

CW/VFM-3: *Augustus Washington Alexander*

Incomplete handwritten essay and typewritten transcript countering Alexander's earlier criticism of U.S. Grant and praise for J.A. McClelland in his stead.

In 1887, Augustus Washington Alexander, a member of the St. Louis bar and former stump speaker for the Republican Party's 1860 campaign, composed a strident criticism of U.S. Grant's soldiering abilities based on Alexander's knowledge of Napoleon's 1814 campaign. Alexander calls Grant and Sherman "horrible examples of West Point education," and goes on to credit Gen. J.A. McClelland as the true victor at Belmont, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Vicksburg, and other Union successes.

The author of this essay counters Alexander's attacks on Grant's character, mainly his drinking and his relative ineloquence, and also declares that the credit he gives McClelland for Grant and Sherman's victories is unwarranted and unsubstantiated by contemporary scholarship. "Alexander's account is so false, and so recking [*sic*] with malice and venom, as to be unworthy of respectful notice"

Author Unknown. Manuscript 8pp. Transcript 4pp.

Keywords: Politics – Republican; Papers – Manuscripts

Location: Civil War Vertical File Manuscripts, Special Collections & College Archives, Musselman Library at Gettysburg College.

See also: [Civil War Sources in Special Collections](#)