

Henry B. Whittington Diary (MS011) MS011

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24 May 1861 - 22 April 1865



Title Statement

Henry B. Whittington Diary (MS011) MS011

Author: Special Collections Staff; updated by Amanda Acosta

Publication Statement

Publisher: Local History and Special Collections Branch, Alexandria Library

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Alexandria, VA 22314

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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2024-08-10 11:01:00 +0000.

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

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Revision Description

2021 This collection was rehoused and its description and arrangement updated.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS011

Unit Date

24 May 1861 - 22 April 1865

Language

English .

Creator

Whittington, Henry B. (Henry Bassford), 1812-1884

Extent

.316 Cubic Feet 1 card box The diary is a collection of sheets of lined pages, folded crosswise in pairs with the entries written across the lines. There is no cover. Loose threads along the folded edge of some sections suggest that some or all of the diary may have been bound at one time.

Repository

Local History and Special Collections Branch, Alexandria Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research. Fragile handwritten documents. Handle with care.

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was donated to Local History/Special Collections, Alexandria Library by James Douglas Jr.

Preferred Citation

[Item identification], Henry B. Whittington Diary, MS011, Alexandria Library, Local History/Special Collections, Alexandria, Va.

Biographical / Historical

Henry Bassford Whittington, c.1812 - 1884, was a clerk for an Alexandria mercantile business during the Civil War. Previously he lived in Dinwiddie County for some period of time. He also enjoyed a local reputation as a poet and his work was occasionally published in the Alexandria Gazette during the latter half of the nineteenth century. During the Federal occupation of Alexandria, he kept a diary of nearly daily entries for the period of May 24, 1861 to March 1, 1865. At the time of the 1870 Federal Census, he was living in the Mansion House Hotel. Whittington died in Alexandria on September 25, 1884.

Content Description

The diary begins on the date of Federal occupation of Alexandria by Union troops, May 24, 1861. Entries describe events related to the Civil War, the occupying troops, and attitudes of the local populace. There is rich detail regarding personnel of the ever-changing occupying force, its disruption of local affairs, and response of the citizens. Local and national events such as major battles, skirmishes, and political occurrences are vividly described. References to persons important to the history of Alexandria and the country for that period are frequent. Sectional opinion of the period toward issues such as slavery, contrabands, and emancipation are also present. Relevant newspaper clippings cut by Whittington are included in Folio 3. The diary ends on April 22, 1865.

Keywords

Alexandria (Va.) -- Social life and customs -- 1860-1870.

Diaries.

Fugitive slaves

Military occupation damages

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

Slavery -- United States

Existence and Location of Copies

Microfilm copy, Reel #00056 Civil War Vertical File: transcript, May 24 - August 12, 1861. Full transcript available on Library server.

Digital Materials

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged chronologically into seven folios.

Description of Subordinate Components

Henry B. Whittington Diary

Unit ID MS011-01-001

Unit Date 24 May 1861 - 16 January 1862

Text 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Digital Materials

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Henry B. Whittington Diary

Unit ID MS011-01-002

Unit Date 17 January 1862 - 27 July 1862

Text 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Digital Materials

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Henry B. Whittington Diary

Unit ID MS011-01-003

Unit Date 28 July 1862 - 2 April 1863

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Digital Materials

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Henry B. Whittington Diary

Unit ID MS011-01-004

Unit Date 3 April 1863 - 19 November 1863

Text 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Digital Materials

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Henry B. Whittington Diary

Unit ID MS011-01-005

Unit Date 20 November 1863 - 27 June 1864

Text 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Digital Materials

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Henry B. Whittington Diary

Unit ID MS011-01-006

Unit Date 28 June 1864 - 26 November 1864

Text 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Digital Materials

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Henry B. Whittington Diary

Unit ID MS011-01-007

Unit Date 27 November 1864 - 22 April 1865

Text 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Digital Materials

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