Edward Smedley diary, 1863
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Finding aid prepared by Kara Flynn

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Biographical note

Edward Garrett Smedley (1835-1908) was born April 10, 1835 in Middletown, Delaware, the son of William Smedley and Rebecca Webster. Smedley was educated at Westtown School before leaving due to ill health. In 1863, Edward and his cousin William were drafted by the military to fight in the American Civil War. After refusing to fight or pay a penalty, Smedley and his cousin were held for a time in army barracks in Philadelphia before being released. In 1865 he married to Elizabeth Sharpless, and the couple had two daughters, Edith Smedley (1870), and Susanna Smedley (1875). Smedley died on February 5, 1908.

Scope and Content note

This collection is composed of the single handwritten diary of Edward Smedley, written while at the conscript barracks in Philadelphia after being drafted for the American Civil War. Entries describe Smedley's experiences as a drafted soldier and non-combatant prisoner in Philadelphia, including religious reflection, visits from family members, and military preparations.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections August 2015

Use Restrictions

Standard Federal Copyright Law Applies (U.S. Title 17).

Acquisition

Unknown.

Processing Information
Collection Inventory

| Diary 1863 |