

Information Sheet

R **Wheelock, Edwin D., 1847-1926.**
654 **Papers, 1862-1901.**
 One folder, photocopies.

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

These are the Civil War letters of Edwin D. Wheelock, Co. G, 17th Illinois Cavalry, written from camps at Alton, Illinois; St. Louis, Rolla, and Pilot Knob, Missouri; and Fort Scott, Kansas. There is also a letter from Boonville, Missouri, from a friend in the 37th Illinois Infantry, a copy photographic print of Wheelock in uniform, postwar information on veterans of the unit printed by the *Nunda* (Ill.) *Herald*, and a brief family record.

The 17th Illinois Cavalry was organized at St. Charles, Illinois, in January and February 1864. After being equipped at Jefferson Barracks near St. Louis, the regiment moved to Alton, Illinois, to guard Confederate prisoners of war. Edwin Wheelock's Company G moved to Glasgow, Missouri, in June 1864, then to Rolla in September. Later that month, during Sterling Price's Missouri Expedition, the 17th Illinois rode from Rolla to Leasburg to assist Gen. Ewing's retreat from Pilot Knob. The regiment joined Gen. John B. Sanborn's cavalry brigade in operations against Sterling Price's forces, returning to Rolla in November 1864. In January 1865, the regiment moved to Pilot Knob, where it remained until April. After a short stay in Cape Girardeau, the regiment moved to Fort Scott, Kansas, in June 1865, and remained there until mustering out in November and December 1865.

The collection consists of nine letters to Edwin Wheelock's family, and a few miscellaneous items pertaining to Wheelock and his military service in the 17th Illinois Cavalry. With the exception of the earliest item in the collection, written by E. F. Farnsworth of the 37th Illinois Infantry at Boonville, the letters were written by Edwin D. Wheelock and are addressed to his family. The letters contain camp news, details about pay and rations, news of friends and acquaintances, and speculation as to the final course of the war. Wheelock's letter from Rolla describes his unit's activities during Price's Expedition. Unfortunately, a fragment of the letter is missing. Five letters were written in 1865 from Pilot Knob, Missouri. The last letter in the collection was penned at Fort Scott, Kansas, where the regiment had been sent for duty on the Plains.

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6 October 1998

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- 03 Jan 1862 E. F. Farnsworth, 37th Illinois Infantry, Boonville, Mo.,
to Mrs. Wheelock
- 07 Jul 1864 Edwin Wheelock, Alton, Ill., to mother
- 28 Nov 1864 Edwin Wheelock, Rolla, Mo., to father and mother
- 18 Jan 1865 Edwin Wheelock, Pilot Knob, Mo., to father and mother
- 24 Jan 1865 Edwin Wheelock, Pilot Knob, Mo., to mother
- 09[?] Feb 1865 Edwin Wheelock, Pilot Knob, Mo., to sister
- 22 Feb 1865 Edwin Wheelock, Pilot Knob, Mo., to mother
- 05 Mar 1865 Edwin Wheelock, Pilot Knob, Mo., to mother
- 19 Aug 1865 Edwin Wheelock, Fort Scott, Kans., to mother
- ca. 1888 Supplement to the *Nunda* (Ill.) *Herald* concerning Civil war veterans,
with a poem regarding the 17th Illinois Cavalry by "Jerk"
- n.d. Copy print of a photograph of Edwin Wheelock in uniform
- n.d. Typed "Family Record" of Edwin D. Wheelock and Eliza McClelland

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