

MCMICHAEL, JAMES ROBERT, 1835-1893.

James Robert McMichael diary, 1854-1865

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: McMichael, James Robert, 1835-1893.
Title: James Robert McMichael diary, 1854-1865
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 211
Extent: .125 linear ft. (1 box)
Abstract: Typescript copy of the diary of James Robert McMichael, Confederate soldier, documenting his military experiences 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

Gift, 1966.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], James Robert McMichael diary, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

MRD, 1967.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

James Robert McMichael (April 20, 1835-April 30, 1893) was born near Talbotton, Georgia and died in Buena Vista, Georgia. He was the son of John and Mary Jane Howe McMichael.

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James entered the Confederate service on June 15, 1861 as a member of the Marion Guards which later were incorporated into Company K of the 12th Georgia Infantry Regiment. He was elected second lieutenant and was made a captain on January 22, 1863. He was wounded at Second Manassas, August 28, 1862, and at Fredericksburg, December 13, 1863; captured at Spottsylvania on May 10, 1864 and released from Ft. Delaware prison on June 16, 1865. His company took part in the battles of Ball's Bluff, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Gaines Mill, Malvern Hill, Second Manassas, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, and Spottsylvania. It engaged in other battles after his capture and was in the army of surrender at Appomattox.

After the war James entered the Medical College of the University of Georgia. In October 1866 he married Elvira Amanda Stevens of Putnam, Schley County, Georgia They were the parents of thirteen children: Morgan N., Victor L., Edward H., Robert Lee, Pearl (Mrs. James E. Lowe), Elba (Mrs. Warren, A. White), Lillian (Mrs. Homer H. Hamner), Lois (Mrs. Hubert D. Passmore), Susie (Mrs. Edgar H. Johnson), Lula, Jack R., Albert D., and Roy D. Roy died at the age of seventeen; all the others attained maturity. Dr. McMichael was a physician and farmer and at the insistence of his friends ran without opposition for the legislature and served one term (1886-1887) as a representative of Schley County.

Publication Note

Diary published in *Bulletin of the University Hospital* (affiliated with Georgia Medical College), vol. 54, no. 8 (March 1954).

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of a typescript copy of the diary of James Robert McMichael from August 1854 to June 1865. The diary is 42 pages long. McMicael recorded his trip to prison in Delaware; conditions there; his moves to Charleston, South Carolina, Morris Island, Cockspur Island, and Fort Pulaski, Georgia; return to Fort Delaware; the fall of the Confederacy; and his departure for Philadelphia and home. Also noted is a list of sick "Confederate Prisoners" at Fort Pulaski and their illnesses; the (first) fourteen Confederates who took the oath of allegiance to the Union; a list by state of the officer-prisoners at Fort Delaware; copies of eight letters McMichael received while in prison; the names and addresses of fellow prisoners; a roll of his company with death or discharge data; and autographs, poems, and some quotations.

