

A Guide to the Isaac Norval Baker Memoirs, 1863-1865

Isaac Norval Baker Memoirs 1863-1865
1863-1865

A Collection in Virginia Military Institute Archives mss 00357
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 Isaac Norval Baker Memoirs, 1863-1865

Subtitle: Baker, Isaac Norval. Memoirs

Collection: mss 00357

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::vilxv00057::A Guide to the Isaac Norval Baker Memoirs)//EN" "vilxv00057.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 00357

Language

English

Physical Characteristics

The collection consists of two items totaling 33 pages.

Repository

Archives, Preston Library, Virginia Military Institute

Administrative Information

Access

There are no restrictions

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Preferred Citation

Isaac Norval Baker Memoirs, mss 00357, Virginia Military Institute Archives, Lexington, Virginia.

Biographical/Historical Information

Isaac Norval Baker was born October 8, 1844, and lived near Whitacre, Frederick County, Virginia. During the Civil War he served as a Private in Company F, 18th Virginia Cavalry Regiment. At the time of enlistment he was described as having a light complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes, 5' 7". After the war Baker practiced herbal medicine in Shenandoah and Frederick Counties (VA). He died December 6, 1924, in Frederick County and is buried in Redland Cemetery, Hampshire Co., West Virginia.

Scope and Content Information

The collection consists of an original manuscript fragment (ca. 12 pages) and typewritten transcription (21 pages) describing Isaac Norval Baker's Civil War service as a Private in the Confederate Army's 18th Virginia Cavalry Regiment. Baker's language is descriptive and lively, and the account includes many vignettes that provide insight into the lives of both soldiers and civilians. The narrative covers the period June 1863-April 1865; topics include camp life, wartime hardships, battles (Gettysburg, Bristoe Campaign, third Battle of Winchester, Fisher's Hill), and the effects of war in Shenandoah Valley.

Contents List

1863 June

Links [Full Text](#)

Scope and Content

At Cumberland, Maryland; back to Virginia; scouting for horses; raid into Pennsylvania; on to Gettysburg.

1863 July 1-18

Links [Full Text](#)

Scope and Content

The Battle of Gettysburg and aftermath; accompanying wagon train carrying dead and wounded; wagons under attack; at Williamsport, Maryland; back to Virginia.

1863 October-1864 March

Links [Full Text](#)

Scope and Content

Yankee scouting party; illness strikes (pneumonia and diphtheria); civilians hide Baker from Yankees; he walks home on "furlough."

1864 September

Links [Full Text](#)

Scope and Content

Preparations for battle; third Battle of Winchester; comments about officers' mistakes; Fisher's Hill.

1865 April

Links [Full Text](#)

Scope and Content

The end of the war; surrender and parole.

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