

Alexander Sterrett Paxton PapersWLU.Coll.0372

Alexander Sterrett Paxton Papers
Inclusive 1858-1959

Title Statement

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Washington and Lee University, University Library Special Collections and Archives
204 W. Washington St.
Lexington, VA 24450
specialcollections@wlu.edu
URL: <http://library.wlu.edu/specialcollections>

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 14:03:50 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: Undetermined, Code for undetermined script script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

WLU.Coll.0372

Unit Date

Inclusive 1858-1959

Unit Date

Bulk 1861-1865

Language

English .

Creator

Paxton, Alexander Sterrett

Creator

Confederate States of America. Army. Stonewall Brigade

Extent

.4 Linear Feet

Repository

Washington and Lee University, University Library Special Collections and Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Use

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Blue sheet prepared by Seth McCormick-Goodhart (Nov. 3, 2011)

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation: [Identification of item], Alexander Sterrett Paxton Papers, WLU Coll. 0372, Special Collections and Archives, James G. Leyburn Library, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA.

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Biographical / Historical

Alexander Sterrett Paxton was a native of Rockbridge County, Virginia and an 1861 alumnus of Washington College. He was an original member of the Liberty Hall Volunteers, the Washington College Company established for the Confederate Army during the American Civil War. After the war, he served as a professor of rhetoric and oratory and headmaster at a number of schools in Alabama, Tennessee, and North Carolina. He married twice, first to Mamie Nall of Mobile, Alabama, and later to Mary Frances Tapscott of Augusta County, Virginia.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of Alexander Sterrett Paxton's journals in six volumes (484 p.) during the American Civil War. They cover his service as a member of the 4th Virginia Infantry of the Stonewall Brigade, including his role as a Commissary Sergeant of the regiment. Journal entries explore the war experiences of a Confederate foot soldier and include: his insights into motives for war; observations and descriptions of ranking officers, fellow soldiers, friends and family; detailed accounts of battles and campaigns; and experiences in hospitals and camps, including a few pencil-drawn maps of Stonewall Brigade camps (1861-1862). Volume 6 includes a month-long dream journal that Paxton kept in 1864. The collection also includes correspondence between Paxton's second wife, Mary Frances Tapscott Paxton, and her family; ten pre and post-war photographs of Paxton, his brother, Joseph McClung Paxton and other family members (Tapscott family and Lilley family of Augusta County, Va.); and a ca.1860 fraternity/secret society bylaws document handwritten by Paxton.

Keywords

Dreams

Virginia -- Rockbridge County

Personal narratives -- Confederate

Military campaigns

Diaries

Soldiers

Confederate States of America. Army. Liberty Hall Volunteers

Online Access

View collection online via W&L's Digital Archive

Description of Subordinate Components

Control folder

Text 1 (box)

Container 0 (folder)

Language English.

Diary, volume one

Unit Date 1861-06-08 through 1861-09-02

Text 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English.

Diary, volume two

Unit Date 1861-09-13 through 1861-11-02

Text 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English.

Diary, volume three

Unit Date 1861-11-02 through 1861-11-21

Text 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English.

Diary, volume four

Unit Date 1861-11-22 through 1862-02-09

Text 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English.

Diary, volume five

Unit Date 1862-07-15 through 1863-06-26

Text 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English.

Diary, volume six

Unit Date 1863-10-30 through 1865-05-01

Text 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English.

Diary transcriptions

Unit Date 1861-06-08 through 1865-05-01

Text 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English.

Advertisement for "Memory Days"

Unit Date 1908

Text 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Memory Days (1908) was a book written by Paxton -- "In which the Shenandoah Valley is seen in retrospection, with glimpses of school days and the life of Virginia people of fifty years ago."

Correspondence and clippings, Paxton family

Unit Date 1926-1959

Text 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English.

Constitution and bylaws of Delta Delta Secret Society, University of Virginia

Unit Date 1860

Text 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English.

Genealogy and misc. history

Text 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Language English.

Notes

A composition book and loose notes on Nall, Doak, Lilley, and Paxton families

Miscellaneous printed material

Text 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Language English.

Photographs

Unit Date 1857 - 1910

Text 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

8 images from Paxton, Tapscott, and Lilley families

Photographs

Text 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Three items -- Stonewall Jackson, James Tapscott, James Lilley