INTRODUCTION

On the single roll of this microfilm publication, M2133, are reproduced letterpress copies of correspondence of the Superintendent of Vicksburg National Cemetery, January 1879–October 1880, that constitute part of the series identified as “Correspondence, 1869–1932” (ARC Identifier 2788958). These records are part of Records of the National Park Service, Record Group (RG) 79.

BACKGROUND

Vicksburg National Cemetery was established under War Department jurisdiction pursuant to a letter from Bvt. Maj. Gen. and Assist. Quartermaster Gen. J. L. Donaldson to Capt. J. W. Scully, Assistant Quartermaster, Vicksburg, MS, October 10, 1866, in accordance with General Order 33, Quartermaster General’s Office, May 1, 1866, and the act authorizing national cemeteries (12 Stat. 596), July 17, 1862. The adjacent Vicksburg National Military Park, also under War Department jurisdiction, was established by an act of February 21, 1899 (30 Stat. 841). The cemetery and the park were transferred to the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations, effective August 10, 1933, under provisions of Executive Order 6166, June 10, 1933. That agency then reverted to its original name, the National Park Service, by an act of March 2, 1934 (48 Stat. 389).

RECORDS DESCRIPTION

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication consist of a single 295-page volume of letterpress copies of correspondence of Superintendent John Trindle of Vicksburg National Cemetery from January 1, 1879, to October 3, 1880. The letters were primarily addressed by the Superintendent to the Depot Quartermaster, New Orleans, LA; the Quartermaster General, Washington, DC; other military officials; or contractors. The letters refer to vouchers or bills of lading enclosed with the letter, request authorization to have an item made locally, provide information about the prices of supply (such as hay) available locally, or acknowledge items received. There are also letters to private individuals responding to questions about the cemetery, such as a letter relating to the possible removal of the remains of William F. Hunger, Co. B, 35th Wisconsin Infantry (pages 190–91).

Letterpress copies were made directly from the originals. Typically, a screw-powered press was used in conjunction with a bound volume of blank tissue paper pages. A letter freshly written in special copying ink was placed on a dampened page while the rest of the volume was protected by oilcloths. The book was then closed and the mechanical press screwed down tightly. The pressure and moisture caused an impression of the letter to be retained on the underside of the tissue sheet. This impression could then be

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The Archival Research Catalog (ARC) is available for research online at www.archives.gov.
read through the top of the thin paper, although handwriting usually appears somewhat blurry.

This volume, which is currently (2009) among the holdings of the National Archives–Southeast Region, 5780 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, Georgia 30260, was filmed by the National Archives in 1997 in response to a customer reproduction order. The National Archives retained a negative copy of the film, which was assigned the number M2133 in 2009 in order to issue it as a National Archives Microfilm Publication.

**RELATED RECORDS**

Other records of the Vicksburg National Cemetery are currently (2009) in the National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Rd., College Park, MD, or at the National Archives–Southeast Region, 5780 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, Georgia 30260.

Fair copies of letters reproduced in this microfilm publication are not included in the series, “Copies of Letters Sent by the Superintendent of the Vicksburg National Cemetery to the Office of the Quartermaster General, 1865–1907” (ARC identifier 1138105). Volume I of that two-volume series skips without explanation from Aug. 20, 1879, during Superintendent John Trindle’s administration (page 279), to Apr. 1, 1882, during Superintendent Henry Ward’s administration (page 280).