

## Guide to the Theodore K. Gibbs commissions, 1862, 1866



### Collection overview:

**Title:** Theodore K. Gibbs commissions  
**Date range(inclusive dates):** 1862, 1866  
**Creator:** Gibbs, Theodore K., 1840-1909  
**Extent:** 0.02 linear feet (1 oversize folder)  
**Abstract:** This collection consists of two United States Army commissions conferred upon Theodore K. Gibbs (1840-1909) of Newport, Rhode Island, during his service in the American Civil War.  
**Language of materials:** English  
**Repository:** Redwood Library & Athenaeum, Newport, Rhode Island  
**Collection number:** RLC.Ms.537

### Access and use:

**Access to the collection:** Access is open to members and researchers at the Redwood Library and Athenaeum.  
**Use of the materials:** This collection is owned by the Redwood Library and Athenaeum. Permission to publish materials must be obtained in writing from the Special Collections Librarian of the Redwood Library and Athenaeum.  
**Preferred citation:** Theodore K. Gibbs commissions, RLC.Ms.537, Redwood Library and Athenaeum.

### Administrative information:

#### About the collection

**Acquisition:** Acquisition information is unknown.  
**Processing information:** This collection was initially processed by Aimee Saunders in 2010.  
**About the finding aid**  
**Author and Encoding:** Elizabeth Delmage, 2013 September  
**Descriptive rules:** Finding aid based on Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS)

### Additional information:

**Sponsor:** Funding for processing and cataloging this collection was provided by the van Beuren Charitable Foundation.

**Biographical note:**

Theodore K. Gibbs (1840-1909) was born in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1840 and was the youngest son of Rhode Island Governor, William Channing Gibbs (1790-1871) and Mary Kane (1800-1873). Gibbs enlisted in the United States Army in October 1861 as the second lieutenant of the 1st Regiment of the United States Artillery and served throughout the American Civil War (1861-1865). He was appointed first lieutenant on February 20, 1862, and earned his next two rankings for the injuries he suffered and his gallantry during the Battle of Olustee, Florida, in February 1864 and the Battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia, in June 1864. He resigned from the Army on May 1, 1870, with the rank of major. Gibbs and his wife, Virginia Barrett (d. 1926), maintained homes in both New York City and Newport. Thomas K. Gibbs died on January 16, 1909.

**Scope and content note:**

This collection consists of two United States Army commissions conferred upon Theodore K. Gibbs for his service during the American Civil War. Gibbs was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant on April 16, 1862 by Edwin Stanton, (1814-1869), Secretary of War, and President Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865). This commission includes their original signatures. Gibbs was awarded the rank of captain on August 20, 1866, for his gallantry and meritorious service during the Battle of Olustee, Florida on February 20, 1864, by Stanton and President Andrew Johnson (1808-1875). This second commission does not include Stanton and Johnson's original signatures.

**Arrangement:**

This collection is arranged in chronological order.

**Inventory:**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Manuscripts Oversize	Commission as first lieutenant	1862 Apr 16
Box	Commission as captain	1866 Aug 20

**Access terms:****Names:**

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865  
Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875  
Stanton, Edwin McMasters, 1814-1869

**Subjects:**

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

**Genre terms:**

Military commissions