

C McMahan, Robert T. (1832-1892), Papers, 1857-1917  
3575 0.6 cubic feet (12 folders with oversize material)

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#### INTRODUCTION

Five diaries written by Robert T. McMahan, a seminary student from Canfield, Ohio. He enlisted in the Second Ohio Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, Company E, on September 3, 1861, and was mustered out on September 18, 1864. He served as a cavalry soldier and gunner in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, and was promoted to corporal on 29 October 1862. Additional material includes letters written to and from Robert T. McMahan, discussing Civil War and family matters. Also included are various certificates and other military papers, pre and post-Civil War newspapers, and some photographs.

#### DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Mr. and Mrs. William White through Harvey C. McCaleb on 10 March 1978 (Accession No. 3126). An addition to the collection was made by William and Kathryn White on 10 Oct 1993 (Accession No. 2987).

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

These diaries give a daily account of the life of a common soldier in the western Border States during the Civil War. McMahan left his seminary studies in the east to join the Union army. He was an avid observer of the terrain with its geological formations and fossils, the agriculture, and the weather, and he painstakingly noted the distances marched each day or traveled from one fort or town to another. McMahan also provides a vivid description of the many facets of military life and its frustrations. Please note that copies were made of the diaries, and were left with the originals. The additional material consists of correspondence to and from family members, concerning family matters, the military and the Civil War. Also included are photographs of Robert T. McMahan and Katherine McMahan, various diplomas and certificates, as well as Civil War and Pre-Civil War newspapers. In addition is a printed roster of the Ohio 25<sup>th</sup> Company Artillery Battery, Volunteers.

#### FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 Diary, 3 September 1861-13 January 1863. Enlisting in the Union Army and traveling west.
- f. 2 Diary, 21 October 1862-8 September 1863. Serving as a cavalryman.
- f. 3 Diary, 27 June-25 December 1863. Quartermaster records and the Union victory at the Battle of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, 25 October 1863.
- f. 4 Diary, 25 October-3 November 1863. Detailed description of the Battle of Pine Bluff.

- f. 5 Diary, 1 January-18 September 1864. His 30-day furlough and trip back to Ohio, return to his unit, mustering out, and personal expenses.
- f. 6-7 1862-1864. Report of a defeat for the Second Regiment Artillery, Missouri Volunteers; geological descriptions of Arkansas; military science manual; corporal's commission; and pencil sketches.
- f. 8 Correspondence, 1861-1887. Letters from Robert McMahan, Charles McMahan, Anne McMahan; also John Sunney; Major and Commissary of Musters. Letters to and from friends and family members discussing family matters, Civil War, etc.
- f. 9 Genealogical material regarding the McMahan family; reunion notices, obituary notices, photographs, family records, newspaper clippings, letters of recommendation for Katherine McMahan, and marriage certificate of Chester O. Blackford and Katherine L. M[a]cMahan, 1866-1917.
- f. 10 School material, certificates, diplomas, marriage licenses, Jefferson College newspapers; Robert T. McMahan, 1857-1872
- f. 11 Military papers of Robert T. McMahan. The papers include claim certificates, discharge papers and printed roster of the Twenty-Fifth Ohio Battery, 1861-1864.
- f. 12 Civil War era Newspapers, Little Rock, Arkansas, 1863, 1864

## OVERSIZE

LOCATION D-19

Four certificates stating completion of a course during his years in seminary

## INDEX TERMS

| Subject  | Folders  | Image |
|--|----------|-------|
| Agriculture—Arkansas                               | 2,3, 8   |       |
| Agriculture—Missouri                               | 2,3      |       |
| Arkansas, Camden                                   | 6        |       |
| Arkansas, Little Rock                              | 3        |       |
| Arkansas, Pine Bluff                               | 3,4      |       |
| Arkansas, Van Buren                                | 2        |       |
| Bushwhackers                                       | 1,2      |       |
| Civil War--Arkansas                                | 1-6, 12  |       |
| Civil War--Artillery                               | 2-6      |       |
| Civil War--Battle of Jenkins Ferry, Arkansas, 1864 | 5        |       |
| Civil War--Battle of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, 1863    | 3,4      |       |
| Civil War--Battle of Prairie Grove                 | 2        |       |
| Civil War--Blacks                                  | 2,3,6 ,8 |       |
| Civil War--Bushwhackers                            | 1,2      |       |
| Civil War--Cavalry                                 | 1-5      |       |
| Civil War--Destruction and pillage                 | 2-6      |       |

| Subject   | Folders | Image |
|---|---------|-------|
| Civil War--Diaries  | 1-5     |       |
| Civil War--Guerillas  | 1,2     |       |
| Civil War--Indian troops  | 1       |       |
| Civil War--Jayhawkers   | 1,2     |       |
| Civil War--Kansas   | 1       |       |
| Civil War--Maps--Missouri   | 7       |       |
| Civil War--Military life  | 1-3,5   |       |
| Civil War--Missouri   | 1-3     |       |
| Civil War--Missouri, Carrollton   | 7       | y     |
| Civil War--Missouri, Carrollton   | 7       |       |
| Civil War--Missouri, Forsyth  | 7       |       |
| Civil War--Missouri, Forsyth  | 7       | y     |
| Civil War--Missouri, Greene County  | 7       | y     |
| Civil War--Missouri, Greene County  | 7       |       |
| Civil War--Missouri, Lamar  | 8       |       |
| Civil War--Missouri, Mt. Vernon   | 2,7     |       |
| Civil War--Moral and religious aspects  | 1-3,5   |       |
| Civil War--Ohio. Artillery, 25th Battery, Volunteers, Papers, Roster and Printed Roster | 7,11    |       |
| Civil War--Ohio. Cavalry, 2nd Regiment, Volunteers, Company E                           | 1-5,7   |       |
| Civil War--Oklahoma   | 1       |       |
| Civil War--Pictorial works  | 7       |       |
| Civil War--Pictorial works  | 7       | y     |
| Civil War--Prisoners and prisons  | 1-6     |       |
| Civil War--Quantrill's Raiders  | 1       |       |
| Civil War--Refugees   | 1,2,4   |       |
| Civil War--U.S. Army, 7th Corps, 3rd Division, Roster                                   | 7       |       |
| Civil War--Uniforms   | 1-3,5   |       |
| Civil War--Weapons  | 1-6     |       |
| Clayton, Powell   | 3,4     |       |
| Diaries   | 1-5     |       |
| Diaries--Civil War  | 1-5     |       |
| Diseases, 1860s   | 1-3,5   |       |
| Education   | 10      |       |
| Fagan, James Fleming (1828-1893)  | 6       |       |
| Food--Prices, 1860s   | 5       |       |
| Fossils, Arkansas   | 2, 6    |       |

| Subject  | Folders      | Image |
|--|--------------|-------|
| Geology, Arkansas  | 2, 3, 6      |       |
| Geology, Missouri  | 2, 3         |       |
| Marmaduke, John Sappington (1833-1887)                   | 3, 4         |       |
| McMahan Family   | 8,9          | y     |
| McMahan, Katherine                                       | 9            | y     |
| McMahan, Robert T. (1832-1892)                           | 1-5, 7, 8-11 |       |
| McMahan, Robert T. (1832-1892)                           | 9            | y     |
| Military education--Handbooks, manuals, etc.             | 6            |       |
| Missouri. Artillery, 2nd Regiment, Volunteers, Company E | 6            |       |
| Ohio, Cavalry, 2nd Regiment, Volunteers, Company E       | 1-5, 7       |       |
| Ohio, Mahoning County                                    | 5            |       |
| Pencil drawings  | 6            | y     |
| Quantrill, William Clarke (1837-1865)                    | 1            |       |
| Secessionists  | 1, 2         |       |
| Smith, Kirby   | 5            |       |
| Steele, (Frederick) (1819-1868)                          | 5            |       |
| Weather, Arkansas  | 1-5          |       |
| Weather, Missouri  | 1-3          |       |
| Weather, Ohio  | 5            |       |
| Weather, Oklahoma  | 1            |       |
| Weather--Kansas  | 1            |       |