

MSA 84, Folders 12 - 16

George R. Crosby Diaries, 1863 - 1865

Scope & Content

George R. Crosby of Brattleboro enlisted in September, 1861, as a private in Co. F of the 1st Vermont Cavalry. He re-enlisted in December 1863, was taken prisoner in May 1864, and was imprisoned in the infamous Andersonville Prison. He was paroled in December of the same year, and mustered out in August, 1865.

The entries in the diaries span the period of April 1, 1863, to June, 1865. They are, for the most part, brief; however, Crosby made separate longer entries in a blank notebook for a brief period in early 1864 between capture and imprisonment. In this longer format he writes of his regiment's raid on Richmond (February 28, 1864) and of his experiences from the date of his capture at the beginning of the Battle of the Wilderness (May 5, 1864) to his eventual imprisonment at Andersonville, May 22, 1864 (Folder 16).

Crosby used the blank pages at the end of the years 1863, and 1864 (Folders 12 & 14), to record the clothing he was issued and to list the letters he both sent and received. In the last pages of the longer diary (Folder 16), Crosby lists the men in Co. F who were taken prisoner. The draft of a letter Crosby wrote to Mrs. Cyrus S. Tuttle in Andover, Vermont, informing her of her husband's death (July 22, 1864) is in this same section of the diary (Folder 16). These longer entries are the most interesting in the collection and may have been written afterward.

All the diaries are photocopies of the originals which are in the possession of George M. Crosby of St. Johnsbury, grandson of the writer. He permitted the diaries to be photocopied in 1991 (ms. acc. no. 91.14). The photocopies of the 1864 diary are enlarged from the original 5 3/4 x 3 1/2 inches. The collection is stored in 5 folders.

Inventory

MSA 84

Folder 12	Diary, April 11 - December 1863
13	_____, January - June 1864
14	_____, July - December 1864
15	_____, January - June 6, 1865
16	_____, February 28, March 6, & May 5 - May 21, 1864

Priscilla Page

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