

The Patrick Casey Collection

Scope and Content

Randall Miles

2005

The Patrick Casey Collection of Civil War Diaries consists of two diaries and one autobiographical narrative. The first diary covers the period from January 19, 1863 to December 17, 1863. It contains 192 entries, plus several pages of miscellaneous notes. The second diary covers the period from May 14, 1864 to March 18, 1865. It contains 89 entries, plus several pages of miscellaneous notes. The autobiographical narrative is the beginning of an autobiography titled “The Travels of a Soldier in the 104th Regt. N. Y. V. Since the Date of Enlistment in Whitehall, Washington Co. to Date.” It consists of four 12” by 7.5” pages on one sheet of page.

All three items have been placed in mylar sleeves, the narrative was first unfolded so that all four pages can be read without removing it from the sleeve. The diaries, in their sleeves, are held in acid-free slipcases. The narrative, in its sleeve, is held in an acid-free folder. The collection is housed in one 700 cubic inch archival box.

The Diaries

The first diary is approximately three inches by five inches, and one-quarter inch thick. The covers are missing, as are several pages from the front and rear of the volume. The corners and edges of the pages are worn, and in some cases badly damaged. Very little of the sewing along the spine remains and the pages are loose. The diary was designed to have three entries per page, with the day of the week, month, date, and year (e.g. Monday, January 19, 1863) printed in black ink at the top of the page; and the day of the week and date (e.g. Tuesday 20) printed in black ink for the two subsequent entries on the page. Most of the entries are informative, though there are a number which read simply, “Do” [Ditto], indicating an entry identical to the preceding. This diary covers Casey’s early experiences in the war up to his capture at the Gettysburg on July 1, 1863,

and continues through his first term as a Prisoner of War to his parole on September 30, 1863.

The second diary is approximately three inches by five inches, and three-eights of an inch thick. It has tooled leather covers. The pages have come unbound from the covers, but are still held together by the spine stitches, except for a few loose pages. There is some slight wear on the corners of the pages, but others the condition of the pages is good. The diary did not have dates preprinted on the pages, the author added the dates as he wrote. This diary covers Casey's return to active duty on May 14, 1864 to his second capture near Petersburg on August 19, 1864. The diary continues through his release on October 8, 1864, his return to active duty, and the beginning of his journey home in February, 1865.

The Autobiographical Narrative

The narrative is written on one large sheet of paper, which had been folded to three inches by five inches. The paper is slightly stained, with some foxing. There are large holes where the vertical and horizontal creases intersect. Overall the physical condition of the narrative is good. The narrative begins with Casey's enlistment on January 26, 1862. It ends abruptly mid-sentence on September 15, 1862.

Patrick Casey Collection of Civil War Diaries

<i>Box #</i>	<i>Folder #</i>	<i>Item #</i>	<i>By</i>	<i>Dates</i>
PC1				
	<i>PC01</i>	Diary		
		PCD01	Patrick Casey	Jan. - Dec. 1863
	<i>PC02</i>	Diary		
		PCD02	Patrick Casey	May 1864 - Mar. 1865
	<i>PC03</i>	Diary [Autobiographical Narrative]		
		PCD03	Patrick Casey	No Date