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Humanities and Social Sciences Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**United States Sanitary Commission Records
1861-1878
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Summary

- Main entry:** United States Sanitary Commission
- Title:** United States Sanitary Commission records, 1861-1878 (bulk 1861-1872)
- Source:** Gift of the United States Sanitary Commission to the Astor Library in 1879. The Astor Library was incorporated into The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations in 1895.
- Size:** 1193 boxes, 333 volumes
- Abstract:** The United States Sanitary Commission, 1861-1879, was a civilian organization authorized by the federal government to provide sanitary and medical assistance to the Union volunteer forces during the United States Civil War, 1861-1865. Its predecessor organization, the Woman's Central Association of Relief, was founded in April, 1861, and later became a branch of the USSC. After the war the USSC continued its work of helping servicemen and their families file claims for back pay, pension, and other benefits, and oversaw the publication of various histories of its war work. The collection consists of correspondence, memoranda, minutes, reports, registers, diaries, financial records, scrapbooks, maps, posters, photographs, printed matter, and ephemera concerning the Commission's sanitary, medical and relief work. The collection also includes the records of the Association for the Relief of the Misery of Battle Fields, founded by USSC officers and former associates.
- Access:** Access to much of the collection is restricted due to its fragile condition, and lack of proper arrangement and identification. Additional portions of the collection will be opened once they have received the necessary preservation treatment, arrangement, and description.
- Microfilm or digital formats must be used in lieu of originals when available.*
- The following records have been microfilmed by Scholarly Resources, Inc.:
- Medical Committee Archives, Boxes 1-26, 30-36.
 - Statistical Bureau Archives, Camp Inspection reports, Boxes 118-119
- The published guide to the microfilm, [United States Sanitary Commission records ... : guide to the Scholarly Resources microfilm edition](#), is available on the Thomson Gale website and in the Manuscripts reading room.
- Photographs from the collection may be consulted on the New York Public Library's [Digital Gallery](#) website.
- Preferred citation:** United States Sanitary Commission Records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Historical Note

The United States Sanitary Commission (USSC), 1861-1878, was a civilian organization authorized by the United States government to provide medical and sanitary assistance to the Union volunteer forces during the United States Civil War (1861-1865). As the USSC broadened the scope of its work during the war, Regular troops, sailors and others also benefited from its services.

The USSC's roots lay in the collaborative efforts of New York City's civic leaders, medical community, and particularly the Woman's Central Association of Relief to channel the public's outpouring of support and concern for the troops in ways most useful to the government and the military at the start of the war in April 1861.

A delegation to Washington in May, 1861 representing these groups led to the appointment of "A Commission of Inquiry and Advice in respect of the Sanitary Interests of the United States Forces" to work in collaboration with the War Department and Medical Bureau, as ordered by the Secretary of War on June 9, 1861, and approved by President Lincoln on June 13. The commission was named the United States Sanitary Commission and officers were elected from among its members. Rev. Dr. Henry Whitney Bellows, a Unitarian minister and president of the Woman's Central Association of Relief, served as President, Alexander Dallas Bache as Vice-President, and George Templeton Strong as Treasurer. Frederick Law Olmsted was hired as General Secretary.

The USSC did not receive funding from the federal government. Its work was supported by donations of cash and supplies from supporters at home and abroad. Insurance companies were solicited. Soldiers aid societies collected supplies and funds, and Sanitary Fairs were held in major metropolitan areas. Funds were also raised by Western states and territories, notably the state of California. Money also came from supporters in England, Scotland, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Russia, Turkey, China, Japan, the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), as well as Costa Rica, Chili, Peru, Buenos Aires, Canada, and Cuba.

It was a guiding principle of the USSC that it should work only to supplement, not supplant or compete with, the work of the government. The Commission began its work investigating the condition of the troops. Its members formed committees to conduct camp and hospital inspections, collect statistics, and prepare reports on sanitary practice, preparation of food, and the quality of supplies. In the early months of its investigations, the Sanitary Commission looked carefully at the lessons of the Crimean War, when British forces lost many men to disease caused by unsanitary conditions.

The Commissioners, who formed what was initially described as an executive board or legislative council, met on a quarterly basis throughout the war to review submitted reports and to set general policy. The Board usually met in Washington, D.C. Once military actions began and the USSC added relief work to its sanitary inspection work across great geographical distances, the committee structure was gradually replaced by an executive administrative structure.

The demands of the war also created a need for more frequent decision-making. This led to the creation of the Standing Committee, which met on a daily basis in New York City where most of its members resided. The Standing Committee initially consisted of five Commissioners who retained their position for the entire war: Rev. Henry W. Bellows, George Templeton Strong, William H. Van Buren, M.D., Cornelius R. Agnew, M.D., and Wolcott Gibbs. Charles J. Stillé, Esq., of Philadelphia joined the Standing Committee in 1864. Their decisions were implemented and were informed by the General Secretary, who in turn worked with the Associate Secretary of the East (Eastern Department), based in Washington, D.C., and the Associate Secretary of the West (Western Department), based in Louisville, Kentucky. The General Secretary and the Associate Secretary of the East were located at the USSC's Washington headquarters at 244 F

Street. John S. Newberry, M.D., was Associate Secretary of the West throughout the war. (The Western Department should not be confused with the Western Sanitary Commission, an independent organization that declined to join the USSC. Its headquarters was located in St. Louis, Missouri.) The Associate Secretaries were responsible for the general supervision of regional offices and departments, supply depots and special relief services in their geographical territory. They made sure the supply needs of inspectors and relief agents serving with the Armies in the field were met, and coordinated operations at major battles. Louisville and Washington were also the location of the USSC's two largest supply depots.

A third Associate Secretary position was later created for the Chief of Inspection, who oversaw a network of chief inspectors, relief agents and supply depots that operated within or near military lines. The inspectors and relief agents accompanied particular Army units on the march as well as units sent by sea on special expeditions. Once a military presence was established in an area, the USSC set up more permanent quarters. USSC inspectors of U.S. Army General Hospitals and Naval hospitals also reported to the Chief of Inspection.

The central administration was supported by the work of its branch offices, often called agencies. The USSC provided hospital supplies, clothing and food contributed by aid societies, which were channeled geographically through large branch offices across the Union to major USSC supply depots. The branches were semi-independent regional offices with their own administration under the direction of the USSC. It was believed that donations and supplies could more effectively be raised through local efforts, and distributed more efficiently according to need by a central bureaucracy in official communication with the government. There were also branches located in London, England and Paris, France. Women's branches such as the Woman's Central Association of Relief, the New England Women's Auxiliary Association and the Pennsylvania Women's Branch worked closely with the USSC offices in their cities – the New York Agency, the Philadelphia Agency, and the Executive Committee of Boston Associates.

The Board and Standing Committee relied on an enforced system of regional and functional reporting to maintain control and communication, and to formulate policy. The number of employees on the Commission's roster varied from one hundred fifty to seven hundred, the average number being about three hundred. While some men and women, at all levels of service, preferred to work on a volunteer basis, as a rule officers and employees received salaries as a matter of policy to ensure accountability and consistency in the work force. As Charles J. Stillé wrote, their work was "too full of toil, drudgery and repulsive reality," especially in the field, to be sustained solely by volunteer workers.

The collection of statistics was instrumental to the USSC's work. USSC inspectors conducted camp and hospital inspections, reporting their findings according to specially prepared questionnaires. They also collected information on the physical condition and social background of volunteer soldiers. This information was submitted to the USSC's Statistical Bureau which compiled abstracts from the data to make recommendations for sanitary policy and other studies. The Statistical Bureau was headed by E.B. Elliott, and later by Benjamin A. Gould. It reported directly to the General Secretary.

The scope of the USSC's work grew as the war progressed. It worked with the military to improve transportation of the sick and wounded. It staffed hospital steamers and other ships, some provided by the Quartermaster General, to transport the wounded. It developed special railway cars and ambulances, and used refrigerated rail transport to bring fresh food to hospitals after major battles such as Gettysburg. The USSC created several large 'hospital gardens' during the war to provide fresh vegetables for patients and for troops in the field, to battle the spread of scurvy.

The USSC's circulars, broadsides, pamphlets and publications such as the *Sanitary Reporter* (in the West) and the *Sanitary Bulletin* (in the East) were vitally important in keeping the public aware and supportive of its work. Agents traveled throughout the country giving lectures and fundraising.

The USSC published medical and surgical essays on topics such as scurvy, dysentery, and amputation for free distribution to military medical personnel. The USSC made use of photography during and after the war to support its work and document its achievements.

USSC agents engaged in general, or field relief, attended to the needs of troops on the march. Battlefield relief consisted of transporting and providing extra medical supplies at times of battle and caring for the wounded on the field. Often the lines between these two categories blurred. Out of this work, and in addition to it, grew the USSC's Auxiliary Relief Corps (1864) whose workers provided feeding stations for soldiers in transit to and from hospitals, assisted sick soldiers in hospital with letter-writing and other personal needs, and attended to the wounded arriving in ambulances. The USSC's Special Relief Department, established at the beginning of the war and directed by Frederick N. Knapp, ran a network of soldiers' homes and lodges, usually at transit points, that provided food and shelter to sick, wounded or exhausted soldiers on their way to or from home, camp, regiment, or hospital. USSC agents were also stationed at large convalescent camps to assist soldiers with health needs, letter-writing, and paper work concerning discharge, sick pay, and other claims. The exposure to disease and incessant overwork resulted in death or lifelong illness for a number of USSC relief workers, including both men and women.

The USSC established the Hospital Directory in 1862 to collect and record information concerning the location of sick and wounded soldiers in U.S. Army general hospitals, and to provide that information to the public. Its four offices in Washington, DC; Louisville, KY; Philadelphia, PA, and New York, NY also gathered information from other hospitals and locations, and searched for soldiers who had lost contact with family and friends. Hospital patient data was also used by the Statistical Bureau for the evaluation of medical performance.

Assisting soldiers and their families, without charge, to fill out the proper government forms to obtain back pay, pensions, bounty and prize monies became an increasingly important part of the USSC's special relief work. In 1864, it formed the United States Sanitary Commission Army & Navy Claim Agency in Washington, DC to better organize its work. Local claim agencies such as the Protective War Claim Association of the State of New York, located in Manhattan, and the Protective War Claim and Pension Agency, located in Philadelphia, were part of the USSC network of local agents forwarding claims to the central office in Washington for processing with the government.

When the war ended in April, 1865, the USSC continued much needed relief work with returning prisoners of war, discharged soldiers, and those remaining in hospitals. By July, branches were bringing their work to a close. Active relief work related to the war ceased officially on October 1, 1865.

The post-war years of the USSC saw continued activity. Branches continued to tie up loose ends and to prepare their records for shipment to the USSC's Historical Bureau. The Historical Bureau (1865-1868) was established in New York City to arrange, catalog, and preserve the records for future use by the public, and to aid in the preparation of several planned histories of the USSC's war work. The Medical Committee, under the direction of Elisha Harris, M.D., collected documentation for histories of war-time medical, surgical, and sanitary practice, while others worked on histories of statistical, special relief, and other USSC activities.

The USSC Army & Navy Claim Agency and the Protective War Claim agencies in New York and Philadelphia stopped accepting new claims in 1866, but continued working on pending cases and brought most work to a close by 1870. Their records were among the last to be received by the Sanitary Commission.

Also during this period, USSC officers and former associates such as Frederick Law Olmsted established the American Association for the Relief of the Misery of Battle Fields (1866-1870) as the first American branch of the Comité International de Secours aux Militaires Blessés, later known as the Red Cross. The records of the AARMBF are found in the records of the United States Sanitary Commission.

John S. Blatchford, General Secretary from 1865 to the early 1870s, remained actively engaged in supervising the collection and arrangement of records, supervising the publications, and handling any pending business under the direction of the Standing Committee, which held its final meeting in 1878. Rev. Dr. Henry Whitney Bellows, president of the USSC since 1861, officially brought its affairs to a close on 7 February 1879.

Custodial History

The records of the United States Sanitary Commission were collected and arranged at the USSC's Historical Bureau, located at 21 West 12th Street, New York City, from 1865 to 1868.

In 1868 the records were physically transferred to Astor Library, which provided a room for the Sanitary Commission to store its records and to carry out its affairs. During this time additional branch records and the records of the claim agencies were received, and the Commission's large collection of printed matter was organized. From 1868 to circa 1871, a comprehensive arrangement, boxing and cataloging of the collection was carried out under the direction of the USSC's General Secretary, incorporating these additions.

The USSC conducted a third arrangement of the collection in 1878 prior to the formal gift of the records to the Astor Library. The details of the gift were arranged in November and December of 1878, and confirmed by Bellows' letter of 7 January 1879. The Astor Library was incorporated into The New York Public Library in 1895.

It should be noted that not all of the organizations involved with the Sanitary Commission are represented in the Archives. Some organizations and offices did not submit their records, while others asked to have them returned. In addition to the multiple comprehensive arrangements mentioned above, the records bear evidence of arrangements reflecting their original use during the war, and post-war use of selected records by the USSC for specific purposes.

Access Note

The collection guide presented here describes only those portions of the records that are open for research. Due to the many uses to which the records were put by the USSC, and the various arrangements and enumerations they received, not to mention their age and fragility, it has been necessary to close much of the collection to research. Once the materials have been properly identified, arranged, and restored or reformatted, they will be made available for research use. The record groups that remain completely closed at this time are Accounts and Vouchers, Archives Registers, Army of the Potomac Archives, California Branch Archives, Claim Agencies Archives, Department of North Carolina Archives, Department of the Gulf. New Orleans Louisiana Archives, Department of the Shenandoah Archives, Executive Committee of Boston Associates Archives, Louisville Hospital Directory, Maryland Archives, New England Women's Auxiliary Association Archives, New York, N.Y. Archives, Pennsylvania Archives, Special Inspection of General Army Hospital Archives, Special Relief Archives, Washington, D.C. Archives, Western Department Archives.

Researchers are required to use microfilm, digital surrogates, or published volumes of materials described below if they are available elsewhere in the library.

Series Descriptions and Container List

Medical Committee Archives, 1861-1866

14 reels of microfilm. Additional material will be added as processed.

The Medical Committee, under the direction of Elisha Harris, M.D., was organized to collect and organize papers concerning sanitary and medical work during the Civil War, both as a permanent historical record and as a resource for writing histories of the USSC's sanitary and medical work during the war. The records, many dating from 1865-1866, contain reports from physicians and surgeons (including Confederate medical personnel) relating to illness, wounds, disease, hygiene and living conditions of the troops. Also present are drafts of medical treatises, weather reports, inspection reports, maps, plans, and photographs.

See *Guide to the Scholarly Resources Microfilm Edition* (use links below) for description and reel list. A print copy of the guide is available in the Manuscripts reading room.

- Introduction [[pdf](#), 11 KB]
- Roll Contents [[pdf](#), 110 KB]
- Subject Index [[pdf](#), 16 KB]
- Prominent Correspondents Index [[pdf](#), 9 KB]

Statistical Bureau Archives. Camp Inspection Returns, 1861-1864

14 reels microfilm. Additional material will be added as processed.

The Statistical Bureau, organized in late 1861/early 1862, was a special department of the USSC. Its purpose was to compile statistics on the sanitary condition and medical treatment of soldiers as a basis for recommendations to the government. After the war it functioned on a limited basis supporting the publication work of the Historical Bureau and Medical Committee. Records include correspondence, examination forms, questionnaires, memoranda and reports.

The Camp Inspection Returns include over 1400 questionnaires concerning condition of the soldiers and their camps. The questionnaire forms contained up to 191 questions, including those identifying the name and location of the camp, type of soil and drainage, quality of food and water, availability of liquor, and background of medical personnel.

See *Guide to the Scholarly Resources Microfilm Edition* (use links below) for description and reel list.

Statistical Bureau Archives, Camp Inspection Returns, 1861-1864

- Introduction [[pdf](#), 11 KB]
- Roll Contents [[pdf](#), 116 KB]
-

Index to Camp Inspection Records [[pdf](#), 35 KB]

Hospital Directory Archives, 1862-1866

This created record group brings together the records of the four regional offices of the United States Sanitary Commission's Hospital Directory (Washington, New York, Philadelphia and Louisville), which were previously arranged in two series reflecting the USSC's eastern and western operational headquarters in Washington and Louisville. The offices, operations and records of the United States Sanitary Commission's Hospital Directory are described in the guide to the [Washington Hospital Directory Archives](#). The Washington Hospital Directory Archives contain the records of the Washington and New York offices. At present, the records of the Louisville, and Philadelphia offices are not available.

Washington Hospital Directory Archives, 1862-1866

83 boxes. [See separate guide](#) [pdf 1.20 MB]

English Branch Archives, 1864-1865

2 boxes, 1 volume.

Historical note

Following the example of the European Branch, founded in Paris in 1863, a number of prominent Americans met at the London Tavern on 3 March 1864 to form an organization of Americans living in the United Kingdom as an auxiliary branch to the Sanitary Commission. The resulting Executive Committee consisted of over sixty men and women, many of them from prominent commercial and diplomatic families such as the Adams, Brown, Field, Grinnell, Morgan, Peabody, Stevens, Stokes, and Morse families. The list included the noted British-American actress and abolitionist, Fanny Kemble, and Cyrus W. Field, working in England on his transatlantic telegraph cable project. Field played a leading role in the early days of the London Branch. Edmund Crisp Fisher, later appointed Agent of the Branch, was a member of the original Executive Committee.

Henry W. Bellows advised the new branch that its "real object should be to interest Americans in England, in the welfare of those fighting for our national integrity, and suffering from the sickness and wounds contracted in that service." The essential task of the English branch was to explain the work of the Sanitary Commission through the distribution of its medical and sanitary publications and histories of its work, in order to gain the support of Americans abroad, and to share with other countries knowledge of humanitarian practice and sanitary science gained from 'systematic experience.' Distribution of information in Europe also indirectly served the strongly held belief of Bellows and others that the history of the United States Sanitary Commission was a "vindication of Democratic Institutions." (Henry W. Bellows to H. Starr, 24 March 1864, vol. 990, no. 8, pp. 7-10).

On June 17, 1864 the USSC Standing Committee in New York voted that Fisher be recognized as acting Secretary of the English Branch of the United States Sanitary Commission, and Agent of the Commission in England.

The Standing Committee intended that the English Branch operate independently of the USSC's European Branch in Paris, while relying on it for advice. William B. Bowles was Secretary and Agent of the European Branch, but his brother and banking partner, Charles S.P. Bowles, Foreign Agent of the USSC, was Fisher's principle contact. (A list of the European Branch's Executive Committee, headed by Rev. Dr. M'Clintock and John Bigelow, U.S. Consul in Paris, is contained in [Volume 990, no. 8](#). The work of the European Branch is reflected only in incoming correspondence and printed matter that may be found throughout the collection.)

Fisher rented an office at 21 Cockspur Street, Trafalgar Square, to serve as a reading room and meeting place for Americans and others interested in the USSC's work, and stocked it with American and English papers and USSC publications. Because the English Branch was primarily concerned with public relations, and actively solicited funds only from Americans, it was not self-supporting in donations, often relying on ad hoc credit arrangements suggested by Charles S.P. Bowles. Some Americans sent funds to the USSC via their bankers at home.

In addition to distributing publications, Fisher monitored the British press for mention of the USSC. He facilitated the writing of articles about its work and press reviews of its publications. Occasionally he countered pro-Southern statements in the press, writing letters to the editor under the pseudonym "Bower Wood" or "B.W.", particularly with reference to the Liverpool Bazaar held in October, 1864 for the benefit of Southern soldiers in Northern prison camps. Fisher gave two notable lectures at the Social Science Congress in York (1864) and at the Royal United Service Institution (1865) in which he acknowledged the legacy of British humanitarian and sanitary work, especially that of Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War.

By the end of 1864, as military successes foretold ultimate Union victory, and the details of

Andersonville prison were corroborated by multiple sources, the temper of public opinion sympathizing with the Confederate cause lessened. Lectures, visits and distribution of pamphlets continued. News of Lee's surrender appeared in London papers on April 24. In the weeks following, Fisher distributed as much literature as possible and shipped the remainder home. Fisher closed the English Branch office in September, and made arrangements to sail for New York in October, 1865.

Scope and content note

The English Branch Archives document the efforts of Americans living in the United Kingdom to gather support for the United States Sanitary Commission and the Union cause. The records consist of incoming correspondence, a register of letters received, a letterpress copybook of outgoing letters, and a scrapbook. Additional manuscript and printed records of the English Branch are found in Condensed Historical Matter, [vol. 990](#).

The bulk of incoming correspondence contains letters acknowledging receipt of various USSC publications, reflecting Fisher's outreach to prominent noblemen and clergymen, liberal reformers, public officials and institutions. Although many are perfunctory acknowledgments from secretaries, these letters, along with those from U.S. consuls and businessmen in British cities, shed light on the stance of resident Americans and the British towards the war. Strategies for developing pro-Union sentiment and the difficulties of raising any substantial amount of funds in Britain are discussed. Also present are letters from members of the USSC's Standing Committee in New York and from Charles S.P. Bowles providing guidance and instruction. Similar content is reflected in Fisher's letterpress copybook, which also contain his reports by letter to the Standing Committee. Advice given to Fisher from prominent American diplomats such as Charles Francis Adams and Benjamin Moran, and others, point to occasional problems in Fisher's dealings with the American community in Britain. A small amount of incoming and outgoing correspondence refers to Fisher's personal business, that of importing and selling American sewing machines.

The circumstances surrounding the establishment of the English Branch and its work are documented in Fisher's manuscript journal with minutes ([vol. 990, no. 1](#)), the English Branch scrapbook ([box 940](#)), and Edmund Crisp Fisher's pamphlet, "The English Branch of the United States Sanitary Commission. The Motive of its Establishment, and the Result of Its Work" (London, 1865; [vol. 990, no. 6](#)). After the establishment of the Executive and Standing Committees and the election of officers recorded in the journal, no further minutes or description of organized activities of the Committees are found in the records, aside from occasional mention of founding members, and financial accountings of donations and shipments listed in Fisher's 1865 summary of its work.

Series I. Correspondence, 1864-1865

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
339.1	1-19	Letters received, numbered 1-195, 1864 Aug.-1865 Aug.; 1864 Dec. 10
339.2	1	Archives Register, "London Branch." [Letters received.] Nos. 1-195, 1864 Aug.-1865 Aug.; 1864 Dec. 10 Supplies name of correspondent, where written, date, and summary of contents.
	2	Letterpress copybook, 1864 Mar 9-1865 Oct 7 (Indexed)

940 **Series II. Scrapbook, 1864 Apr 25 -1865 Feb 17**

Contains clippings from the British press concerning the Civil War and USSC relief work, and English Branch leaflets.

American Association for the Relief of the Misery of Battle Fields, 1866-1870

1 box

The American Association for the Relief of the Misery of Battle Fields (AARMB) was the first American branch of the Comité Internationale de Secours aux Militaires Blessés (later known as the Red Cross), founded in Geneva in 1863. The main objective of the parent society was to secure neutrality in time of war for hospitals, ambulances, surgeons, and all persons legitimately engaged in caring for the sick and wounded, by international agreement.

The AARMB was organized at the official request of the international society by its secretary, J. Henry Dunant, to Dr. Henry W. Bellows in December, 1865. Its founding members, all of whom bore associations with the USSC, first met officially at the USSC's Historical Bureau in New York City on 26 Jan. 1866. Elected officers included Dr. Henry W. Bellows (President), Howard Potter (Treasurer), and Charles Loring Brace (Secretary). Charles S.P. Bowles, previously associated with the USSC's European Branch, was appointed its agent in Paris. Bowles represented the USSC at the Geneva Convention in 1864, being one of two delegates representing the United States with non-signatory powers. John Bowne, formerly head of the USSC's Hospital Directory, was manager of its New York office located at 23 Bible House, Astor Place. Elisha Harris, M.D. also played an active role in its affairs. The Association's operations were funded by loans from the U.S. Sanitary Commission and from private donations.

The AARMB worked to secure U.S. adoption of the Geneva Convention treaty of 1864, and to promote and support the operations of the international organization. The Association offered advice based on the USSC's relief work during the Civil War, and raised funds for relief work in Europe during the Franco-Prussian War, but ceased fundraising and other activities in November 1870, believing the efforts of the Geneva organization to be sufficient. The Association was also in contact with former USSC associates such as Thomas W. Evans and Edward A. Crane, officers of the American International Sanitary Committee in Paris. The AARMB was unsuccessful in its lobbying efforts to have the U.S. government ratify the Geneva treaty; that did not take place until 1882, due in large part to the efforts of Clara Barton.

Minutes, financial records, outgoing correspondence, circulars and memoranda document the work of the Association's administration from its founding in 1866 to its effective closing in 1870. Incoming correspondence is documented only by register sheets for letters received, 1865-1867. According to the "List of articles forwarded to the U.S. Sanitary Commission" (1871), Dr. Elisha Harris retained the actual letters and a scrapbook for eventual forwarding to the USSC, but these have not been located in the records to date.

See also [Condensed Historical Matter](#) for collected publications of the Association (vol. 1026); publications concerning the Geneva Conferences; and works by Thomas W. Evans.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
941		Minutes, 26 Jan. 1866-14 Nov. 1870. (1 v.)
	1	Draft minutes, 1866-1870
	2	Financial records Ledger, 1866 Journal, 1866 Cash accounts, 1866-1867, 1870
		General Correspondence

United States Sanitary Commission records
American Association for the Relief of Misery of Battle Fields

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
941	3	Archives Register. [Letters received.] 1865 Dec. 18-1867 April 12. Nos. 1-16. 3 ff. Supplies name of correspondent, where written, dates sent and received, to whom referred, and summary of contents.
	4	Letterpress copybook, indexed. 26 Jan. 1866-28 Nov. 1870 (1 v.)
	5	Circulars sent. Lists titles and recipients.
	6	Miscellaneous documents: Scheme for raising money for the 'American Branch etc.' List of articles forwarded to the U.S. Sanitary Commission, 11 Jan. 1871. Statuten der Stiftung des Militair-Kurhauses im Warmbrunn als Nationaldank an die Preussische Armee und Flotte. [Statutes of the foundation of the Military Convalescent Hospital in Warmbrunn in national thanksgiving for the Prussian army and fleet]. Lithograph document, c. 1865.

Condensed Historical Matter

This record group was organized by the USSC's Historical Bureau and later USSC employees under the direction of General Secretary John S. Blatchford. Further arrangement and additions were made during the USSC's final organization of its records in 1878. The series includes manuscript records, printed publications of the USSC, publications concerning Sanitary Commission fairs, annual reports, circulars and other materials collected from USSC branches as a record of their service; photographs, record books, scrapbooks of newsclippings, newspapers, maps, ephemera, and miscellaneous printed matter, including publications concerning other relief organizations. Some material was removed from other series in 1878.

In two series: [I. Printed matter, manuscripts, and ephemera](#)

[II. Photographs, prints, and drawings](#)

Researchers are required to use microfilm, digital surrogates, or published volumes of materials described below if they are available elsewhere in the library.

Series I. Printed matter, manuscripts, and ephemera.

<u>Vol</u>		
968		U.S. Sanitary Commission. Index to the Hospital Directory : Washington, D.C., and New York Bureaus. Washington, D.C. McGill & Witherow, 1864. 1 v.
969		U.S. Sanitary Commission. Minutes of the Twenty-Second Session, 11-12 July 1865. 1 v.
970		Minutes of the U.S. Sanitary Commission. First through Thirteenth Sessions. June 1861-June 1863. 1 v. Blank pages interleaved for annotation; some notes.
971		Minutes of the U.S. Sanitary Commission. First through Twenty-fourth Sessions. 1861 June-1867 Jan.; meeting 3 May 1867. 1 v. (available in Humanities -- History & Genealogy Division (1861-1865, Sessions 1-22 only)
972		Reports of the General Secretary, U.S. Sanitary Commission, to the President and the Executive Committee from Oct. 6, 1863 to April 12, 1865. 1 v. Manuscript copy of reports, bound.
<u>Box</u> 979		Catalogue of the aid societies tributary to the U.S. Sanitary Commission, alphabetically arranged. 1 v. Manuscript list of aid societies, with names of officers. Arranged alphabetically by town within branch.
989		Pennsylvania Branch: reports, circulars, appeals, etc., [1861-1866]. 1 v.
<u>Vol.</u> 990	<u>Unit ID</u>	English Branch (London). Records, printed matter, etc. (Multiple items, described below, bound into a single volume in slipcase,.)
990	1	Diary Journal kept by E.C. Fisher, 20 Feb. 1864-20 May 1865, recording minutes of meetings, his activities as agent of the English Branch, important correspondence, and visitors received at the Commission's rooms at 21 Cockspur St., London. Contains pasted newsclippings.
990	2	Circular Letter of E.C. Fisher announcing opening of English Branch. September [1864].
990	3	Fisher, Edmund Crisp. Military Discipline and Volunteer Philanthropy. Paper read before the Social Science Congress, held in the City of York during the month of September, 1864. London: William Ridgway, 1864.

<u>Vol</u>	<u>Unit ID</u>	
990	4	<i>A Woman's Example: and a Nation's Work.</i> A Tribute to Florence Nightingale. Second edition. London: William Ridgway, 1864. This work, dedicated to Florence Nightingale, describes the history and work of the U.S. Sanitary Commission.
	5	The Working of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, with regard to Armies in the Field. Lecture by E.C. Fisher, London, Feb. 10, 1865.
	6	Fisher, Edmund Crisp. The English Branch of the United States Sanitary Commission. The Motive of its Establishment, and the Result of its Work. London: William Ridgway, 1865.
	7	Mackenzie, Robert. <i>America and her Army.</i> London: T. Nelson and Sons, 1865.
	8	European Branch of the United States Sanitary Commission. Report of Charles S.P. Bowles... upon the International Congress of Geneva...convened at Geneva, 8th August, 1864. London: R. Clay, son, and Taylor, [1864?]
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991		Executive Committee of Boston Associates. Minutes of committees, reports, etc, [1863-1866]. 1 v.
992		Executive Committee of Boston Associates. Reports, circulars, forms, etc. 1864-1866; with New England Women's Auxiliary Association: Reports, circulars, forms, etc., 1861-1866. 1 v. Reports of Branches and Aid Societies tributary to the U.S. Sanitary Commission:
994		Buffalo, 1862-1866; Rochester, 1863-1865. 1 v.
995		New Haven, 1861-1865; Hartford, n.d., 1863-1865; Bridgeport, 1864; South Norwalk, 1864. 1 v. Reports, circulars, etc.:
<u>Box</u> 998	<u>Fol</u> 1	Bridgeport, CT, 1864-[1865]; Chelsea, MA, 1865; Brooklyn, NY 1862-1864
	2	Dutchess County and Poughkeepsie, 1864; Pittsburgh, PA 1863-1864
<u>Vol</u> 1000		Detroit, MI 1861-1865; Milwaukee, WI 1862-1865; California, 1865-1866. 1 v.
<u>Box</u> 1051		Scrapbook, newsclippings, 1861-1867. 1 v. New England Women's Auxiliary Association, 1861-1865; miscellaneous clippings 1865-1867, regarding prisoners of war, particularly Andersonville, and reviews of Stillé's <i>History of the United States Sanitary Commission.</i> Washington DC Office scrapbooks. Newsclippings from press in the DC area and elsewhere in the country concerning the USSC, as collected by the Central Office in Washington, DC.
<u>Vol</u> 1025		Washington. Scrapbook of newsclippings, 1861 Sept.-1863 Nov. 1 v. This volume precedes Washington DC Central Office scrapbook 'no. 1', 1863-1865, USSC 939
<u>Box</u> 939		Washington Office Scrapbook No. 1. Newsclippings, 1863 Nov.-1865 Feb. 1 v.

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- 997 Newberry, J.S. The U.S. Sanitary Commission in the Valley of the Mississippi, during the war of the rebellion, 1861-1866. Final report. Sanitary Commission Document No. 71. Cleveland: Fairbanks, Benedict, 1871. 1 v.
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- 1002 Great Central Fair, Philadelphia: circulars issued by its various departments, [1864]. 1 v.
- 1003 Scrapbook. Newsclippings. 1 v.
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Miscellaneous, [1863-1867].
- 1004 Scrapbook. Clippings from newspaper *The Press* re Great Central Fair, Philadelphia, 1864. 1 v.
- 1005 History of the Great Western Sanitary Fair. Cincinnati: C.F. Vent & Co., 1864. 1 v.
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- 1006 Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair, St. Louis, MO. Circulars. 1864. 1 v.
Fair under the direction of the Western Sanitary Commission [not USSC]. With certificate appointing John S. Blatchford of USSC as agent for fund-raising, etc.
- 1007 Record of the Metropolitan Fair in New York, 1864, with accompanying documents. 1 v.
Collected circulars, pamphlets, etc. bound with printed text: A record of the Metropolitan Fair in aid of the United States Sanitary Commission held at New York in April, 1864. With photographs. New York: Hurd and Houghton, 1867.
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- 1012 *The Spirit of the Fair*. New York: John F. Trow, n.d.
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- 3 *Haversack*. Annapolis, MD
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- 4 *New Era*. Baltimore, MD
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- 5 *Saturday Evening*. Philadelphia, PA
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- 1018 *The Knapsack*. Boston, MA
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- 1020 *Army and Navy Journal*. Vol. VIII nos. 6-11; 24 Sept.-29 Oct. 1870. 1 v.
- 1021 *The Little Corporal*, July 1865-June 1867.
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- 1022 *Soldiers' Journal*. Vols. I and II, 1864-1865, bound in 1 v.
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- 1024 *Hammond Gazette*. For the benefit of the sick and wounded in Hammond General Hospital. Point Lookout, MD. Nos. 1-94, 17 Nov. 1862-31 Aug. 1864. 1 v.

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- 1 American Association for the Relief of the Misery of Battle Fields. Its Constitution, with a Sketch of the International Movement for the Amelioration of Suffering among the Sick and Wounded of Armies in the Field. Washington, D.C.: Gibson Brothers, 1866.
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A list of the Union soldiers buried at Andersonville copied from the official record in the Surgeon's Office at Andersonville. New York: The Tribune Association, 1866. Preface by Dorence Atwater.

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