

BENEDICT, EDWIN R., 1841-1901.
Edwin R. Benedict diary, 1864-1865

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Benedict, Edwin R., 1841-1901.
Title: Edwin R. Benedict diary, 1864-1865
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 374
Extent: 1 microfilm reel (MF)
Abstract: Microfilm copy of the diary of Edwin R. Benedict of Little Falls, New York, who served in the Union navy during the Civil War.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source

Loaned for microfilming by Ralph B. Beech, 1961.

Custodial History

Provenance unknown.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Edwin R. Benedict diary, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Appraisal Note

Acquired as part of the Rose Library's holdings in Southern history.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Edwin R. Benedict was from Little Falls, Herkimer County, New York. He was the son of Micaiah and Christina Benedict. His half-brother Henry Harper Benedict, pioneered with Seamons in developing the typewriter. During the Civil War he served in the Union navy on the *A. D. Vance* and the *North Carolina*; on the latter he became a clerk in the paymaster's department. He had apparently attended a "Commercial College" in Little Falls, but there is no indication of his occupation before joining the Navy or after the war. Edwin R. Benedict married Amelia M. Petrie in 1867. They had four children.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of a microfilm copy of the manuscript diary, of approximately 60 pages, of Edwin R. Benedict with entries starting November 8, 1864 and ending May 20, 1865. During most of this time Benedict was on the *A. D. Vance*. In March 1865 he was assigned to the *North Carolina* and continued to serve on this vessel as clerk to the paymaster. He describes the bombardment of Fort Fisher near Wilmington, North Carolina in December 1864 and the final days of the attack on the fort which led to its fall in January 1865. His ship took part in the blockade of Wilmington and at various times moved up the coast to Beaufort, Newport News, and New York. The diary records some of the events of life on board ship, his thoughts and feelings about home and his family, his pleasure in hearing from friends and family, his duties, some description of places and of naval operations. In mid-May he went home on leave and he tells of the things he did and the people he saw. The diary closes with his return to the North Carolina at New York on May 20.

