

# A Guide to the Diary of Miss Mary E. Lack, 1861-1862

Diary of Miss Mary E. Lack 1861-1862  
1861-1862



A Collection in the Thomas Balch Library SC 0049

Thomas Balch Library

2006

**Author:** Emily Hershman

## History

**Processed by:** Emily Hershman

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Diary of Miss Mary E. Lack, 1861-1862

**Subtitle:** Diary of Miss Mary E. Lack

**Collection:** SC 0049

**Author:** Emily Hershman

## Publication Statement

**Date:** © 2006 By Thomas Balch Library. All rights reserved.

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word, created by Beth Schuster, 3 September 2009

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Revision Description

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

## Descriptive Summary

**Collection number**

SC 0049

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

The diary of Miss Mary E. Lack is a detailed personal account of the first year of Civil War in Loudoun County. The transcripts are in overall good condition and may be photocopied.

**Creator**

Mary E. Lack

**Repository**

Thomas Balch Library

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

Collection open for research .

**Use Restrictions**

No physical characteristics affect use of this material.

**Acquisition Information**

William C. Whitmire, Jr., Leesburg, VA

**Processing Information**

Processed by Emily Hershman, 29 Jul 2009

**Preferred Citation**

Diary of Miss Mary E. Lack (SC 0049), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA..

## Accruals

1995.0049

## Alternative Form Available

None

## Adjunct Descriptive Data

## Related Material

None

## Bibliography

Ancestry, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) Confederate Soldier Service Records, Footnote database, [www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com) Diary of Miss Mary E. Lack (SC 0049), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA The Washington Post

## Other Finding Aid

None

## Technical Requirements

None

## Biographical Information

Mary E. Lack (1846-1864) was born in Loudoun County, VA, the daughter of William (ca. 1810-1893) and Mary Lack (unk.-1881). Her father worked as a gardener in Leesburg. They were active members of St. James Episcopal Church, and it was there that Lack met her fiancé, Thomas H. Magee (1837-unk.), a private in the 18th Mississippi Regiment. In her diary, she describes her exchanges with him and other soldiers, particularly those of the 18th and 21st Mississippi Regiments, during and following their occupation of Leesburg in 1861. Lack died on 27 Jul 1864, less than two years after her last journal entry, and is buried next to her parents in the Old Episcopal Church Cemetery in Leesburg, VA.

Thomas H. Magee enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1861. He was wounded in the Battle of Cold Harbor 30 May 1864, and furloughed for 30 days. Official records indicate he deserted from the Confederate Army in February 1865; it is uncertain what became of him after the war.

## Scope and Content

The diary of Miss Mary E. Lack is a detailed personal account of the first year of Civil War in Loudoun County. The transcripts are in overall good condition and may be photocopied.

The journal commences on 24 Nov 1861, and notes major troop movements in the area and interactions with various soldiers from the 18 Mississippi Regiment, including Thomas Magee, John C. Brent (1841-1910), and Edwin G. Banks (1843-1916). Lack recalls the bloody aftermath of the Battle of Ball's Bluff, writing that "the wounded were brought by [her] house, and to hear their groans was awful... a great many of the Yankees were drowned." She describes mounting casualties from illness and skirmishes, declaring "there are more than 100 graves in the cemetery now, the graves of those who have died of disease and wounds received on the battle field... I often wonder when it all will end." As well as conveying the tragic consequences of war, Lack's diary also documents ordinary issues and occurrences, such as the slaughtering of livestock and the price of domestic goods. The journal concludes with an entry on 11 Nov 1862, evincing the hope that her fiancé would be able to join them for Christmas dinner.

The diary transcripts are the only items in this collection.

## Contents List

### Folder 1: Diary of Miss Mary E. Lack 1861-1862

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