

Stewart Bell Jr. Archives
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John Barton Guard Family Collection
Collection Number: 1834

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS: Collection is open to all researchers.

PHYSICAL ACCESS: The original John Barton Guard diary is fragile. As a preservation measure, researchers are asked to view a copy of the diary, which is filed in Box 1. The African American dolls and the tea set found in Box 2 of this collection require special handling with gloves. Please ask staff for assistance.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE: Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Processed by Lorna M. Loring, October 21, 2024. Updated by Nova Kulakowski, December 3, 2025.

ACCESSION NUMBER(S): 2024.061 THL

EXTENT: 0.42 linear feet plus 3 dolls and doll tea set.

CREATOR: Guard, John Barton (1839-1913)

DATE: ca. 1862-1913

EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF COPIES: Photographs in this collection have been digitized and are available to view online through the Past Perfect online database: <http://handley.pastperfectonline.com/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT: This collection includes a wartime diary kept by John Barton Guard covering the period from March 11, 1862 through April 30, 1862. Guard was a member of the Valley Brass Band of the 48th Virginia Infantry Regiment which participated in Jackson's Valley Campaign. Although not directly involved in any fighting, he provides details of troop movements and battles going on around him as well as the movements of his own regiment. While enduring many of the hardships of marching and camp life under sometimes miserable conditions, his account is punctuated by occasional excursions outside the camp with other members of the band, sometimes spending the night in private lodgings or a hotel, evidence of a certain latitude granted to members of the regimental band. Following the daily entries, the diary is filled with poems, sentiments and musings, many copied from published works and a few that appear to be original.

The collection also contains early twentieth century Guard family photographs; a Civil War era pocket almanac; obituaries of J. B. Guard and his mother; genealogical notes on the Shryock family; a letter to J. B. Guard's daughter, Ida Guard; a photo of the Hotel Ponce de Leon in Roanoke built by J. B. Guard; published copies of notes exchanged between U. S. Grant and R. E. Lee concerning the impending surrender of Lee's army; a Shenandoah Valley Railroad Company train ticket; a handwritten poem about the Battle of Cedar Creek

composed by a Union soldier; and two books, *The New McGuffey Fourth Reader* and *A Brief History of the United States*.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL: Just ten days after Virginia's adoption of the Ordinance of Secession, on April 27, 1861, John Barton Guard was enrolled for active military service at Harpers Ferry. He had arrived there with the West Augusta Guard, a local militia company out of Staunton which had marched north to help secure the town and its arsenal. That company subsequently became Company L of the 5th Virginia Infantry Regiment when the latter was organized on May 7th as part of Thomas (Stonewall) Jackson's First Brigade. At the same time, some members of the Staunton Mountain Saxhorn Band (aka, Turner's Silver Cornet Band after their director, Augustus J. Turner) are known to have enlisted into the same company. Along with several other members of that band who joined up at Staunton the following April, they would go on to form the nucleus of the Stonewall Brigade Band. Guard, however, was rejected for duty by the regimental surgeon on May 17th, less than three weeks after his enlistment.

Nearly ten months later, on March 9, 1862, Guard, a tenor saxhorn player, was among eight members of the Valley Brass Band, organized prior to the war at Newtown (now Stephens City), who enlisted at Winchester into the 48th Virginia Infantry Regiment. Along with a few other musicians, they would form the regimental band. Guard's participation in that band throughout the remainder of the war is well-documented in the diary of Jacob H. Lemley, a fellow band member who enlisted with Guard. The last of at least seven diary entries that attest to Guard's continued presence with Lemley in the same unit, going back to December 1862, is dated February 14, 1865. That both Guard and Lemley continuously served in the 48th Virginia Infantry from the time of their enlistment until the end of the war is further evidenced by the compiled military service records created by the War Department around the turn of the twentieth century. Records of their paroles, following the surrender of Lee's army at Appomattox, identify them both as members of the regiment at that time.

Although the 48th Virginia Infantry served with Jackson's forces in the Valley Campaign of spring 1862, it was never part of the First Brigade of the Valley District of the Army of Northern Virginia, later officially designated the Stonewall Brigade. When in the course of the war the ranks of that renowned brigade were depleted, its several regimental bands were consolidated into a single band in March 1863. Only upon this consolidation, a full year after Guard's enlistment into the 48th Virginia Infantry, did anything known as the Stonewall Brigade Band exist. As would be expected, Guard's name is absent from that band's unit records.

It is possible that before the war, when he was living in Staunton, Guard played with the Mountain Saxhorn Band which included at least eight future members of the Stonewall Brigade Band. Having come from Newtown, he was one of several master carpenters in Staunton likely working for David Bucher, a builder also from Newtown, with whose family Guard and the other carpenters were living in 1860. By 1870, census records place Guard back in Newtown where it appears he remained until his death in 1913. If he initially returned to Staunton following the war, it is also possible that he played for a time as a civilian with the Stonewall Brigade Band which carried on, as it has to this day, as a local community band. But the historical record seems to preclude the possibility that Guard was ever a member of the Stonewall Brigade Band during the war, despite the claim to the contrary in his obituary and the epitaph inscribed on his gravestone that reads "Stonewall Brigade Band C.S.A."

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Gift of M. Leslie Graber

CONTAINER LIST:

BOX 1

Folder: Guard, John Barton Diary, March 11, 1862 – April 30, 1862: Researcher Copy
Researcher Copy
Notes from donor describing the collection's contents and genealogical information.

Folder: Guard, John Barton Diary, March 11, 1862 – April 30, 1862
PHYSICAL ACCESS: The original John Barton Guard diary is fragile. As a preservation measure, researchers are asked to view a copy of the diary, which is filed in Box 1.

Folder: Guard, John Barton, Loose Pages Found in Diary
Copied poetry and "Dramatic Fragment" (possibly an original composition), May 29, 1861
Handwritten genealogical notes concerning Guard and Graber families, undated

Folder: Pocket Almanac, 1865 of Guard, John Barton
Pocket Almanac published by Evangelical Tract Society, 1865

Folder: Guard, John Barton Magazine Clipping of Hotel Ponce de Leon, Roanoke, VA
Publicity photo of Hotel Ponce de Leon in Roanoke, VA with handwritten note "John B. Guard – builder – 1889-1890", ca. 1890

Folder: Guard Family, Obituaries
Obituary of John Barton Guard, December 27, 1913, typescript copy from unknown newspaper
Obituary of Emily Sophia Guard, May 12, 1904, typescript copy from Winchester Times (note: obituary incorrectly identifies Colonel [Henry] Shryock as Emily's grandfather – he was, in fact, her great-grandfather)

Folder: Guard, Lena, Letter, December 15, 1896
Letter, unknown to Lena Guard, December 15, 1896
Envelope addressed to Lena Guard from Philippines, June 21, [1899?]

Folder: Guard, Ida Pearl – Book, *The New McGuffey Fourth Reader*, copyright 1901

Folder: Guard, Ida Pearl – Book, *A Brief History of the United States*, ca. 1900

Folder: Shryock, Henry, Family Notes
Genealogical record of Henry Shryock and his descendants, undated

Folder: Train Ticket, Shenandoah Valley Railroad Company – White Post to Roanoke, July 1887

Folder: Reynolds, Daniel T. – Poem, *Battle of Cedar Creek*, October 19, 1864
Handwritten poem by Daniel T. Reynolds (1840-1927), a soldier of Co. A, 8th Indiana Infantry

Folder: Surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia
Printed copy of notes exchanged between Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant between April 7, 1865 and April 9, 1865 regarding a peaceful end of hostilities published by "Head Quarters Middle Military Division" (originally folded and delivered in the form of a letter from "[Aleck Cary?] Slave to [I?]. Canter"), April 11, 1865

PHOTOGRAPHS

Group family photo with Laura Pangle Sedwick and Ida P. Guard (seated middle) identified, ca. 1915. [1834-001 THL]

Club Life in Middleburg, Loudoun Co., Va, ca. 1910. [1834-002 THL]

Ida P. Guard posing with a gun for a play based on Harold Bell Wright's novel *The Winning of Barbara Worth*, ca. 1915. [1834-003 THL]

Ida P. Guard performing in play based on Harold Bell Wright's novel *The Winning of Barbara Worth* (photographer identified on back as Arthur S. Greene with studio in Port Jefferson on Long Island, New York), ca. 1915. [1834-004 THL]

James Madison Pangle and daughter Chloe S. Pangle, 1905. [1834-005 THL]

BOX 2

PHYSICAL ACCESS: The African American dolls and the tea set found in Box 2 require special handling with gloves. Please ask staff for assistance.

African American rag dolls (3), undated

Pewter doll tea set, undated