

C Lazear, Bazel F., (1823-1894), Papers, 1851-1904
1014 15 folders

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INTRODUCTION

Correspondence to wife while on duty with Missouri State Militia during the Civil War; encounters with guerrilla forces; battle descriptions; and personal relations with fellow soldiers. Also letter to wife from California gold fields, 1851; letters about his dismissal from job with Railway Mail Service; and letters about his Civil War pension claim.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were purchased from the Hoosier Bookshop by the State Historical Society of Missouri in April 1946.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Bazel F. Lazear (1823-1894) served as a Lt. Col. in the Missouri State Militia from 1861 to 1865. After the war he was a postal clerk at least 10 years with the Railway Mail Service and finally retired as Postmaster of Auxvasse, Missouri.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

These papers contain letters from Lazear to his wife from the California gold fields, 1851, and Civil War letters to his wife, relating to battles and encounters with Confederate guerrillas. Later, letters related to his employment with the Railway Mail Service, position of Postmaster of Auxvasse, Missouri, Civil War pension claims, and a request for battle sketches for a book. More complete folder descriptions are located in the folder list.

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 Letter to wife while prospecting for gold in California; postmaster appointment certificate; Civil War letters to wife, battle descriptions and mentions desertions to the South.
- f. 2-4 Civil War correspondence to wife: thefts among Union soldiers, smallpox, guerrilla activities; description of Warrensburg and Independence; family relations; Ordnance Stores Reports.
- f. 5 Pursuit of and encounters with Quantrill's men and other guerrillas; comments on Order Number 11; description of refugees; battle with Shelby's forces along the Lamine River; description of Warrensburg. Letter from H.R. Gamble requesting capture of a guerrilla band.
- f. 6 Accusations and counter-accusations regarding competence as officer; letter of commendation; impressions of Jefferson City; family business.
- f. 7 Guerrilla activity intensified; trouble with superior officers; family affairs.

- f. 8 Guerrilla encounters in Marshall; description of results of guerrilla raids in Frankford and Marshall; Ordnance Stores Reports.
- f. 9-11 Citizens of Saline and Lafayette Counties accuse Lazear's men of robbery and looting; battle against Price; description of Battle of Osage; guerrilla activity; reasons for desire to stay in service; certificate of service; question of eligibility for mustering-out pay; family affairs.
- f. 12-14 Correspondence about Lazear's dismissal from job with Railway Mail Service and attempts for reinstatement; appointment as Postmaster, Auxvasse, Missouri; correspondence dealing with Civil War pension claim.
- f. 15 Request for sketch of battles with Shelby and Price for use in book; office correspondence; warranty deed for tract of land in Auxvasse, Missouri; widow's application for accrued pension; farm; letter and questionnaire offering help in establishing pension claim for a fee.

INDEX TERMS

Subject	Folders
Alies, Henry	1
Amich, David	5
Baker, William P.	10
Balch, George F.	6
Bankhead, Thomas	4
Beck and Corbett	8
Bedwell, Samuel G.	3
Bell, Pat	5
Black, John C.	14
Bland, Richard Parks (1835-1899)	14
Block and Findley	8
Bomar, George	5
Bomar, Jesse	5
Britton, Wiley	15
Brown, E. B.	4-10
Bryant, Bill	6,7
Bryant, Jim	6
Burch, Oscar G.	13
Burks, Nan	10
Burris, Milton	4
Bushwhackers	1-11
Callender, J. D.	5,8
Calvin, George	10

Subject	Folders
Cambell, Bob	2
Chicago and Alton Railroad Company	12
Civil War--Battle of Big Blue River, 1864	10
Civil War--Battle of Crooked Creek	1
Civil War--Civilian affairs	1-15
Civil War--Guerillas	1-9
Civil War--Missouri	1-11
Civil War--Missouri, Bollinger County	1,2
Civil War--Missouri, Boonville	5
Civil War--Missouri, Cass County	3
Civil War--Missouri, Independence	10
Civil War--Missouri, Johnson County	3-7,10,11
Civil War--Missouri, Lafayette County	4,5,9
Civil War--Missouri, Lexington	4,5
Civil War--Missouri, Osage, 1864	10
Civil War--Missouri, Wayne County	1,2
Civil War--Mustering out	11,12
Corbett, James	2
Corruption in politics, 1880s	12-14
Davidson, General	2
Donald, Joshua	5
Donald, Thomas W.	5
Dorsey, Hale	4
Doyle, Fanny	8
Draper, Dan	10
Draper, Sue	4
Edie, John R.	7, 8
Education--Missouri, 1860s	10
Elliott, Sue	4
Ewing, Thomas	4-6
Farrer, Bemasa G.	1
Ford, Daniel D.	14
French, E. B.	6, 12
Gamble, Hamilton Rowan (1798-1864)	5
Gold Mines and Mining	1
Gold rush	1
Gresham, W. T.	13, 14
Grimshaw, Arthur	13

Subject	Folders
Hagg, Thomas J. C.	1
Hall, David	1
Hall, George H.	10
Hall, Willard Preble (1820-1882)	10
Harrison, John A.	14
Hatton, Frank	12
Henderson, General	1
Herckemath, Hugo	14
Holt, Perry	13
House, Everett	2
Houts, George W.	10
Jackson, Albert	2
Jackson, Andrew (1767-1845)	3
James, Randolph	1
Johnson, Benjamin	10
Johnson, Horace B.	9
Jones, James	3
Jones, John J.	4
Kerr, John	7, 8
King, Walter	4
Kisner, John	5
Klamp, Christian	1
Lazear, Ally	1-15
Lazear, Bazel F.	1-15
Lazear, Harmon	1-15
Lazear, Joseph M.	12
Lazear, Margaret Y.	1-15
Lazear, Marshall	1-15
Lazear, Mercy	1-15
Lazear, Wells	1-15
Maddox, Doyle	5
Mason, Perry	6
Massey, Griffin	1
McCluney, Frank	3
McCluney, John	3
McCluney, Liz	3
McFarren, James	3, 6, 7, 9, 10
McGuire, Samuel W.	10

Subject	Folders
McLean, William E.	14
McNeil, John	11
Miget, Charles	1
Missouri Cavalry, 12th Regiment, Missouri Militia, 1st Battalion	1
Missouri Cavalry, 4th Regiment, Missouri Militia	10
Missouri Cavalry, 7th Regiment, Missouri State Militia	10
Missouri, Auxvasse	12-15
Missouri, Clinton	5, 6
Missouri, Independence, 1860s	3, 10
Missouri, Jackson County, 1863	4
Missouri, Jefferson City, 1864	6, 10
Missouri, Johnson County, 1863	5
Missouri, Lexington, 1863	4
Missouri, Marshall, 1864	9
Missouri, Militia, 45th Regiment, Volunteers	10
Missouri, Warrensburg, 1863	3
Missouri. Cavalry, 12th Regiment, Missouri Militia, 1st Battalion	1
Missouri. Cavalry, 4th Regiment, Missouri Militia	10
Missouri. Cavalry, 7th Regiment, Missouri State Militia	10
Missouri. Artillery, 2nd Regiment, Volunteers	10
Missouri. Cavalry, 1st Regiment, Missouri State Militia	3, 6, 7, 9, 10
Missouri. Militia, 34th Regiment, Enrolled Missouri Militia	10
Moody, Mandy	7
Mulkey, Joseph	5
Mullins, Alex W.	3
Myers, Bill	1
Noakes, James A.	5
Nolley, David	14
Order Number 11	5
Pension claims, Military	14
Phelps, Hezekiah G.	1
Philips, John F. (1834-1919)	10
Pleasanton, Alfred S.	8, 10
Poteet, George A.	14
Powell, William	5
Price, Sterling (1809-1867)	9, 10
Proffer, William W.	1
Pullson, William, Jr.	5

Subject	Folders
Purse, Bill	10
Purse, Johnny	5
Pusse, Bill	2
Quantrill, William Clarke (1837-1865)	5
Queen, Oscar B.	10
Race relations, 1860s	10
Race relations, 1890s	15
Ragner, Big John	5
Railway Mail Service	12, 13
Rosencrans, Albert C.	6
Rush, James	1
Rush, Philip	1
Russell, Sam	1
Schott, John G.	13
Sharp, Ben	1
Shelby, Joseph O. (1830-1897)	5
Shoultz, Franklin	1
Stiger, James Henry	5, 6, 9
Taylor, Carron	1
Templeton House	4
Thomas, Charles	2, 4, 11
Tiery, Henry G.	3
Trader, John M.	3, 12
U.S. Post Office Department, Labor Relations, 1880s	12-14
U.S. Post Office Department, Railway Mail Service, 1880s	12-14
Vincent, Thomas M.	11
Warfield, E. W.	12, 13
Williams, Stephen W.	10
Young, William C.	13