INTRODUCTION

This is a scrapbook concerning activities at the State Federal Soldiers’ Home at St. James in Phelps County, Missouri, created by Berthold Falkenhainer, official press representative of the Home. It contains newspaper articles written by Falkenhainer, correspondence, and photographs.

BIOGRAPHY

Berthold Falkenhainer was a native of Germany; he came to the United States in 1858. He supported himself as a clerk in Illinois before the Civil War. When the war began, he joined the Ninth Illinois Infantry, a three-month volunteer unit on whose rolls the surname is spelled Falkenheimer. Completing his enlistment, he came to Missouri and joined Battery B of the Second Missouri Light Artillery. The unit, commanded by Col. Nelson Cole, served mostly around St. Louis until the end of the war when it was converted to cavalry and participated in the Powder River Indian Expedition in 1865. Mustered out with his regiment in 1866, Falkenhainer was active in Republican politics in St. Louis and was also a noted concert singer. In 1907, he became the press representative of the State Federal Soldiers’ Home of Missouri at Saint James (now the St. James Veterans Home, operated by the Missouri Department of Public Safety). As such, Falkenhainer corresponded with St. Louis newspapers including the Globe-Democrat, Times, and Westliche Post on activities at the institution.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The scrapbook contains clippings of newspaper items written by Falkenhainer concerning the Soldiers’ Home at St. James beginning in 1907. There are letters of thanks addressed to him in connection with his writings, and an undated photograph of the Board of Managers. The clippings, some of the earliest of which are in German, continue through 10 February 1928. Falkenhainer’s stories concerned events at the Home including capital improvements, social activities, and changes in Board of Managers and staff. There is also a story on the St. James company of Missouri Home Guards in 1918 featuring William H. Breuer, a physician, three-term mayor of the city, and captain of the company.

Following Falkenhainer’s tenure at St. James, the scrapbook became the property of H. E. Gorman, longtime adjutant of the Home, whose name is inscribed on the inside front flyleaf.

INDEX TERMS

Falkenhainer, Berthold.
Phelps County (Mo.).
State Federal Soldiers’ Home of Missouri (St. James, Mo.).
Saint James (Mo.).
Veterans—Missouri.

Officers and members of the Board of Managers of the State Federal Soldiers Home noted in the Falkenhainer scrapbook:

Armstrong, Alice Mae (Mrs.)
Ball, A. G.
Bass, Claude.
Belding, H. W.
Birmingham, Timothy.
Breneger, John P. [aka Brinegar]
Breuer, William H. (Dr.)
Carpenter, R. C.
Copeland, M. L.
Elledge, Rose M. (Mrs.)
Falkenhainer, Berthold.
Farris, Frank H.
Farris, W. V.
Ferguson, J. R.
Fulbright, C. B. (Dr.)
Good, Lillye (Mrs.) [aka Lilly]
Gorman, Headlee E.
Hall, O. D.
Henry, Wilbur F.
Houck, W. F.
House, Nora.
Hubbard, Uri (Mrs.)
Lutzenburger, George F., -1926
Matthews, Gertrude.
McCue, Luella.
Mikkelsen, Jerd.
Reed, H. I. (Dr.)
Rodger, Thomas B.
Roster, William.
Tracey, J. P.
Vogel, Charles F.
Wanless, Mary A., -1924. (Mrs. John Wanless)
Warren, H. E.
Webster, S. O.
Williams, T.
Young, W. A.

PROVENANCE

The James Memorial Library in St. James, Missouri donated the Falkenhainer scrapbook on 21 September 2010 as part of accession r1499.