

Coghill, Edwin R., Collection

Edwin R. Coghill Collection
ca. 1864-1970



Title Statement

Coghill, Edwin R., CollectionEdwin R. Coghill Collection, ca. 1864-1970 Ms.2009.058

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2009.058

Unit Date

ca. 1864-1970

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection contains the American Civil War memoir of Sergeant Edwin R. Coghill of Company E ("Caroline Greys"), 30th Virginia Infantry, of the Confederate Army together with a post-war company roster, and a 1970 booklet commemorating a memorial service for General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson at Bethel Baptist Church and containing a transcript of Coghill's memoir.

Creator

Coghill, Edwin R., 1842-1925

Extent

0.2 Cubic Feet 1 box, 1 oversize folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Edwin R. Coghill Collection was donated to Special Collections in 2006.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Edwin R. Coghill Collection commenced and was completed in April 2009.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Edwin R. Coghill Collection, Ms2009-058, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Edwin Ruthven "Ned" Coghill, a sergeant in Company E, 30th Virginia Infantry of the Confederate Army during the American Civil War, was born in Caroline County, Virginia on November 1842. The son of William A. and Sarah L. Coghill, he attended school at Flippo's Store, Virginia and worked as a farmer. Coghill enlisted in the Caroline Greys on May 9, 1861; he was promoted to corporal on April 26, 1862, and to sergeant about three months later. Surrendering with his regiment, Coghill was paroled at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. Following the war, Coghill lived with his wife Elizabeth ("Bettie") and children in Caroline County, where he worked as a teacher and farmer. He also served as clerk of the Caroline County Circuit Court from 1894 to 1925, and as clerk of Bethel Baptist Church from 1866 to 1924. Edwin R. Coghill died on November 16, 1925.

Administrative History

The 30th Virginia Infantry was organized in the area of Fredericksburg, Virginia and mustered into Confederate service in July 1861 during the American Civil War. After reorganization in April 1862, the 30th proceeded to participate in a number of major battles (including the Seven Days Battles, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Cold Harbor, the siege of Petersburg, and Five Forks), and was present at the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865.

Scope and Content

This collection contains three items relating to Sergeant Edwin R. "Ned" Coghill of Company E ("Caroline Greys"), 30th Virginia Infantry of the Confederate Army during the American Civil War. The collection includes Coghill's war memoir and a roster of Company E soldiers, as well as a 1970 booklet commemorating a memorial service for General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, held at Bethel Baptist Church (Caroline County, Virginia).

Identified on its first page as a diary, Coghill's account of events seems instead to be recollected from memory. (Because the account ceases with mid-May 1864, however, it seems likely that Coghill may have been summarizing his experiences to that point.) Beginning with the march to Manassas Junction, Coghill details the movements of his regiment. He describes battles between artillery emplacements and gunboats on the Potomac River near Evansport and briefly notes the battles at Harpers Ferry and Antietam, recording the deaths of a number of comrades. Coghill mentions attending the funeral service for General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson at Bethel Baptist Church. (Held sometime between May 15 and June 3, 1863, the service was instead more likely one of the first of many memorial services held for Jackson throughout the South.) The memoir also contains a list of the company's members present at the surrender of forces at Appomattox and lists of Company E soldiers who were killed in battle or died of wounds and disease. The memoir

concludes with a handwritten copy of Robert E. Lee's farewell address to the Army of Northern Virginia. The accompanying roster of the Caroline Greys, compiled after the war, lists names, ranks, and notes on deaths, wounds, imprisonments, promotions, and transfers.

Also contained in the collection is a 1970 booklet commemorating the 1863 funeral of General Thomas J. Jackson at Bethel Baptist Church. The booklet contains information on Jackson's death, photos of Edwin R. Coghill and some of his descendants, and a complete transcript of Coghill's memoir.

Keywords

Civil War

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Diaries

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Confederate States of America. Army. Virginia Infantry Regiment, 30th

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged by document type.

Description of Subordinate Components

Memoir

Unit Date ca. 1864

folder 1

Bethel Church memorial service booklet

Unit Date 1970

folder 1

Caroline Greys post-war roster

Unit Date n.d.

oversize 1