

CW/VFM-80: *Transcript and letters about the Documents of William H. Rupp*

Diary of William H. Rupp of the 26th Pennsylvania, Co. A; and of the 87th Pennsylvania, Co. F:

The 26th Pennsylvania militia was organized on June 22, 1863 specifically for Lee's assault on Pennsylvania, and therefore only did duty in the department of the Susquehanna near Gettysburg in early July of 1863. They were mustered out on July 31, 1863.

He also served with the 87th PA regiment, which was organized in September of 1861. This regiment saw action at the battles of Winchester (6/13-15/1863), Spotsylvania (5/8-21/1864), Cold Harbor (6/1-12/1864), Petersburg (4/2/1865), and were present for the surrender at Appomattox Courthouse (4/9/1865).

William Rupp mentions very little about the battle of Gettysburg. He didn't participate in the fighting at all and, as his diary refers to his anxiety over waiting for news over the proceedings of the battle, he wasn't one of the ones that were captured in the initial skirmishing.

Typed (transcript) copy: 21pp

Research Paper by Kathryn R. Funk (4/27/1989):

This document directly deals with the influence of the 26th Pennsylvania Militia as the first Union troops to oppose the Confederate advance into Pennsylvania. However, they missed the battle of Gettysburg and never did any hand-to-hand combat with enemy. Only the men taken prisoner during the initial skirmish witnessed the fighting that occurred at Gettysburg.

Original document: 9pp

Letter from Minter L. Watts to Gettysburg College (4/20/1988):

Mr. Watts was liquidating the assets of a certain person, and the diary was part of it. He was wondering if the college would like to buy it.

Original document: 1pp

Letter from David T. Hendrick to Minter L. Watts (6/15/1988):

The college was prepared to pay \$600 for the diary, even though the item really wasn't worth that much. He suggests that the client make the diary a gift since a tax deduction might be more helpful than a sale of the item.

Original document: 1pp

Letter from David T. Hendrick to M.A.R. Clayman (9/1/1988):

Mr. Clayman offered to transcribe the diary for free, and Hendrick is thanking him for his contribution.

Original document: 1pp

Keywords: Union – East – Pennsylvania – 26th; Diaries; Papers - Other; Army – Infantry; Soldiers – Non-Commissioned Officers

Location: Civil War Vertical File Manuscripts, Special Collections & College Archives, Musselman Library at Gettysburg College.

See also: [Civil War Sources in Special Collections](#)