Guide to the Ambrose Doss Papers, 1861–1986

Title: Ambrose Doss Papers

Creator: Doss, Ambrose

Creator Dates: 1823–1864

Extent: 0.2 linear feet (53 letters, 6 miscellaneous documents)

Inclusive Dates: 1861–1986 (bulk dates: 1861–1864)

Collection Number: 0446

Provenance: Gift of Mrs. Polly Thomas, 1986

Processed by: Reformatted by Catherine Eddins, 2002; Martha Bace, 2008

Restrictions: none

Copyright Statement: This collection may be protected under Title 17 of the U.S. Copyright Law.

Preferred Citation: The Ambrose Doss Papers, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama.

Access Points: Confederate States Army; Civil War; 19th Alabama Regiment;

Reference Code: USALM0446

Language: English

ABSTRACT:
Collection contains letters written by Ambrose Doss of Jefferson County, Alabama to his wife, Sarah Brake Doss while he was in Co. C of the 19th Alabama Regiment from the time of his enlistment in 1861 until his death on 1864 July 5 near Kennesaw, Cobb County, Georgia. There is also a letter from Lt. J. W. Rouse, dated 1864 July 6, to Sarah telling her of Ambrose’s death and burial. There are several miscellaneous documents pertaining to Sarah’s application “for relief, by widows of Confederate soldiers or
sailors.” There is also a short biographical sketch of Doss compiled by Myra Y. Eartee in 1980 as well as a booklet titled “Jefferson Warriors: A History of Company C, 19th Alabama Regiment” compiled by John William Hanby in honor of the Company’s 1986 reunion. Finally, there is what appears to be an unrelated folder with photocopies of the Roll Call of Tarrants Battery (Tuscaloosa, Alabama) and a listing of their marches and engagements during the Civil War.

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE:**
Ambrose Doss was born on July 29, 1823 in either Kentucky or Alabama and married Sarah Brake in Jefferson County, Alabama on 1846 September 9. They settled in Kimberly, Jefferson County, Alabama and raised eight children.

Doss enlisted in the Confederate States Army at the outbreak of the war in 1861. He joined Company C, 19th Alabama Regiment and served as a sergeant until his death on 1864 July 5 during heavy fighting near Kennesaw, Cobb County, Georgia. Lt. J. W. Rouse, writing the following day – 1864 July 6, said in his letter to Sarah, telling her of Doss’ death, “A Cannon Shot it Struck him in the Right side Nearly Even With the Right Breast and passed Intirely through his Body and through his left Arm Killing him Instantly.”

Even though the battle was ongoing, his friends managed to bury Doss between two pine saplings. “But When I learned that he Was killed I Got leave from the Col and myself and James G. and John F Rogers and Geoge Eaton and C. hix Went Back and got the Body of our fallen Brother and Intered it With as much Decency as the Nature of the Case Would admit it Was Knot Done in as Nice a maner As We Would have perfered But fare better then is common with us Soldiers … A pine sapling grows at Both hed and foot of his grave on the Bark of the 1 growing at the head of the grave his Rank Name Co and Regt is cut.” (Rouse, 1864)

**SCOPE AND CONTENTS:**
This collection contains 52 letters written by Ambrose Doss of Jefferson County, Alabama to his wife, Sarah Brake Doss, and others while he was in Company C of the 19th Alabama Regiment from the time of his enlistment as a sergeant in 1861 until his death on 1864 July 5 near Kennesaw, Cobb County, Georgia. The letters provide details of camp life with all its shortages in arms, ammunition and food. There is also a letter from Lt. J. W. Rouse, dated 1864 July 6, to Sarah telling her of Ambrose’s death and burial.

There are several miscellaneous documents pertaining to Sarah’s application “for relief, by widows of Confederate soldiers or sailors.” There is also a short biographical sketch of Doss compiled by Myra Y. Eartee in 1980 as well as a booklet titled “Jefferson
Warriors: A History of Company C, 19th Alabama Regiment” compiled by John William Hanby in honor of the Company’s 1986 reunion. Finally, there is what appears to be an unrelated folder with photocopies of the Roll Call of Tarrants Battery (Tuscaloosa, Alabama) and a listing of their marches and engagements during the Civil War.

CONTAINER LIST:

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