

Collection: JAMES B. CLIFTON DIARY
Pennsylvania
Tennessee
Virginia

1863-1864

P.C. 589.1

Physical Description: 2 items; diary and typescript.

Acquisition: From Biennial Reports, 1930-1932 received 72 page [diary], no donor. From donor file, diary of J. B. Clifton, 72 pages, gift of M. C. Clifton, Sr., [REDACTED] Raleigh, N. C., October 21, 1938. Typewritten.

Description: Dr. James B. Clifton, born 1836, lived in Louisburg, Franklin County, N. C., graduated from University of Virginia, c. 1856. Surgeon with Provisional Army of Confederate States in 53rd Georgia Regiment and 16th Georgia Regiment (Longstreet's Corps). Chief marshal of Louisburg Centennial, July, 1879. Died 1902; buried in Louisburg.

The 72-page diary (June, 1863-July, 1864) with its typescript (45 pages) is a recording of weather conditions, marches, encampments, skirmishes, etc. of Georgia regiments in Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia. Of particular interest are the accounts of the fighting and the aftermath at Gettysburg, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Spotsylvania, Richmond, and Petersburg. Except for notations that hospitals were set up and wounded evacuated, there are few references to medical activities [an exception, "amputated a man's toe by moonlight"]. There are references, without elaboration, to correspondents, friends visited, a 30-day furlough, men marching barefoot, a snowball fight, a dance in the woods, visits by Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee, meals in civilian homes, his Negro servant and his horses, and a gift of flowers and pickles from Sallie Southall of Richmond.

Finding Aids

Main Entry Card

Date Card

1863-1864

Geographic Cards

Pennsylvania--Gettysburg

Tennessee--Knoxville--Chattanooga

Virginia--Richmond--Petersburg

Subject Cards

WAR--CIVIL--Battles--Gettysburg, 1863

--Knoxville--Chattanooga, 1863

--Richmond, 1864

--Spotsylvania, 1864

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-2

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Finding Aids (Cont'd)

Subject Cards (Cont'd)

WAR--CIVIL--Diary--1863-1864

--Rumors--France will intercede, 1863

--Seige--Petersburg, 1864

--Units--Georgia--16th Regiment

--53rd Regiment

Finding Aid completed by Ellen Z. McGrew, 18 October 1967.