



**Records relating to the Beaufort Volunteer Army  
SCHS #557.00**

**Description:** 0.5 Linear Feet (2 boxes)

**Biog./Historical Note:** The Beaufort Volunteer Artillery was originally organized in 1776 and served in the Continental Army during the Revolution. It disbanded in 1783 but re-organized in 1800. In 1820 the BVA was incorporated as the “Beaufort Artillery Society,” merging in 1843 with the Beaufort Volunteer Guards, the combined militia organization being known as the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery. During the American Civil War, the BVA entered Confederate service as part of the 11<sup>th</sup> South Carolina Infantry Regiment. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the BVA was reconstituted and consolidated with the 263<sup>rd</sup> Coast Artillery, South Carolina National Guard. The 263<sup>rd</sup> Coast Artillery was inducted into federal service in 1941.

**Scope and content:** Collection consists of historical research, memoirs, correspondence and other records concerning the history and service of the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery, as well as a related military unit, the 263<sup>rd</sup> Coast Artillery Regiment. There are a few manuscripts dating from 1864 to 1888 included in these papers, among them a letter (Feb. 13, 1864) which is an announcement by General W. S. Walker at Pocotaligo, S.C., to the troops of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Military District, C.S.A., concerning the reenlistment of the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery and the Palmetto Battalion Light Infantry “for the war.” Gen. Walker commends “the example of these gallant corps” and exhorts others to follow it and “fight for their liberties against a powerful oppressor,” warning that if they are not victorious, their fathers and brothers and sons “will be stigmatized as rebels and the blood shed on many battlefields will have been expended in vain. Our great leaders whom we admire & reverence will be blackened as the Arnolds of the Great Rebellion.” Documents dated April 1865 chiefly pertain to the surrender of Confederate forces in North Carolina.

Other records relating to the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery’s service in the Confederate Army include copies of letters and memoirs by Charles Woodward Hutson, C. A. DeSaussure, R. O. Sams, Middleton Stuart, H. M. Stuart, James R. Stuart and others; transcripts of records from the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion and other published sources; and newspaper clippings. Specific topics in these records include the Battle of Honey Hill and the Battle of Port Royal. Papers relating to the 263<sup>rd</sup> Coast Artillery include a history compiled by Nora M. Davis; a booklet; and newspaper clippings.

**Preferred citation:** Davis, Nora Marshall, comp. Records relating to the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery, 1864-1934. (0557.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

**Container Listing:**

BOX 1

- 1 Records, 1864-1888: manuscript letters and military records, 1864, including a letter by General W. S. Walker, and orders and other records relating to the surrender of Confederate forces in North Carolina in April 1865. An item dated 1888 is a certificate pertaining to some property of the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery (BVA).
- 2 Bound newspaper clipping relating to the Battle of Honey Hill, S.C. A title page on the stationery of the United Confederate Veterans has the handwritten title: "Narrative of the Battle of Honey Hill, SC Nov. 20, 1864, Participated in by C. A. DeSaussure as No. 5, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gun. 1<sup>st</sup> Section of the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery."
- 3 Bound copies of letters (1928) by Charles W. Hutson and his memoir about his Confederate service in the BVA.
- 4 Bound typescript: "The Story of my Service in the Army of the Confederate States" by C. A. DeSaussure (1931).
- 5 Bound typescript: "The Battle of Port Royal, S.C. November 7<sup>th</sup> 1861."
- 6 Bound typescript memoir by C. A. DeSaussure: "The Story of my Early Life Before the War Between the States."
- 7 Writings by C. A. DeSaussure, including a letter (1932) and typescript accounts of various battles.
- 8 Research about William Harden (1743-1785).
- 9 Miscellaneous records relating to the BVA, including a copy of the muster roll of the BVA at the surrender at Greensboro, N.C. in April 1865.

BOX 2

- 1 Records relating to the BVA taken from the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion (OR), the Rebellion Record, and Confederate Military History.
- 2 Miscellaneous memoirs, including "Recollections of the Beaufort Artillery" by R. O. Sams (1928); excerpt from a book (1870) by Rev. Lucius Bellinger concerning the Beaufort Rangers; and the "Beaufort Volunteer Artillery" by E. O. Elliott.

- 3 Correspondence (1911-1928) of Nathaniel B. Barnwell relating to the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery. Correspondents include Dr. H. M. Stuart, James R. Stuart, and A. S. Salley.
- 4 Records compiled by Florence L. Lawton (1885-1958). These include copies of letters to Nathaniel B. Barnwell, and a brief memoir entitled "Colored Companies" concerning "two negro companies named in these letters" (not Confederate).
- 5 Research relating to the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery, including excerpts from the Statutes of South Carolina.
- 6 Two black and white photographs, one of which depicts two cannons. The other photo depicts the Beaufort Arsenal.
- 7 Typescript history of the 263<sup>rd</sup> Coast Artillery Regiment, South Carolina National Guard, compiled by Nora Marshall Davis.
- 8 Draft history of the 263<sup>rd</sup> Coast Artillery Regiment.
- 9 Booklet (1929?) containing a history of the 263<sup>rd</sup> Coast Artillery Regiment and other information about this unit.
- 10 Newspaper clippings relating to the BVA and the 263<sup>rd</sup> Coast Artillery Regiment.
- 11 Newspaper clipping of an article (1921) about the Battle of Honey Hill by Captain Ben S. Williams.
- 12 Miscellaneous items.