

BLACKSHEAR, JAMES APPLETON, 1841-1867.

James Appleton Blackshear diaries, 1862-1867

Emory University
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-6887
rose.library@emory.edu

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Blackshear, James Appleton, 1841-1867.
Title: James Appleton Blackshear diaries, 1862-1867
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 302
Extent: 1 microfilm reel (MF)
Abstract: Microfilm copy of the diaries of James Appleton from August 20, 1862 - July 17, 1867 which in part discuss his Civil War service during the Antietam Campaign (September 1862); and his service as an officer in charge of prisoners particularly at Camp Lee (Virginia) and Thomasville (Georgia) and as Instructor of Light Infantry Tactics to the officers stationed at Anderson, Georgia.
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.

Related Materials in Other Repositories

[Baber-Blackshear family papers](#), Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Georgia.

Source

Loaned for microfilming, 1957.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], James Appleton Blackshear diaries, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note

James Appleton Blackshear was born July 5, 1841, in Sumter County, Georgia. A cadet at Georgia Military Institute at the outbreak of the Civil War, he saw service as First Lieutenant, Adjutant and Captain of Infantry in the Georgia State Troops, as Captain of Artillery in the Provisional Army, and as Congressional District Enrolling Officer in Georgia. He also served as an officer in charge of prisoners at various places in Virginia, Georgia and North Carolina and as Instructor of Light Infantry Tactics to the officers stationed at Anderson, Georgia. After the war he taught school in Georgia and Louisiana, did a little manual farm labor, managed a camp of loggers getting out cross ties for the "Southwest Railroad", and attempted to start a Masonic Journal for the state of Georgia and to run for the office of Tax Collector of Sumter County, Georgia, but gave up both projects after several months of soliciting subscriptions for the Journal and votes for himself. Although he writes of numerous romances in his diaries, he never married. While teaching school in Louisiana he became the victim of pulmonary tuberculosis about which he writes in detail until one month before his death in August 1867, at the age of twenty-six.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of a microfilm copy of four diaries of James Appleton Blackshear from August 20, 1862 - July 17, 1867. The entries consist of poetic descriptions of incidents and his own introspections about almost everything. They reveal a well-informed and discerning mind. He writes about battles, the behavior of soldiers and school children, his opinions in regard to slavery, social manners and customs, and his friendships and love affairs. He frequently mentions his reading and often quotes at length from various books. He recorded bits of information such as lists of books, financial transactions and news and gossip of the day that he thought might be useful in the future.

During the Civil War, his entries discuss engagements at South Mountain and Sharpsburg, both part of the Antietam Campaign (September 1862); and his service as an officer in charge of prisoners particularly at Camp Lee (Virginia) and Thomasville (Georgia) and as Instructor of Light Infantry Tactics to the officers stationed at Anderson, Georgia.

