

Johnson, B. H., Journal

B. H. Johnson Journal

1863-1864



Title Statement

Johnson, B. H., JournalB. H. Johnson Journal, 1863-1864 Ms.2008.093

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Publication Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2008.093

Unit Date

1863-1864

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection contains the journal of a Methodist circuit riding minister of eastern Virginia during the American Civil War. Salient topics include: the effects of war, typhoid outbreaks, and religious practices in eastern Virginia.

Creator

Johnson, B. H., 1811-?

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research.

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Source of Acquisition

The B. H. Johnson Journal was donated to Special Collections and University Archives in 2004.

Processing Information

The processing and description of the B. H. Johnson Journal occurred in December 2008.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], B. H. Johnson Journal, Ms2008-093, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

B. H. Johnson was born on March 20, 1811. He was first married to a woman named Maria Evelyn who died in 1846. Johnson later remarried a woman from the Kennerly family who lived near Waynesboro, Virginia. During the Civil War, his wife and children lived with Johnson's in-laws. As a Methodist minister for various circuits in eastern Virginia, Johnson preformed many marriage ceremonies, funerals, baptisms, and attended the Virginia Conference of Methodist Ministers. Much of his time was spent traveling to different congregations and dining with parishioners. Often ailing, Johnson sometimes took opium "to check the disordered state of his bowels." Johnson's family and friends also frequently fell ill--especially with virulent bouts of typhoid. An ardent Confederate, Johnson took particular interest in the movement of "Yankee" forces while traveling his circuit.

Scope and Content

The B. H. Johnson Journal is a handwritten account of one year from September 1863 to September 1864 recorded by a Methodist circuit riding minister of eastern Virginia. Some mentioned locations within Virginia are Shiloh, Charlottesville, Salem, Port Royal, Spotsylvania, Hanover County, Augusta County, Caroline County, and Madison County, among others. Subjects include the American Civil War and its concomitant destruction, the duties and practices of a Methodist minister, typhoid fever, "Yankee" crime, and slavery. A particularly engaging segment within Johnson's journal discusses the theft of his horse by rogues and the eventual heroic repossession of his steed.

Keywords

Civil War

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

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

Existence and Location of Copies

This collection has been digitized and is available online.

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Description of Subordinate Components

Journal

Unit Date 1863-1864

folder 1