kevill was born in Sligo, Ireland on April 5, 1826. He later emigrated to Canada and then to Boston, Massachusetts. By 1848 Kevill was living in Norfolk, Virginia, where he worked as a haberdasher. In 1850, he married Augustine L. Shield. Kevill formed and headed Norfolk's United Volunteer Fire Co. in 1860.

Before the firing on Fort Sumter, Kevill organized the United Artillery, a militia unit composed of firemen. After Virginia seceded, Kevill enlisted in the Confederate army as captain in the United Artillery (1st Co. E, 41st Virginia Infantry). During the war's first year, Kevill's unit occupied Fort Norfolk on the Elizabeth River. In March 1862, Kevill volunteered to serve aboard the newly christened ironclad CSS *Virginia*, where he commanded #9 broadside gun during the Battle of Hampton Roads. Soon thereafter, Kevill returned to his old unit, which became Co. C, 19th Battalion Virginia Heavy Artillery. During the evacuation of Norfolk, Kevill manned an entrenched heavy battery. In the Battle of Savage Station, Kevill commanded a railroad artillery piece. For much of the rest of the war, Kevill was stationed at Drewry's Bluff. Kevill surrendered with Robert E. Lee's forces at Appomattox on April 9, 1865.

After the war, Kevill returned to Norfolk and resumed his occupation as a haberdasher. He also organized and served as chief of Norfolk's first professional fire department. In 1883, he became one of the founding members of the Pickett-Buchanan Camp Confederate Veterans, which was part of the larger state-wide organization Grand Camp Confederate Veterans. Kevill died in 1896 and is buried at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Norfolk.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of Thomas Kevill's certificate of charter membership to the Pickett-Buchanan Camp Confederate Veterans in Norfolk, Virginia. The certificate provides a description of Kevill's service as a Confederate service member during the Civil War, including his service on the CSS *Virginia* during the Battle of Hampton Roads.

The Grand Camp Confederate Veterans, Department of Virginia, was formed January 13, 1888 in Richmond, Virginia. Representatives from the Pickett-Buchanan Veterans Camp of Norfolk, Stonewall Veterans Camp of Portsmouth, A.P. Hill Veterans Camp of Petersburg, and R.E. Lee Veterans Camp of Richmond, met during a military conference in Richmond December 1887, and decided to organize themselves under a larger group. They met at the R.E. Lee Camp Hall in Richmond on February 13, 1888, adopted orders and regulations and elected John R. Cooke as

the first Grand Commander. The first annual meeting was held at Lee Camp Hall, Richmond, Virginia, on May 8, 1888. On January 20, 1890 the organization was incorporated in Virginia. It is in this context that Kevill's charter membership certificate was prepared. There were over 80 Confederate Veterans camps organized in Virginia, from Alexandria, Ashland, Culpeper, Danville, Fredericksburg, Goochland, Lexington, Lynchburg, Petersburg, Richmond, Roanoke, Williamsburg, Winchester, etc.

The collection is organized into 1 folder.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Accession Number

MS0504

Accession Date

2010

Restrictions

The collection is open to all researchers.

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Preferred Citation

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Other Finding Aids

A full record and electronic reproduction of the Thomas Kevill portrait in this collection can be found in the Museum's collections database.

Note to Users

Due to the fragile and rare nature of the collection, researchers are requested to handle the materials with caution and in accordance with prescribed archival practices. When using these materials, please preserve the original order of the collection.

RELATED MATERIALS

A portrait painting of Capt. Kevill is separately accessioned into the museum collection as accession number 2010.11.01.

FILE GUIDE

DRAWER A31:B1

Folder 1 Pickett-Buchanan Camp Confederate Veterans, 1890

Certificate of charter membership for Thomas Kevill

SOURCES CONSULTED

Quarstein, John V. C.S.S. Virginia: *Mistress of Hampton Roads*. Appomattox, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc., 2000.

Library of Virginia. "A Guide to the United Confederate Veterans Virginia Division Records, 1890-1903." <http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaead/published/lva/vi00497.frame> (accessed 15 September 2011).

SUBJECTS

United Confederate Veterans. Virginia Division

Virginia (Ironclad : 1862)

Hampton Roads, Battle of, Va., 1862

United States-History-Civil War, 1861-1865-Veterans

United States-History-Civil War, 1861-1865-Societies-Confederate