

John F. Hanna diaryMS.0317

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1864-1868



Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS.0317

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/397

Unit Date

1864-1868

Language

English

Creator

Hanna, John F. (John Francis), 1843-1885

Extent

1 items

Physical Location

Manuscripts stacks

Repository

Virginia Military Institute Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions

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Preferred Citation

John F. Hanna diary, 1864-1868. MS 0317. VMI Archives, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

John Francis Hanna was born at the home of his grandparents in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on August 20, 1843. Before matriculating at VMI, he attended Gonzaga College and Georgetown University. He entered VMI from Manassas, Virginia, on January 22, 1862 as a member of the Class of 1864. He was a cadet First Lieutenant, Company D., at the Battle of New Market. Fourteen members of the class, all New Market Cadets, were graduated on June 17, 1864, approximately a month after the battle.

After the Civil War Hanna studied law at Columbian (now George Washington) University and practiced in Washington, D.C. He was injured in a riding accident on October 25, 1885 and died at his home in Mt. Vernon, Virginia, on October 31.

Scope and Contents

John F. Hanna's diary contains a colorful account of life at VMI and in Lexington, Virginia during the Spring of 1864. Entries begin April 17, 1864 and end May 9, 1864. On May 10, the cadets were called to active duty at the request of General John C. Breckinridge and on May 15 participated in the Battle of New Market, Virginia. The entries contain comments about VMI activities and people, Lexington social life, and discussion of personal concerns.

This volume was picked up by a Union soldier, probably when Union forces occupied Lexington in June 1864. It was ultimately fell into the hands of Septimus Knight of the 15th Pennsylvania Cavalry. The notebook was used by Knight as a diary; entries date from August 1862 (apparently copied from an earlier diary or notes) through June 1868. Most entries relate the movements and activities of the 15th Pennsylvania Cavalry. Knight's section of the volume has not been transcribed. Researchers who are interested the 15th Pennsylvania should contact the Archives to request photocopies.

Related Materials

This volume is the final one in an eight volume diary begun by John F. Hanna in 1861. It is the only volume owned by VMI. References in the text to "other books" refer to previous volumes, which Hanna sent home to his sister for safekeeping.

Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1864

United States -- Army -- Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment, 15th (1862-1865)

Virginia Military Institute—Curricula

Virginia Military Institute—Faculty—Anecdotes

Virginia Military Institute—Civil War, 1861-1865

New Market Cadets

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Personal narratives

Culpeper County (Va.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

Lexington (Va.) -- Social life and customs

Lexington (Va.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

Virginia Military Institute—Cadet life—1860-1869

Diaries

Davis, Thomas D. (Thomas Dixon), 1843-1925

Smith, Edward H. (Edward Harvie), 1845-1912

Shriver, Samuel S. (Samuel Sprigg), 1843-1881

Gilham, William, 1818-1872

Online Access

View the diary and transcription

Description of Subordinate Components

Diary

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/5287

Unit Date 1862-1868

Language English

Creator Hanna, John F. (John Francis), 1843-1885

Creator Knight, Septimus

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Diaries

Lexington (Va.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

Lexington (Va.) -- Social life and customs

New Market Cadets

United States -- Army -- Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment, 15th (1862-1865)

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Personal narratives

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