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James N. Potts Papers, 1861-1906

ACC 1979/02.0248



Special Collections Department
James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University
Huntington, West Virginia
2019

James N. Potts Papers, 1861-1906

Summary:

Title: James N. Potts Papers

Span Dates: 1861-1906

Creator: Unknown

Repository: Marshall University Special Collections, Morrow Library (Huntington, WV)

Processed by: Elizabeth James, 2019

Accession Number: 1979/02.0248

Date Completed: September, 2019

Access to Collection: Open

Extent: 0.25 feet

Donor: Campbell Neel

Search Terms:

Civil War

Diary

James N. Potts

Biographical Notes:

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

Container	Contents
Box 1	
Folder	Potts diary (copy)
Folder	Potts diary (copy of copy)
Folder	J. N. Potts (J.T. Byrd) – Letter (8 pages) and clipping