1979

0248: James N. Potts Papers, 1861-1906

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James Newton Potts (Sept. 14, 1838-Jan. 10, 1931) was born to Mathias C. Potts and Rachel Warwick McCabe. He married Margaret A. Stewart and had the following children: Virginia W. (1868-1876), Harry Stewart (1878-1956), and Emma Margaret (1882-1976). He served in the Civil War and was mustered out as a Second Lieutenant (Sometimes written as First Sergeant) in Company G of the 18th Regiment of the Virginia Cavalry. He was also a prisoner of war. His later occupations included being a merchant (1870, Williamsville, VA), retail grocer (1880, Huntington, WV), and a real estate agent (1900-1920, same).

The above information was taken from Potts’ entry on ancestry.com, as well as census information: https://www.ancestry.com/genealogy/records/james-newton-potts-24-8hhbqq

Additional information about Potts’ service record may be found in the National Archives collection, “Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Virginia”.

Scope and Content:

Note: Legibility of the copy of the diary is limited given that it is a xeroxed black and white copy.

The cover of the diary says, “Romance of the War by James N. Potts [illegible] Commissary [illegible] Book Commencing Dec. 12th, 1861 Hunter’sville, Va, Pocahontas Co., Virginia”. The first thirty-one pages consist of a ledger tracking provisions for 1861-1862. In order, the contents after are as follows: recipes, ciphers or “enigmas”, journal
entries from 1861 to 1867, an 1869 letter to the editor of the “Herald” from Williamsville, VA, journal entries, letter copies (one dated 1877), poetry, more journal entries for 1881 and 1882, a ledger of household goods, and more poetry.

Also included in the collection is a 1906 letter from J. T. Byrd in Williamsville, VA, regarding events that occurred when Potts and Byrd served together in the war. In the same folder is a clipping of the obituary for Campbell Neel, who donated the papers.

Processing Notes:

This collection was already processed at the time the finding aid was created.

Preferred Citation:

James N. Potts Papers, Accession No. 1979/02.0248, Special Collections Department, Marshall University, Huntington, WV.

Access and Use:

For more information or to use any collection, contact:
Special Collections, Morrow Library
Marshall University
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755
(304) 696-2343
speccoll@marshall.edu

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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder</td>
<td>Potts diary (copy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder</td>
<td>Potts diary (copy of copy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder</td>
<td>J. N. Potts (J.T. Byrd) – Letter (8 pages) and clipping</td>
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