Guide to the Johnny Reb and Billy Yank: manuscript
MSS.4010

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August 15, 2014
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

Repository
University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama

Creator - Author
Hunter, Alexander, 1843-

Title
Johnny Reb and Billy Yank: manuscript

Date
1905

Extent
0.8 Linear feet (approx. 1200 page manuscript, partly autograph and part in hand of an amanuensis)

Language
English

Abstract
Manuscript of Alexander Hunter's Johnny Reb and Billy Yank, his narrative of service in the Confederate Army, under the working title, "Four Years in the Ranks."

Preferred Citation note
Johnny Reb and Billy Yank: manuscript, University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama
Biographical/Historical note

Alexander Hunter, son of Bushrod Washington and Mary Frances Blow Hunter, was born on June 4, 1843, in Norfolk, Virginia. He married Alice Swain on June 22, 1882, in Richmond, Virginia. After her death he married Mrs. Filah Saunders.

During the Civil War, Hunter served in two branches of the Confederate forces. First in the Seventeenth Virginia infantry, participating in the first battle of Bull Run, Chantilly, Yorktown, Seven Pines, and Frazier's Farm. He was captured and exchanged. Upon his return he participated in the second battle of Bull Run and Antietam where he was captured again. After being paroled, he joined in the fighting at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. After Chancellorsville, he left the infantry and joined the Black Horse Cavalry. He is captured once again, but finally (after two failed attempts) escaped to rejoin south of Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley. He participated in the rear guard action for the Army of Northern Virginia as Grant pushed toward Petersburg.

After the war, he wrote *Johnny Reb and Billy Yank* (published by The Neale Publishing Company, 1905); *The Huntsman of the South* (published by The Neale Publishing Company, 1908), and *The Women of the Debatable Land* (published by Cobden Publishing Company, 1912).

Hunter died on July 2, 1914, in Silver Springs, Maryland.

Scope and Contents note

The collection contains the approximate 1200-page manuscript of Alexander Hunter's *Johnny Reb and Billy Yank*, his narrative of service in the Confederate Army, under the working title, "Four Years in the Ranks." The book was published originally by Walter Neale in 1905. Hunter explained in his preface that while thousands of soldiers on both sides of the conflict who started keeping a diary of his daily activities, very few kept them the entire time. He also said that while many officers rushed to get their memoirs into print immediately after the war, very few felt comfortable writing the exact truth without sacrificing reputations - whether it be his or his superiors'. A private, he said, who had served in the ranks could afford to tell the whole of what he endured without fear of reprisal.

Administrative Information
Publication Information
University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama August 2014

Conditions Governing Access note
None

Conditions Governing Use note
None

Provenance
purchased from Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Inc., 2014

Processed by
Martha Bace, 2014

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

• Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Inc..

Subject(s)

• United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives, Confederate
• War and Military
### Collection Inventory

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