

HARRISON, JOHN E., 1830- John E. Harrison diaries, 1861-1865

Emory University
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Collection Stored Off-Site

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Harrison, John E., 1830-
Title: John E. Harrison diaries, 1861-1865
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 920
Extent: 1 linear ft. (2 boxes)
Abstract: Civil War diaries of John E. Harrison, who served in the 8th and 42nd Ohio Infantry Regiment.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access

Collection stored off-site. Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance to access this collection.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Source

Purchase, 2002.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], John E. Harrison diaries, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Teresa Burk, 2003.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note

John E. Harrison was born September 25, 1830. Harrison lived in Darke County, Ohio. The 1850 census lists him as a farmer, and the 1860 census lists him as a school teacher. He married Harriet Benson, and they had at least one daughter (Manervey). He was 31 years old when he and his brother Samuel (21 years old) joined the 44th Ohio Infantry Regiment, Company G, in 1861. He started as a corporal, and on January 5, 1864 was promoted to full sergeant. This regiment later became the 8th Ohio Cavalry Regiment, Company G. He saw battle in Lewisburg, Charleston, and Liberty, West Virginia, and in Dunstan Hill and Knoxville, Tennessee. His unit also spent time in Virginia and Kentucky. The 8th Cavalry was captured by surprise at Beverly, West Virginia and sent to Libby Prison in Richmond in January 1865. His regiment was discharged in August 1865 at which time he returned home to Hollansburg, Ohio. Harrison attended a soldier's reunion in 1880 and applied for a Civil War Pension in 1885 (in Indiana). He probably died in late 1911 (his widow applied for a Civil War pension that year).

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of 26 volumes of John E. Harrison's Civil War diaries from 1861-1865. The diaries document in detail Harrison's daily activities from the day that he joined the army until the day that he walked back to his front door at the end of the war. The second diary, dated October 31-November 22, 1861 is missing. In his daily entries, Harrison recorded in some detail the daily life of a soldier and the activities in the camps. He continued his diaries during his incarceration in Libby Prison. At the end of the last diary, he documents the expenses incurred in rebuilding his house and lists fellow soldiers who attended a reunion in 1880. There are also three photographs of a letter found in diary number 4 and transcribed copies of volumes one, three, four, and five.

Arrangement Note

Arranged by record type.

Container List

Diaries

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Number 1: September 16, 1861 - October 30, 1861
1	2	Number 3: November 23, 1861 - December 20, 1861
1	3	Number 4: December 21, 1861 – January 19, 1862 (see Photographs section for images of inserted letter)
1	4	Number 5: January 20, 1862 – February 19, 1862
1	5	Number 6: February 20, 1862 – March 14, 1862
1	6	Number 7: March 15, 1862 - April 4, 1862
1	7	Number 8: April 5, 1862 – April 26, 1862
1	8	Number 9: April 28, 1862 – May 14, 1862
1	9	Number 10: May 14, 1862 – May 28, 1862 (inserted note)
1	10	Number 11: May 29, 1862 – June 19, 1862
1	11	Number 12: June 21, 1862 – July 8, 1862
1	12	Number 13: July 9, 1862 – July 31, 1862
1	13	Number 14: August 1, 1862 – August 31, 1862
1	14	Number 15: September 1, 1862 – September 30, 1862
1	15	Number 16: October 1, 1862 – November 2, 1862
1	16	Number 17: November 3, 1862 – December 31, 1862
2	1	Number 18: January 1, 1863 – March 3, 1863
2	2	Number 19: March 24, 1863 – May 21, 1863
2	3	Number 20: March 24, 1863 – May 21, 1863 (inserted note)
2	4	Number 21: May 22, 1863 – August 12, 1863
2	5	Number 22: August 13, 1863 – October 20, 1863
2	6	Number 23: October 21, 1863 – April 3, 1864 (inserted note)
2	7	Number 24: April 4, 1863 – June 18, 1864
2	8	Number 25: June 19, 1864 – November 12, 1864
2	9	Number 26: November 13, 1864 – April 3, 1865
2	10	Number 27: April 4, 1865 – August 5, 1865

Photographs

2	11	3 photographs of a letter inserted in Diary Number 4: December 21, 1861- January 19, 1862
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Transcriptions

2	12	Typescript of Diary Number 1: September 16, 1861 - October 30, 1861
2	13	Typescript of Diary Number 3: November 23, 1861 - December 20, 1861
2	14	Typescript of Diary Number 4: December 21, 1861 – January 19, 1862

2 15 Typescript of Diary Number 5: January 20, 1862 – February 19, 1862
