

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

White, Henry, Diaries, 1861-1864; 1880

Location:

Octavo volumes "W"
Misc. mss. boxes "W"

Size of collection:

3 octavo volumes; 1 folder (2 items)

N.U.C.M.C. number:

RLIN id: MAAR92-A169

Sources of information on collection:

Partridge, John W., *Boylston, Massachusetts, in the Civil War ...* (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1995)

Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines in the Civil War (Norwood, Mass.: Norwood Press, 1931)

Source of collection:

Unknown

Collection description:

Henry White (1824-1899), the son of Seth and Lydia (Case) White, was born, on 7 April 1824, at West Boylston, Mass. At the time of his marriage to Sarah Hapgood (1830-), on 15 April 1847, White was living in Boylston, Mass. and working as a mechanic and shoemaker. White also held several town offices while a resident of Boylston (e.g., representative, postmaster, tax collector, town meeting moderator, library trustee). He died, on 19 December 1899, at Boylston.

White enlisted, on 5 July 1861, as a private in Company E of the Twenty-first Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers. He, along with his regiment, participated in the battles of Roanoke Island, Newbern, Antietam, Fredericksburg, the defense of Knoxville, and the Virginia campaign of 1864. It was during the Battle of Fredericksburg, on 13 December 1862, that he was wounded, shortly after being promoted to Corporal. After a brief recuperation, he rejoined his regiment. White was promoted to Sergeant on 1 January 1864, and was discharged, on 24 September 1864, during a consolidation of the regiment.

These diaries cover the period from July 1861 to September 1864 and include accounts of White's travels and experiences during the Civil War. Daily weather conditions are briefly mentioned as are incidents revealing camp life.

White reported news from home, camp gossip, and the activities of his comrades. He described marches, skirmishes, and entered detailed descriptions of the battle of Antietam and Fredericksburg.

The first diary begins with White enlisting with Captain Bradford while standing in his own cornfield in Boylston, and ends with his arrival at David's Island Hospital in New York harbor. The volume also contains a copy of a poem entitled, "The Battle of Roanoke Feb 8th 1862," which was composed by Lt. William E. Richardson, of Co. E., 21st Regt., Mass. Volunteers.

The second diary, kept in a Diary and Memorandum Book for 1863 ... (Boston: N. Little & Co., [1862?]), begins with an update on his injury and ends with a
(cont.)

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Collection description (continued):

return to Worcester, Mass. and the beginning of a furlough.

The third diary begins with the end of the furlough and his return to the war and ends with his return home.

The collection also contains two items: a letter from John C. White (-), to Henry, dated 26 September 1862; and a notice, to Henry White, of an appointment as Night Inspector, by the Collector's Office, Custom House, Boston, Mass., dated 13 May 1880.

See Contents List.

27 June 1977
revised 5 March 2010

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Henry White, Diaries, 1861-1864; 1880

Contents List

Octavo Volume

- 1 Diary, 5 July 1861 - 21 December 1862
- 2 Diary, 1 January 1863 - 1 February 1864
- 3 Diary, 18 March 1864 - 27 September 1864