

Richard B. Paschal Diary Now Online



Richard Bray Paschal

A transcription of Richard B. Paschal's 1860-1861 and 1863-1864 diary entries has been added to the [North Carolina Digital Heritage Center](#) Collection, thanks to the [Chatham Community Library](#), which holds a printed copy. This makes the Paschal diary easily accessible online.

Paschal's diary entries record a terse summary of the weather and his daily activities, mostly related to farming, and sometimes news of the war. The diary provides a glimpse of how the Civil War affected Chatham County, with accounts of local men who were arriving back from fighting or taken prisoner of war. It also includes accounts of Paschal overseeing the trade of enslaved people in Chatham County, a reminder of the duties assigned to the position of sheriff during Chatham's early history. Place names and people's names, white and black, are included in the diary

R. B. Paschal (1820-1870) was elected sheriff of Chatham County in 1854 and served six successive terms. He also served in the House of Delegates, 1865, and in the North Carolina Senate, 1866.

[Click here to link to Richard B. Paschal's Diary at the NC Digital Heritage Center](#)



R. B. Paschal's wife, Matilda Schmidt.



The Bray-Paschal house in southern Matthews Township. The house began as a simple log cabin in the 1790s, and was added to in the early 1800s and again about 1860. The family cemetery is across the road from the house.