



Archival and Manuscript Collections Finding Aid

ACCESSION No.: HRHS- 110

COLLECTION TITLE: Confederate Commissary Ledger

DATES: 1862-1865

SIZE: 1 box (OV)

DONOR: Garnett R. Turner and Pat Turner Ritchie

PROCESSED: Processed 09/15/2014

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

This Confederate commissary ledger was kept by Major A. H. Johnson, Assistant Commissary, and records transactions in Harrisonburg and Winchester from 1862 to 1865. Major Johnson was appointed Assistant Commissary in Harrisonburg, VA on May 18, 1862 and was paroled there April 20, 1865, age 30.

“During the Civil War, Harrisonburg was not yet a city, but a farm market town of about 1,600 people. It was also astride the Valley Turnpike, an all-weather road of crushed and compacted stone between Winchester and Staunton, where the Virginia Central Railroad connected the Valley to Richmond, the Confederate capital. Valley harvests and livestock not only fed units posted in the region- they also sustained soldiers throughout the Confederacy.” (DNR, Dec 17, 2007). A notable name found in the ledger includes George Chrisman, commander of the ‘boys company’, consisting of teens too young for the Confederate army.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

This collections contains a Civil War Commissary ledger, or provision book, kept at Harrisonburg and Winchester, VA, by Major A.H. Johnson, covering his official transactions, September 1862-February 1865, as a Commissary of Subsistence, Confederate States Army, including provisions received and issued, rations issued, provisions transferred in bulk, quarterly reports, consolidated abstracts or provisions sold to officers, bills paid and personal property sold by Army order. The ledger records Confederate buying and selling in Harrisonburg from October 1862 to February 1865, near the end of the Civil War. (See DNR article and UVA Alderman Library, Nov 9, 1955- in the admin file).

See also Pat Richie’s and John Heatwole’s notes in the administration file concerning the Commissary book from Sept 2006, which describes a list of all officers attached to the

post at Harrisonburg, as well as the kinds of assignments administered by the station including guards, ambulance drivers, wagon masters, negroes (pioneers), hospital staff, train (wagon train). Two regiments are assigned to the post, the 17th Va. Cav. Battalion, the 22 South Carolina Battalion.

Also, See Pat Richie's letter to Dale MacAllister, Nov 6, 2007 for more details in the book.

COLLECTION INVENTORY:

Original Confederate Commissary Ledger kept by Major A. H. Johnson, Assistant Commissary

Photocopy of Confederate Commissary Ledger

3 books: Lee's Colonels, Staff Officers in Gray, Confederate Staff Officers. These three books were donated by John Heatwole and remain with the ledger because they help explain the officers whose names appear in the ledger.