

## Information Sheet

**R Spencer, James S., 1838-1927.**  
**216 Diary, 1862-1864.**  
**One folder, photocopies and typescript.**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri). If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

This is a Civil War diary of a resident of Phelps County, Missouri, and sergeant in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Missouri Infantry. The diary covers the period preceding the captures Jackson and Vicksburg, Mississippi, and the advance on Tuscumbia, Alabama. It also includes a roster of Company I of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Missouri from June 1863 to May 1864.

James S. Spencer was born on 6 August 1838 in Greene County, Illinois. He moved with his family to Phelps County, Missouri, sometime before the war. In October 1862 Spencer enlisted in Company I of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Missouri Infantry, a unit raised largely in south-central Missouri. After uneventful service in southeastern Missouri, the regiment was ordered south to Federal armies operating against Vicksburg. It was assigned to the 15<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, a connection which lasted until the end of the war. The regiment saw service with Gen. William T. Sherman's armies in Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and the Carolinas before mustering out in July 1865. A sergeant by the time of his discharge, Spencer returned to his home in Phelps County, where he farmed until his death near Elk Prairie on 8 February 1927.

Spencer began keeping records in his pocket diary around July 1863. The volume includes five distinct sections, beginning with an annotated roster of Company I, July 1863--May 1864, followed by a list of equipment issued to members of the company in July 1863. A monthly summary of events from October 1862 to July 1863 begins Spencer's record of service, with a daily accounting from May to October 1863. The monthly and daily summaries mention engagements at Raymond, Jackson, Champion's Hill, and Mechanicsville, Mississippi, during the Vicksburg campaign, and the captures of Vicksburg and Jackson. Reassignment to Memphis, Tennessee, in September 1863 preceded an advance on Tuscumbia, Alabama. The diary ends on 22 October 1863. An account of the commissary fund for Company I, June-October 1863, completes the volume.

*r293                      4 June 1985                      Mary Morris                      Loaned for photocopying*

## Shelf List

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The diary is arranged in five parts, as follows:

1. Annotated roll of Company I, 32<sup>nd</sup> Missouri Infantry, June 1863—May 1864.
2. Camp and garrison equipage drawn by Company I, July 1863.
3. Summary: "Eight Months Campaign in Dixie," October 1862—July 1863.
4. Diary: May-October 1863
5. Account of the commissary fund for Company I, June-October 1863.

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**Index Cards**

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United States. Army. Missouri Infantry Regiment, 32<sup>nd</sup>.  
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