

WILLIAMS, BENJAMIN S., 1843-1931.

Benjamin S. Williams papers, 1899-1924

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Williams, Benjamin S., 1843-1931.
Title: Benjamin S. Williams papers, 1899-1924
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 377
Extent: 1 microfilm reel (MF)
Abstract: Microfilm copy of two scrapbooks mainly containing a series of articles written by Confederate soldier Benjamin S. Williams, who served in the 25th and 47th Georgia Infantry Regiments, in which he reminisces about 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.

Related Materials in Other Repositories

[Benjamin S. Williams papers](#), David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

Source

Loaned for microfilming, 1961.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Benjamin S. Williams papers, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by EK, 1961.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note

Benjamin S. Williams (June 25, 1843-May 13, 1931) was a son of Gilbert William Martin Williams, a Baptist minister who moved with his family from Barnwell County, South Carolina to Liberty County, Georgia in 1857 or 1858. An ardent Secessionist, G.W.M. Williams was a signer of the Georgia ordinance of secession and organizer and colonel of the 47th Georgia Infantry Regiment, in which both of his sons served, Benjamin as a captain and adjutant, and Abraham as Quarter-master Sergeant. Benjamin was mustered into the Confederate Army in April 1861 in Savannah as a member of the Rifle Company of the 25th Georgia Infantry Regiment, but in a few months' time he was commissioned a lieutenant and joined the 47th, in which he served for the duration of the war.

After the war he went into the timber business through the help of a Savannah merchant. In November 1867 he married Miss Josephine Richardson of South Carolina and from then on he resided in the Beaufort District of that state. He served as a member of the South Carolina legislature and ran for the state senate but was defeated by Tillman. For a time he was the commander of the Confederate Soldiers' Home in Columbia. During the Reconstruction period he led a company of "Red Shirts." When Hampton County was formed, he was appointed its first auditor. After his defeat by Tillman for election to the state senate, he apparently dropped out of active participation in politics.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists a microfilm copy of two scrapbooks of newspaper clippings of a series of articles written by Capt. Benjamin S. Williams that appeared in the *Hampton County Guardian*, September 19, 1923-December 4, 1924. These articles were also published in the Charleston, South Carolina *Sunday News*, December 10, 1899; October 1, 15, 20 and December 10, 1911; January 28, March 10, April 14, May 12, August 31, 1912; August 31, September 21, November 23, October 26, 1913; January 11, February 22, March 8, 1914; January 10, April 4, May 2, November 9, and December 21, 1915. The articles consist of Capt. Williams's reminiscences of the Civil War. At the end of the second scrapbook is some information about the father and brother of Capt. Williams, their regiment, and some miscellaneous material about the war. Among the battles in which he took part and which he writes about are Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Honey Hill, South Carolina, and Rivers Bridge, South Carolina.

