

C Stewart, William S., Papers, 1861-1864
2991 1 roll of microfilm

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INTRODUCTION

Letters and reports by the captain of Company K, 11th Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry, describing troop movements, engagements, and camps from January 1861 to December 1862. The papers include ordnance reports from Iuka, Corinth, Vicksburg, and St. Louis.

DONOR INFORMATION

In October 1958 this collection was loaned by Norma L. Peterson, Division of Social Studies, Adams State College, Alamosa, Colorado, for microfilming by the Division of State Archives and Public Records, Denver, Colorado. A copy of this microfilm was accessioned into the manuscript collection by the State Historical Society of Missouri (Accession No. 888).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William S. Stewart was the son of Samuel Stewart of Mt. Carmel, Franklin County, Indiana. He was a practicing attorney in St. Louis, Missouri, when the Civil War began. He enlisted in April 1861 and was elected 1st Lieutenant of Company M, 1st Regiment, Union Guard, under Colonel Frank P. Blair, Jr.

During the summer of 1861 his regiment was reorganized, and Stewart was made captain of Company K, 1st Missouri Rifle Regiment, which became the 11th Missouri Volunteer Infantry. From December 1861 to February 1862, Stewart served as Judge Advocate for the Army at Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

In November 1862 Stewart took a staff position as commander of outposts for the division; he was in charge of outposts and picket lines for nine regiments and three batteries, a line about eight miles in length. Stewart remained the captain of Company K until March 1864 when they were demobilized in St. Louis, Missouri. His activities after the war are unknown.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

All of the thirty-eight letters in this collection were written to Stewart's parents between 13 January 1861 and 4 December 1862. The 1863-1864 documents are ordnance reports. The collection concludes with a tribute to Stewart's home state of Indiana.

The correspondence is principally patriotic prose, but mixed with this sentiment are clear descriptions of troop movements, camp sites and arrangements, duty assignments, skirmishes and battles. During the period of the correspondence, Company K served in Missouri at Camp Jackson, St. Louis, along the Mississippi River, and at Rolla, Cape Girardeau, Fredericktown, New Madrid, and Point Pleasant. They fought at Pittsburg Landing (Shiloh), Tennessee, and Iuka and Corinth, Mississippi. Stewart described the performance of his regiment and allocated praise and blame to his commanding officers. The beginning targets include a calendar of documents.

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