

**MARINE CORPS MUSEUM
QUANTICO, VA.**

LEVI TWIGGS

1834 - 1850



Manuscript Register Series

NUMBER FIVE

MUSEUM MANUSCRIPT REGISTER SERIES

The Register Series is prepared under the joint direction of the Curator of Manuscripts and the Senior Historian and will include similar registers of the papers of notable Marines held by the Marine Corps Museum. Use of the collection is restricted to the premises of the Marine Corps Museum, which, due to the limited staff, cannot undertake research within the collections for individual requestors. Serious scholars wishing to use the holdings will be welcomed by the Museum staff; however, since at present, space for researchers is somewhat limited, two weeks advance notice is requested. A letter specifying the intention of the researcher and the proposed date of his visit addressed to the Curator of Manuscripts, Marine Corps Museum, Quantico, Virginia 22134 will be of great assistance.

The Marine Corps Museum is located a few miles south of Washington D. C., just off Interstate 95 and is open daily to the public free of charge. The research facilities are open to users who have obtained prior authorization from the Curator from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, federal holidays excepted.

COVER SEAL

The seal used on the cover of this and other Marine Corps Museum publications is an interpretation of an 1812 U. S. Marine Corps hat device by JoAnn Wood.

REGISTER

OF THE

LEVI TWIGGS PAPERS

1834 - 1850

IN THE

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS MUSEUM

QUANTICO, VIRGINIA

COMPILED BY

DORIS S. DAVIS

INTRODUCTION

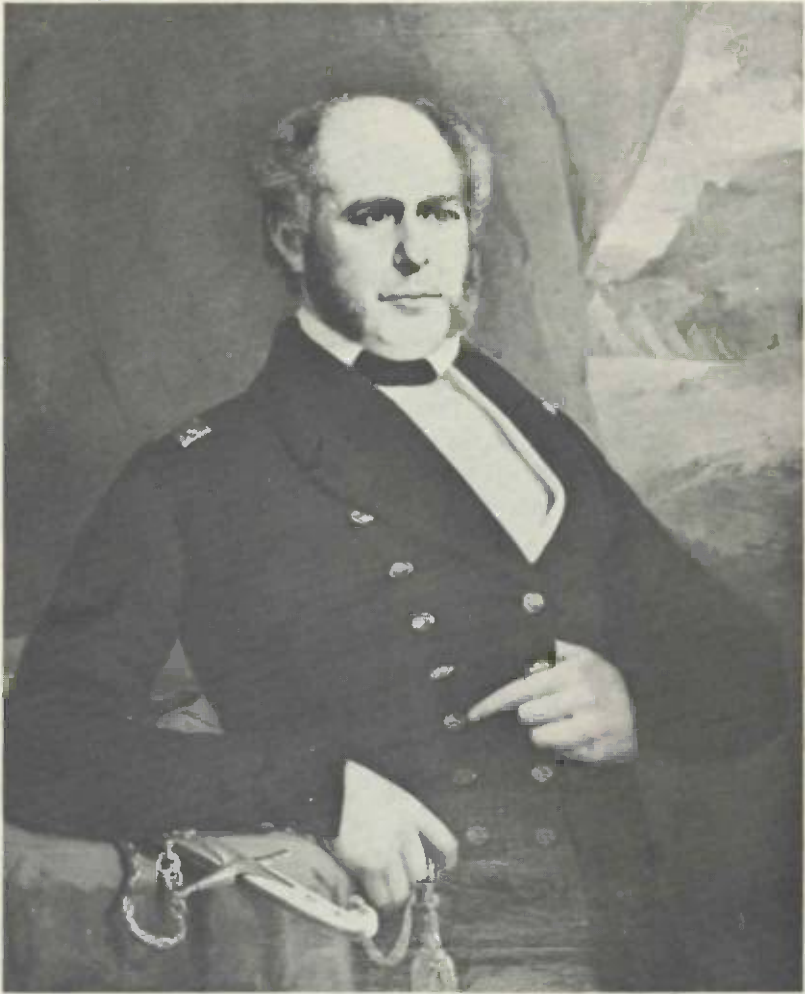
The Levi Twiggs Papers (P. C. 123) offer the student of the Mexican War an interesting and informed view of that conflict, since they contain not only Major Levi Twiggs' letters home, but those of his son, George who as a Lieutenant in the Army served with the 2nd Artillery and who was killed at Puente Nacional a brief month before his father fell to a Mexican marksman at Chapultepec. Priscilla Decatur Twiggs, to whom the majority of the letters were addressed, was the granddaughter of Stephen Decatur, one of the great American Naval heroes of all time. Also included in the correspondence are letters of Brigadier General David E. Twiggs, U. S. Army, an uncle of Levi, who commanded the 1st Brigade of the 2nd Army Division in Mexico.

Almost exclusively devoted to the Mexican War, the letters nevertheless contain a graphic insight into the life of the military family of the mid-nineteenth century.

FOREWORD

In 1967 the Marine Corps Museum implemented a program designed to acquire and preserve the personal papers of former Marines for future students of history. A substantial number of collections have been acquired, spanning the broad sweep of our nation's history from colonial times to the present. Many manuscripts have an appeal transcending Marine Corps history *per se*, and it is toward these that the Museum has addressed its initial efforts in organizing material. In order to introduce the collections to the academic community for scholarly exploitation, the Register Series was begun. It is hoped that this series will stimulate scholars to investigate this virgin field of military manuscripts in the pursuit of authenticity, accuracy, and, hopefully, a greater appreciation of what lies behind the more formal veneer of the "official records."

David E. Schwulst
Lieutenant Colonel, USMC
Director, Marine Corps Museums.



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Levi Twiggs, son of Major General John Twiggs of Revolutionary War fame, was born in Richmond County, Georgia on 21 May 1793. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1813, after an earlier and unsuccessful attempt in 1812 to obtain his parents consent to enter the service.

In 1815 he was promoted to First Lieutenant and served aboard the *PRESIDENT* under the command of Captain Stephen Decatur, whose granddaughter Priscilla he later married. The ensuing years were spent on normal tours of shore and sea duty with promotion to Captain in 1830.

In 1836 Twiggs was ordered to Georgia where he spent the following year fighting the Creeks and Seminoles in the heat of the Florida-Georgia Indian Wars. At the campaign's end, Twiggs returned to the normal peacetime duties of a Marine officer and in 1840 after ten years as a Captain, was promoted to Major. At the outbreak of the War with Mexico in 1847 Twiggs was again ordered to combat duty. It is this period of time which is most represented in the letters of this collection. At the storming of Chapultepec Castle during Winfield Scott's advance on Mexico City, Major Twiggs commanded a storming party and while leading this detachment in the assault on the Castle, he was killed by enemy fire. His son, Lieutenant George Twiggs, United States Army, whose correspondence forms a significant portion of the collection, had been killed less than a month earlier at the battle of Puente Nacional.

TABLE OF ARRANGEMENT OF COLLECTION

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LEVI TWIGGS PAPERS

(P. C. 123)

1834 - 1850

PERSONAL LETTERS

Folder 1

1834 2 July. LtCol Commandant Archibald Henderson, HQMC to The Honorable Mahlon Dickerson, Secretary of the Navy.

Captain Twiggs commissioned as a 1st Lieutenant on 18 June 1814 and entitled to Brevet promotion on 18 June 1824; his brevet commission to Captain was not dated until 21 March 1825; Captain Twiggs justly entitled to brevet promotion to Lieutenant Colonel on 18 June 1834.

(1834?) Captain Levi Twiggs to the President of the United States (Marked "Copy")

Refers to construction which the Executive has to give to an Act of Congress regarding brevet promotions for officers with ten years in grade; brings out the fact that he was not brevetted as Captain until 3 March 1825 although he was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant on 18 June 1814, which was perhaps an oversight because it was acted upon on the last day of the Session of Congress; tells of a letter that the Commandant wrote to the Secretary of the Navy regarding this on 2 July, but that the Secretary felt it was beyond his power and that only the President and Senate could afford relief; he asks the President to review the facts and submit his nomination for commission to Lieutenant Colonel to the Senate.

1845 10 December. Col Commandant and Brevet BrigGen Archibald Henderson, HQMC, Washington, D. C. to The Honorable George Bancroft, Secretary of the Navy.

Folder 1 (Cont'd)

1845

10 December (Cont'd)

A lengthy 4-page communication bringing to the attention of the Secretary of the Navy the fact that in 1845 there were 13 Captains and 40 Subaltern Officers; points out that in 1836 about one-half of the Corps was on sea duty and the other half at Naval Stations to protect public property; during this time hostilities broke out with the Creek Indians in Georgia and Alabama and he volunteered to proceed with one battalion to the scene of war; reported to General Scott at Columbus, Georgia; battalion was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Miller and was composed of guards from Philadelphia, Norfolk and Headquarters; the second battalion, under the command of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Freeman, was made up of guards from New York, Boston and Portsmouth; when battalions joined and formed a regiment they provided two-thirds to three-fourths of all the regular troops in that war; later part of the Marines were left to guard the mail route between Columbus, Georgia and Montgomery, Alabama; desires to show that the full strength of the Corps amounts to but few more than two regiments of the Army; feels the Corps should increase its rank and file in order to furnish relief guards and to be able to fully train the officers before sending them to sea.

1846

10 August. D. E. Twiggs to George D. Twiggs, Philadelphia, Pa.

Personal letter regarding family; mentions having ill will of General Scott.

25 October. Major Levi Twiggs, Washington City to His Honor the Mayor of the City of Baltimore.

Folder 1 (Cont'd)

1845 25 October (Cont'd)

Will visit Washington to remove remains of William Decatur to Philadelphia.

1846 26 October. Jacob G. Davis, Mayor's Office, Baltimore, Maryland to Major Levi Twiggs, USMC.

Refers to Major Twiggs' letter of 25 Inst; has ordered an escort under command of Major Law (?); will have a hearse at outer depot for military to take charge of corpse; requests change of time for corpse to leave outer depot so that military can turn out in strength.

Folder 2

1847 13 January. D. E. Twiggs, Victoria, Mexico to George D. Twiggs, Philadelphia.

Refers to letter of 25 September; no mail has left since he received letter; division to march the next day in direction of Tampico; Tulah, some 100 miles away, is occupied by Mexican forces under General Valencia, with 7,000 men; a note has been sent but Soctt has not replied though he expects to hear before they reach Tampico; violent storms have set in and there will be trouble debarking transports.

16 January. George D. Twiggs, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Miss A. C. Twiggs, c/o Mr. F. B. Stockton, Washington, D. C.

Personal letter; describes design for Uncle's monument; asks that Mrs. Decatur send impression in wax of the Decatur coat of arms.

Folder 2 (Cont'd)

1847 13 March. George D. Twiggs, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Miss Augusta Twiggs, Washington, D. C.

Asks again for the Decatur coat of arms which he intends to wear regardless of opinions regarding propriety; personal news.

16 March. George D. Twiggs, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Miss Augusta Twiggs, Washington, D. C.

Refers to letter his mother just received; vehemently denies a report that he had visited Washington on a "begging expedition"; says he had not even by letter made an application for an appointment; expresses his contempt of present administration - "Polk and his shallow cabinet" and says he could not honorably receive a commission from them; Whig papers are editorially declaring General Twiggs' right to a brevet; asks for two Army Registers for Dr. Meigs.

20 April. D. E. Twiggs, Jalapa, Mexico to George D. Twiggs, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

His division and General Shield's command met the enemy on the 18th; they were 13,000 strong; General Pillow attacked one portion of enemy; his command successful, 3,000 to 5,000 prisoners laid down their arms, including six Generals; says he is tired of bloodshed and hopes it will soon be over; has been appointed Governor of Jalapa which he didn't want; thinks next fight will be near City of Mexico; says Santa Anna's report of the battle of the 17th is that it was a brilliant

Folder 2 (Cont'd)

1847 20 April (Cont'd)

Mexican victory; heresay is that the Castle of Pesote will be surrendered without firing a shot; has lost some valuable officers and General Shields was mortally wounded.

1847 20 April. D. E. Twiggs, Jalapa, Mexico to George D. Twiggs, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Will endeavor to give history of his march from Vera Cruz to the day his command gave Santa Anna a "thoro thrashing"; marched with 1st Artillery, 87th Infantry under General Smith, 4th Artillery 2nd and 3rd Infantry under Colonel Riley, Colonel Hany with four companies, Taylor's Battery of Light Artillery and Talcott's Howitzer Brigade - total of 2500 regulars; found enemy occupying some 3 or 4 heights with 43 pieces of cannon; gives detailed account of battle and number wounded and killed on both sides; General Jessup, Quartermaster General, wishes him to transfer with him but he does not want to do so as long as there is any fighting.

Folder 3

1847 May. Archibald Henderson, HQMC, New York to Major Levi Twiggs, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Orders to detach all effective Privates on post to report to Lieutenant Colonel Miller to await arrival of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Watson; troops to be armed and equipped for field service.

20 May. Jno. A. Kearney, Mrs. Spriggs, Capitol Hill, Washington, D. C. to Major Levi Twiggs, Navy Yard, Philadelphia.

Folder 3 (Cont'd)

1847 20 May (Cont'd)

General Henderson suggested that Major Twiggs take river route with Colonel Watson on way to Vera Cruz; requests date of departure; General Henderson, his son, Lieutenant Henderson, Captain Terrett and other officers will accompany them to Ohio.

1847 20 May. Archibald Henderson, HQMC, Washington, D. C. to Major Levi Twiggs, Philadelphia.

Refers to letter of 19th Inst. and expresses gratitude of prompt and cheerful manner of the officers in sudden call to service in the field with the Army; family will not be disturbed in quarters.

21 May. Orders. By order of the Brevet BrigGen Commandant signed by P. G. Howle, Adjutant and Inspector, HQMC, Washington, D. C.

Orders for men on duty at shore stations and Gulf Squadron to be organized into a Battalion of six companies for duty with the Army in Mexico; to be placed under command of Major and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Samuel E. Watson.

21 May. Levi Twiggs, Baltimore to Mrs. Priscilla Twiggs, c/o Major Twiggs, Navy Yard, Philadelphia.

Will try to see the General and will write any further news.

27 May. George D. Twiggs to Miss Freddie Twiggs, Navy Yard, Philadelphia.

Personal letter; says father and brother are well.

Folder 3 (Cont'd)

1847 27 May. George W. Walker, Major and
Paymaster, Marine Corps, New York.

Statement that Major Levi Twiggs will be entitled from 1 June to six rations per day for 30 years service; balance to go to his family.

27 May. Levi Twiggs, City Hotel, New York to Mrs. Twiggs, Navy Yard, Philadelphia.

Personal letter; arrived yesterday; made arrangements with paymaster for monthly allowance; thinks he will not get off before Saturday.

27 May. George D. Twiggs, City Hotel, New York to his mother.

He and his father still there; do not know day of departure; Colonel Watson and Lieutenant Baker arrived; most of time spent drilling officers by Captain Reynolds and Pulizzi; Majors Dulaney and Macomber have not yet arrived; tells of fine looking troops; describes scenery; tells of changes in New York; closes by saying he has just seen the General and thinks Saturday will be day of sailing; Doctors Edwards and McSherry have arrived.

30 May. George D. Twiggs, City Hotel, New York to his mother.

Troops to embark tomorrow; assures his mother of sufficient troops to repel any enemy; upwards of 350 well drilled men await their arrival at Sacrificios.

Folder 3 (Cont'd)

1847 31 May. Levi Twiggs, New York to Mrs.
Priscilla Twiggs, Philadelphia.

Arrived last night; Mr. Sutherland met him at boat and took charge of the men; to sail at 11 o'clock today.

31 May. George D. Twiggs, City Hotel,
New York to his mother.

His father has arrived and they are ready to sail at 11 o'clock.

Afternoon, 31 May. George D. Twiggs, Fort
Hamilton to his mother.

A long four page letter written just prior to their sailing; describes splendor and comfort of ship; says strength will be about 1,000 men on their march to General Scott's encampment; tells of various articles his father purchased; thanks his mother for things she sent; letter was finished the next morning just minutes before going aboard the ship; says passage to Vera Cruz will take about 25 days.

Folder 4

1847 2 June. Levi Twiggs aboard Ship ATLAS
to Mrs. Priscilla D. Twiggs, Philadelphia.

Personal letter saying they have just sailed and that George will occupy a berth in his stateroom.

2 June. George D. Twiggs, Ship ATLAS,
off Sandy Hook to his sister, Guss.

Folder 4 (Cont'd)

1847 2 June (Cont'd)

A short letter saying they sailed at 11 o'clock on 1 June and arrived at Sandy Point at 6 p.m.; they are now standing out to sea and will sail very shortly.

1847 2 June. Levi Twiggs, Ship ATLAS at Sea to Miss Frederica Twiggs, Philadelphia.

A note to say they are well and now at sea.

6 June. George D. Twiggs, ship ATLAS at Sea to his mother.

A long personal letter telling how he feels about life and what are his dues; at end says it is 5th day at sea and they have had very rough weather; he and his father have escaped being seasick. A note at bottom of letter from Levi Twiggs to his wife.

12 June. George D. Twiggs, Ship ATLAS at Sea to his sister, Guss.

A personal letter recounting events of the trip as they go along; they made Great Abaco on 10 June; describes the freak of nature here; Tuesday, 15 June - tells of good sailing weather, good fishing and beauty of the sea; they hope to be in Vera Cruz by the 1st or 4th of July; Wednesday, 16 June - Island of Cuba in sight; describes his appearance and his father's; says he has written Mr. Ewing requesting him to use his influence for a commission preferably in Dragoons or Artillery; does not want the Marine Corps unless nothing better can be gotten.

Folder 4 (Cont'd)

1847 12 June. Levi Twiggs, Ship ATLAS at Sea to his wife, and George D. Twiggs to sister Freddy.

Personal letter telling of location and how much he misses his family; says they expect to reach Vera Cruz in 20 or 25 days.

16 June. Levi Twiggs, Ship ATLAS at Sea off Pass of Matanzas to daughter, Frederica.

Short personal letter telling of beauty of water and fish; fell in with ship CLIFTON bound for New Orleans.

(1847?) George Decatur Twiggs to his father.

Received \$51.50 from Mr. Rich; requests that he make the necessary change; says quarters are good; will join you in Mexico as soon as possible; asks that he get "Uncle David" to get him a retroactive appointment as his ". . . volunteer aide"; says Baker included him among officers but "I do not sail under false colors, and prefer the ADC."

18 June. George D. Twiggs to his father.

Has refused to give bonds and would prefer prison; asks that he not interfere for his release by money; feels that Commodore Perry when he hears of it, will come up with his squadron and all will be well; has given a written protest against his illegal arrest; trusts to hear from Commodore Perry soon and will then join his father in Vera Cruz; added a note that the Spainards have adopted McDuffie's plan of bayonets 3 and 4 inches longer.

Folder 4 (Cont'd)

1847

18 June. Major Levi Twiggs, Ship ATLAS off the Moro to George D. Twiggs.

Regrets the unpleasant dilemma and trusts the visit of Captain Reynolds will be able to release them; if he goes to Vera Cruz without him sends \$50.00 for his use; suggests that if he gets permission to leave the Island that he return to Philadelphia.

18 June. Major Levi Twiggs, Ship ATLAS off Havana to his wife.

Tells his wife of the arrest of Lieutenants Baker, Rich and Jones together with George as they went ashore to obtain fruit and fresh provisions; fine was set at \$200 each but by intercession of Captain Gallagher of the Barque LOUISA of Philadelphia the fine was remitted; boat will be sent in to try to effect their release; informs her that he has advised George to return to Philadelphia.

18 June. George D. Twiggs, Havana, Cuba to his sister Frederica.

Tells her of their arrest by order of Don Jose'Almeria, Captain of the Port for having entered without a permit; states they did stop at Moro Castle and arranged for permission to enter the city; sends a fan and two little notebooks; has just learned they will be released in a few minutes and will rejoin ship bound for Vera Cruz; feels entire matter will be made public and redress through the Government demanded.

20 June. George D. Twiggs, Havana, Cuba to his mother.

Folder 4 (Cont'd)

1847 20 June (Cont'd)

A long 7 page letter giving full details of their arrest and subsequent events; asks her to direct a copy of this letter less any private news to Mr. Morris at PENN INQUIRER so that the whole affair can be made public.

1847 23 June. George D. Twiggs, Havana, Cuba to his sister, Guss.

The Captain General of the Island has discovered that he cannot execute his plan of imprisonment in the Moro so has given them the limits of the city; it is the opinion of American and English residents that the authorities regret the course they took and will rescind the fine; he plans to demand his expenses and a reparation for "indignity's offered"; describes the beauty of the island; tells of a funeral of a negro and of accidentally witnessing an execution; expresses his opinion of priests there as being a "Contemptible set"; his father is now on his way to Vera Cruz and will join him as soon as he is liberated.

25 June. George D. Twiggs, Havana, Cuba to his mother.

A personal letter; describes in detail the government of the island.

29 June. Levi Twiggs, Ship ATLAS, Vera Cruz to his wife.

A further account of the arrest and detention of Lieutenant Jones and George Twiggs at Havana; criticizes the Captain of the ship for not going into the harbor; adds a postscript

Folder 4 (Cont'd)

1847 29 June (Cont'd)

that it is reported that General Scott died a week ago at Puebla and that there is much sickness in the city.

1847 29 June. George D. Twiggs, Havana, Cuba to his sister, Anna.

A long 5 page letter describing in detail a church service and how a Sunday is spent by the people of the Island.

30 June. George D. Twiggs, Havana to his sister Guss.

Today terminates imprisonment; the Judge, the Consul Cabell and Lieutenant Berryman held a consultation and will pay fine "under protest" which will in no way relinquish their position for a future claim; has had information that General Scott has fallen back and that the Mexicans had been reinforced by 23,000 well-equipped men; hopes to sail next day on Brig SELINA for New Orleans, thence a steamer to Vera Cruz and by forced marches to join their column; contains 5 closely hand written pages further describing the island.

A post script was added dated 9 July 1847, Mississippi River, 10 miles below New Orleans.

Left Havana as expected on 1 July; will be in New Orleans tonight and plan to leave for Vera Cruz tomorrow.

(1847?) Unsigned letter but evidently written by Lieutenant Jones and George D. Twiggs to Editors of the PICAYUNE.

Folder 4 (Cont'd)

1847 Requests that a true statement of the facts in the case of their arrest be inserted in the paper since an erroneous statement of the difficulty had appeared in the FARS INDUSTRIAL de la HABANA; gives a full account of the facts,

Folder 5

1847 1 July. Levi Twiggs, Vera Cruz, Mexico to his wife.

 Thinks they will leave for the interior on 10th or 15th of July; will have a force of 3,000 which will be sufficient to cope with anything they may encounter enroute; is pleased that report of General Scott's death was false.

1 July. Levi Twiggs, Vera Cruz, Mexico to George D. Twiggs.

 Expects to debark on 2 July and encamp about 3 miles from city where General Pierce is located with about 1800 men and then march with them into the interior in about 10 days; hopes Jones and he will be able to join them; expects fighting enroute.

5 July. Levi Twiggs, Camp near Vera Cruz to his wife.

 Landed from ship 2 days ago and plans to leave for the interior in a day or so; a report has reached him of the prospect of peace; Mexican Congress to assemble to decide on the propagations presented by Mr. Trist; saw Commodore Perry who will immediately send Sloop ALBANY to Havana to demand the release of George and Lieutenant Jones.

Folder 5 (Cont'd)

1847 10 July. Levi Twiggs, Camp near Vera Cruz to his wife.

Under orders to be ready to march on Saturday; encamped on ground occupied by General Twiggs during the seige; weather is very hot.

12 July. George D. Twiggs, St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans to his mother.

Arrived there late Saturday; sends the paper PICAYUNE which contains a full statement of the case and approved of by General Brooke; the General thinks U. S. government will take immediate action; he and Lieutenant Jones will leave on first steamer for Vera Cruz which he hopes will be the following Thursday; has not seen his father but has reports he is well; says that all the "Old Army" speaks very highly of the Marines.

13 July. George D. Twiggs, St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans to his mother.

No further news; Captain of the Transport is there but not very popular with the officers; received a report of encampment where his father is and all was well; Devlin is being tried on charges of insubordination; Sutherland has been appointed Quartermaster; Lieutenants Caldwell and Read have joined them; reports that a few cases of yellow fever exist but nothing serious.

(Letter is incomplete, apparently second page is missing.)

14 July. Levi Twiggs, Camp near Vera Cruz to his wife.

Folder 5 (Cont'd)

1847 14 July (Cont'd)

Hopes to leave there sometime during the day; heard that George and Lieutenant Jones had arrived in New Orleans; was reported that General Pillow had reached General Scott with little loss and that the Mexicans were to confer with the General at a town between Puebla and City of Mexico with the hope for peace; Lieutenant Whipple of the 9th Regiment of Infantry imprudently went outside the walls of the town and was murdered.

1847 15 July. E. J. Gomez, New Orleans to Jas. L. Fraener, Esq, Puebla.

Letter of recommendation and introduction for George D. Twiggs and John H. Jones.

16 July. Levi Twiggs, Camp near Vera Cruz to George D. Twiggs.

Will leave this afternoon for the interior so gives up all hope of seeing him until perhaps in the fall; suggests he return home.

22 July. George D. Twiggs, Vera Cruz, Mexico to his mother.

Arrived two days ago after a pleasant trip; went to city and saw Colonel Wilson (the Governor) who informed him that his father left with General Pierce's Brigade on last Friday numbering in force 2500 to 3000 men; another train will not leave until 1000 men had been collected which will probably mean a wait of 2 or 3 weeks; located his trunk; announces death of Lieutenant Parker of the Navy and Captain Duff of 3rd Dragoons

Folder 5 (Cont'd)

1847 22 July (Cont'd)

and Lieutenant Porter from the sickness; has heard that his father's train had a sharp brush with the guerrillas but no officers were injured; Field and Read did not go with the regiment; English Courier reported that General Scott was at his old camp, Cadwalader at Jalapa, Pillow some 30 miles to his rear and Pierce near the bridge.

1847 30 July. George D. Twiggs, Camp Bergara, Mexico to his sister, Miss Augusta Twiggs.

Has been encamped for a week and as yet does not know when they will march; they now number about 800 men; the English Courier reported that Santa Anna was at Rio Frio with a force of 22,000 and that General Scott was moving up to give him battle; General Pierce has had sharpe brushes with the guerrillas and he feels this information will speed their departure; Colonel Wilson, their commanding officer, has arrived; Major Smith died of the fever; Lieutenant Jones has a very light case of it; went out with a scouting party yesterday to search for guerrillas; a regiment of Illinois volunteers expected shortly to join them and march into the interior.

Folder 6

1847 1 August, Levi Twiggs, Perote, Mexico to his wife.

Arrived 2 days ago after a very tiring 14 day march; were fired upon at the National Bridge by a small guerrilla force wounding three of the infantry soldiers; bridge was destroyed and had to build a ford; will leave

Folder 6 (Cont'd)

1847 1 August (Cont'd)

in the morning to join Army at Puebla in 6 or 7 days; Generals LaVega and Herrera are said to be here but has not seen them; hopes she has heard from George.

1847 3 August. George D. Twiggs, Camp Bergara, Mexico to his mother.

Will probably leave tomorrow; have 900 Infantry and 100 Georgia Dragoons together with 2 field pieces which should insure them safe journey; all are under command of Colonel Wilson of the 12th Infantry; region very unhealthy and many have died from the fever. (A postscript added on 4 August) - to leave in the afternoon.

6 August. George D. Twiggs, Camp Bergera, Mexico to his sister Frederica.

Were to have marched 2 days ago but the train was not in perfect readiness so now they plan to march the afternoon of this date; Jones is better but cannot march so will probably return home; Mc Laughlin of the Navy has the fever; Perry, a Marine officer, has the fever on board the MISSISSIPPI; Lieutenant Adams, of the Marine Corps, will go with them to join the regiment.

10 August. George D. Twiggs, San Juan, 18 miles from Vera Cruz, Mexico to his mother.

Left Bergara Friday afternoon; Major Lally of the 9th Infantry commanding; Colonel Wilson has the fever; have encountered first fighting; at least 2 killed and 3 wounded by the guerrillas; will leave this encampment

Folder 6 (Cont'd)

1847 10 August (Cont'd)

this afternoon; his horse was shot but was provided another by the Dragoons; has been transferred from the Artillery to Major Lally's staff as aide.

1847 12 August. George D. Twiggs, Pase Veho, 7 miles from National Bridge to his mother.

Reports a bad skirmish with the enemy during which many were wounded and killed; Captain Colinell (?) and Captain Cummings killed.

22 August. Lieutenant Henry B. Sears, 2nd Artillery, Jalapa, Mexico to Mrs. Priscilla D. Twiggs, mother of George D. Twiggs.

Informs her of death of George D. Twiggs on 12 August at the battle of National Bridge; was killed while assisting in drawing one of the pieces up the hill; was shot through the body.

24 August. Levi Twiggs, San Augustine, Mexico, 9 miles from the City of Mexico to his wife.

Waiting news of a conference touching on the subject of peace; have participated in no battles owing to hostility between General Twiggs and General Scott; they have about 1200 prisoners, many of these officers of all grades.

Folder 7

1847 5 October. J. H. Jones, Adjutant General's Office, Washington to Miss Augusta Twiggs.

Reports no news of her brother, George D. Twiggs; has received no official report in a long time.

Folder 7 (Cont'd),

1847 18 October. J. H. Jones, Adjutant General's Office, Washington to Miss Augusta Twiggs.

As she requested he has contacted Colonel Wilson to have remains of George D. Twiggs placed in a proper coffin and kept in a place of safety until her father arrives in Vera Cruz or until arrangements can be made for its removal to the north.

23 October. Archibald Henderson, Marine Barracks, Washington to Mrs. Priscilla D. Twiggs.

Expression of sympathy in loss of her husband and son.

26 October. E. G. Sheden (?), Brooklyn to Anna, sister of George D. Twiggs.

Expression of sympathy in their loss,

20 November. P. G. Howle, Adjutant and Inspector's Office, HQMC, Washington, D. C. to Mrs. Priscilla D. Twiggs, Washington, D. C.

Expression of sympathy on death of husband and enclosing a copy of an order occasioned by his death.

20 November. Orders. By order of BrigGen Commandant signed by P. G. Howle, Adjutant and Inspector Marine Corps.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps announces to the officers and soldiers the death of Major Levi Twiggs while leading his command on the 13th of September under the

Folder 7 (Cont'd)

1847 20 November (Cont'd)

walls of the City of Mexico; badge of mourning to be worn by officers of the Corps for one month and flag to be flown at half mast on 21 November.

Folder 8

1848 29 February. John G. Reynolds, City of Mexico to Mrs. Priscilla D. Twiggs, c/o General A. Henderson, Commanding Marine Corps, Headquarters, Washington.

Refers to her letter of 10 January addressed to Lieutenant Sutherland in which she requests details of Major Levi Twiggs death; he writes every detail leading up to his death and events taking place afterwards.

15 December. D. H. Smith, Paymaster's Office, Washington, D. C. to Mrs. Priscilla D. Twiggs.

Enclosing three months extra pay and adjusting a previous overpayment.

1849 2 June. W. Ballard Preston, Navy Department to Lieutenant Wm. D. Henst, U. S. Navy, Brooklyn, New York.

Request for his attendance as a witness before a Naval Court Martial to commence at Navy Yard, Portsmouth on Monday next.

1850 21 December. J. Casey, House of Representatives, Washington to Mrs. Priscilla D. Twiggs.

Refers to her letter of 18 December regarding compensation to the family; promises to do all he can to mould the Act to do justice to the family.

Folder 9

Undated A 12 page undated, unaddressed and unsigned communication staunchly defending the Marine Corps, its officers and men and their accomplishments; compares size of Marine Corps with Army and Navy and rank of their leaders; criticizes the Secretary for his remarks regarding the fact that the forces of the Marine Corps were so divided between shore stations and sea duty; reasons that though divided the strength still remains; points out instances such as revolt of convicts at Massachusetts State Prison, Battle of Bladensburg and incident at Philadelphia Navy Yard - all defended by a small band of Marines - as proof of bravery and strength of the Corps; feels that if Field Officers of Marine Corps can be dispensed with then the same is true of the Army and Navy.

Undated "To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress Assembled - The Memorial and petition of Mrs. P. Decatur Twiggs respectfully sheweth-"

A petition seeking relief for the family; this petition traces service to country back through the family. Unsigned.

MARINE CORPS MUSEUM
MANUSCRIPT REGISTER SERIES

Number One	Henry Clay Cochrane, 1841 - 1947
Number Two	McLane Tilton, 1861 - 1914
Number Three	Samuel Miller, 1814 - 1856
Number Four	George C. Reid, 1898 - 1960
Number Five	Levi Twiggs, 1834 - 1850