

Eaton, Charles I., papers

Charles I. Eaton papers--addition 1
circa 1864

Title Statement

Eaton, Charles I., papersCharles I. Eaton papers MSS 12204

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library
P.O. Box 400110
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia 22904-4110
URL: <https://small.library.virginia.edu/>

2023-02-13

Notes

In process until there is a finding aid for the other accretion (Journals). Physically combined this Carte de Visite with Journals of Charles I. Eaton MSS 12204 boxed with MSS 382-j. See also article and transcription of the journals by Mary Faith Pankin boxed in MSS 3131. Subject headings are mostly for the Journals accretion not the Carte de Visite.

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-03-05 17:43:26 +0000.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 12204

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Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1450

Unit Date

circa 1864

Mixed Materials

1 (folder)

Language

English

Extent

0.03 Cubic Feet 1 letter folder

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was a gift from Demaris Yearick to the Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia Library on October 20, 2019.

Preferred Citation

MSS 12204, Charles I. Eaton papers, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Biographical / Historical

Charles I. Eaton was born in 1837 in Rindge, New Hampshire. He was a Union soldier in the Co. K, 1st Colorado Cavalry, who was trained as a shoemaker and went to the Colorado frontier (near Denver) in 1861. He wrote two volumes of diaries about his travel home (on furlough) from Fort Lyon to New Hampshire in 1864 and his return trip in 1866.

He describes his journey noting a flood on the Platte River, burned buildings in Lawrence, Kansas, after Quantril's raid, Arapaho and Cheyenne people as "thrifty" farmers, rumors about wars with the Arapaho and Cheyenne tribes, an ambush at Fort Larned, where two survivors were scalped, a visit from Arapaho Chief Left Hand who said he "has always tried to be friendly with the whites." Also mentioned is the Massacre at Sandy Creek (although he was injured and not able to fight) and his commander, Edward Wynkoop, who became sympathetic with the Arapaho and Cheyenne. He also mentions debauchery in camp life, the murder of Major Lyman Kellogg, the fall of Charleston and mourning the death of President Lincoln

After the Civil War, Eaton settled in Waltham, Massachusetts, worked at the Waltham Watch Factory, and married Emmar Barton in 1871. In later years he was a janitor at the local high school. He died on June 5, 1920.

"He was in some ways a typical soldier of his era. He endured danger, bad food, unhealthy living conditions, and extreme boredom... Yet he differed from many serving in the west by his enterprise and thrift, avoidance of alcohol, focus on the future, and by not even considering desertion."

Sources:

Pankin, Mary Faith. "Missing the Massacre: Charles I. Eaton's Civil War Service in the West." *Heritage of the Great Plains*. Volume XL Spring/Summer 2007 No. 1. Emporia State University

Cataloging record https://search.lib.virginia.edu/sources/uva_library/items/u3830680

Content Description

One carte de visite photograph of Union soldier Charles I. Eaton in uniform. This collection is an addition to MSS 12204 Journals of Charles I. Eaton. See external documentations below for a link to that collection.

Keywords

cartes-de-visite (card photographs)

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

Wynkoop, Edward Wanshear, 1836-1891

Sand Creek Massacre, Colo., 1864

Arapaho Indians

Cheyenne Indians