

A Guide to the William J. Black Diary, 1864-1865

William J. Black Diary 1864-1865
1864-1865

A Collection in Virginia Military Institute Archives mss 00015
Virginia Military Institute Archives
2002

History

Processed by: Virginia Military Institute Archives Staff
Funding: Web version of the finding aid funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Title Statement

A Guide to the William J. Black Diary, 1864-1865

Subtitle: Black, William J., Diary

Collection: mss 00015

Author: Diane B. Jacob

Sponsor: Web version of the finding aid funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Publication Statement

Date: © 2002 Virginia Military Institute

Publisher: Virginia Military Institute Archives

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from html. Machine-readable finding aid created by Diane Jacob. Date of source: 2002

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

Feb 16, 2004 PUBLIC "-//Virginia Military Institute::Preston Library::Archives//TEXT (US::ViLxV::vilxv00045::A Guide to the Willaim J. Black Diary)//EN" "vilxv00045.xml" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).

Feb 26, 2004 converted to conform to eadVIVA.dtd by vivastrict.xsl

2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Collection number

mss 00015

Language

English

Physical Characteristics

The collection consists of one item.

Repository

Archives, Preston Library, Virginia Military Institute

Administrative Information

Access

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Preferred Citation

William J. Black Diary, mss 00015, Virginia Military Institute Archives, Lexington, Virginia.

Alternative Form

The William J. Black Diary is available in full-text format on the VMI Archives website at:

<http://www.vmi.edu/archives/manuscripts/ms015.html>

Biographical/Historical Information

William Johnson Black was born at Lynchburg, Virginia on August 2, 1845. He was the son of Allen J. Black and Mary Haythe, both of Campbell County, VA. Black entered the Virginia Military Institute in 1862 and resigned in 1864 to join the Confederate Army. He served in Captain John J. Shoemaker's Battery (Breathed's Battalion, Stuart Horse Artillery). Following the Civil War he was in the express company business in Lynchburg, Virginia. He married Virginia Price on March 5, 1871 and the couple had two children (Charles and E. Stockton). Black died at the Confederate Soldiers' Home in Richmond, Virginia on January 24, 1935.

Scope and Content Information

The collection consists of the one volume diary of Confederate soldier William J. Black. The diary entries date from October 1864 - January 1865, written while Black was serving in Captain John J. Shoemaker's Company, Virginia Horse Artillery. Included are brief accounts of various skirmishes and the Battle of Cedar Creek; campsites and positions are recorded daily. Following the diary entries are copies of two of Shoemaker's reports detailing Battery activities, dated September 1, 1864 (covering the period May - August) and December 25, 1864 (covering the period September - Dec 25). The volume also contains Black's Virginia Military Institute account book, listing expenses incurred while a cadet (1862-1864) prior to joining Confederate Army.