

CW/VFM-160: Yates Whitmore Newton Diary

[Civil War Vertical File Manuscripts](#)

Provenance:

Donated by Robert Legg '70 in July 2015. The diary was owned by the donor's great-great-grandfather, Mitchel Balcom, who served in the same company as Newton in 1862-4.

Biography:

Yates Whitmore Newton (September 27, 1833- December 18, 1867) is the son of Jotham Newton (1796-1889) and Sarah Ann Titus (1819-1886). He was likely a resident of the Sandy Creek area in northern New York prior to the war. Yates Newton married A. [possibly Annie/Annis/Alice] Bateman on June 1, 1864, after his return from service, and likely had a daughter, Flora B. Newton, in 1867-8. Newton remained in New York for the rest of his life and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery of Sandy Creek, Oswego County, New York, the same place he was mustered into service.

He first enlisted on October 5, 1861 as a Corporal with Company B of the 7th New York Volunteer Cavalry Regiment for a term of three years. This Regiment was honorably mustered out of service on March 31, 1862, after a short stint in Washington D.C. Newton re-enlisted for three years of service on August 19, 1862, again in Sandy Creek, New York, to serve as a first lieutenant for Company C of the 110th New York Volunteer Infantry. The bulk of his activity in this assignment is detailed in his diary of 1863, including the Siege of Port Hudson, the Battle of Sabine Pass, and his dire sickness throughout the fall months. Newton's final discharge from service came on February 8, 1864, in Franklin, Louisiana.

Scope and Content:

The Yates Whitmore Newton diary collection contains a leather-bound pocket journal of the year 1863. During this time, Newton detailed the activity of the Union Army of the Gulf, which was stationed throughout Louisiana, focusing on the Siege of Port Hudson and the Battle of Sabine Pass. Supplementary and facsimile sources are also included: the donor's notes on Newton's companions and personal information, state records of his

service details, statistics and background of the New York 7th Cavalry Volunteers and the New York 110th Infantry Volunteers, background of the Siege of Port Hudson, a pension note filed by Flora Newton in 1891, and a 2013 photograph of his grave.

No photographs or other primary materials of Yates Whitmore Newton have been identified.

| OUTSTANDING PASSAGES:

- Feb. 24 [poem]
- Feb. 28 [intricate doodle of a hand]
- April 13 [first significant engagement]
- May 9 [stayed on Epps plantation, former home of Solomon Northup]
- May 24 [start Siege of Port Hudson]
- June 17 [insight to Confederate civilian and Union soldier interaction]
- June 27 [first mention of news in the North: Chambersburg, Harper's Ferry, and General Lee]
- July 7 [mention Vicksburg surrender]
- July 9 [Port Hudson surrender]
- July 15 [mention of Lee's defeat]
- August 12 [comments on futility of death in Regiment]
- August 25 [refers to presence of Corps d'Afrique and United States Colored Troops]
- September 8 [Battle of Sabine Pass]

MOVEMENTS: Camp Mansfield in Carrollton LA [to March 5] → "New Brunswick" Boat [March 6-7] → Baton Rouge [March 7 to April 2] → Algiers/New Orleans [April 2-8] → Brashear City [April 9] → Berwick City [April 9-11] → Pattersonville [April 12-13] → Franklin [April 14-15] → Newtown [April 16-18] → Vermillionville [April 18-19] → Opelousas [April 20-25] → Barrett's Landing [April 25-26] → Grand Lake [April 27] → Brashear City [April 28 to May 2] → Opelousas [May 3-6] → Barr's Landing [May 7] → Alexandria [May 8-16] → Simmesport [May 17-21] → Port Hudson [May 23 to July 12] → Just south of Port Hudson [July 13 to August 19] → New Orleans [August 20-25] → Port Hudson [August 26] → Baton Rouge [August 27 to September 2] → New Orleans [September 3-4] → "Robert Winthrop" ship (Sabine Pass, Texas) [September 5-12] → Algiers/New Orleans [September 12-17] → Brashear City [September 17-18] → Berwick City [September 19-23] → Bayou Teche/Camp Bisland [September 23 to October 2] → above Franklin [October 3-4] → New Iberia [October 13-20] → Brashear City [October 20] → Algiers/New Orleans [October 21-December 11] → New Iberia [December 12-end of year]

For more information:

Location: [Civil War Vertical File Manuscripts, Special Collections & College Archives, Musselman Library at Gettysburg College.](#)

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