



Archival and Manuscript Collections Finding Aid

ACCESSION No: HRHS-186

COLLECTION TITLE: Hon. John T. Harris Collection

DATES: 1859 - 1898

SIZE: 2 folders

DONOR: Phillip C. Stone

PROCESSED: Processed August 4, 2016 by K. Craun

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

John T. Harris was born in 1823 in Browns Gap, Virginia. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1845, commencing practice in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He was the commonwealth attorney for Rockingham County, Virginia from 1852 to 1859 and was elected an Independent Democrat to the United States House of Representatives in 1858, serving from 1859 to 1861. He ran for reelection, but the seat was terminated from Congress due to Virginia's secession from the Union on April 17, 1861.

Harris was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1863 to 1865 and judge of the twelfth judicial circuit of Virginia from 1866 to 1869. He was later elected back to the U.S. House of Representatives as a Democrat in 1870, serving from 1871 to 1881. He served as chairman of the Virginia Democratic Convention in 1884 and was a commissioner to the 1893 World Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Illinois. He died in Harrisonburg, Virginia on October 14, 1899 and was interred there in Woodbine Cemetery.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

This journal belonged to Congressman John T. Harris. The donor received it from Dr. Peyton Randolph Harris, the great-grandson of John T. Harris.

COLLECTION INVENTORY:

Folder 1:

Journal of the Hon. John T. Harris from 1859 to 1898. Items included in the journal are:

- Handwritten account of the Federal Army occupying Harrisonburg in April, 1862
- Handwritten genealogy of John T. Harris, dated July 6, 1871
- Many newspaper clippings concerning the Civil War, bills passed in Congress, election returns, death notices, etc.
- Confederate currency

Folder 2:

- 1861 Congressional Directory for the Second Session of the Thirty-Sixth Congress of the United States of America. John T. Harris is listed in the House of Representatives.
- Speech by Hon. John T. Harris of Virginia, in the House Representatives, January 5, 1874 on Civil Rights (copy)
- Speech by Hon. John T. Harris of Virginia, in the House Representatives, June 10, 1878, on Causes of Hard Times: Fostering Monopolies and Contraction of the Currency