

## Information Sheet

**R Sweet, Benjamin Guy, 1838-1909.**  
**190 Journals, 1862-1872.**  
**One volume, 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 typescript of four journals kept by Benjamin Guy Sweet. They describe his experiences in the 74<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry during the Civil War, removal to Jasper County, Missouri, in 1867, and operation of a newsstand and bookstore in Carthage in 1872. The typescript includes a subject/name index to the journals.

Born in 1838 at West Troy, New York, Benjamin Guy Sweet was a resident of Norvell, Michigan, by the time of the Civil War. He enlisted in the 74<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry at Rockford, Illinois, in August 1862, and served throughout the war despite chronic ill health. He married Inez Hall at Genesea, Illinois, in 1866. For reasons not specified in his journals, Sweet moved his family from Illinois to Jasper County, Missouri, in 1867, arriving at Carthage in September. There he established a newsstand and bookstore, and by 1872 he offered a large stock of newspapers, books, and stationery. According to the family, Sweet went on to operate businesses in Webb City, Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas, and owned lead mines in Oklahoma. Sweet died in 1909 at Los Angeles, California.

Sweet's journals were preserved through the years by his wife, son, and grandson. Of the four journals, two detail his service during the Civil War. The other two cover his postwar activities. All of the diaries have chronological gaps separating them, and they do not form a complete record for 1862-1872.

After training at Camp Fuller near Rockford, the 74<sup>th</sup> Illinois joined Federal forces operating in Kentucky. The regiment was involved in several small skirmishes, and got its first real combat experience at the Battle of Perryville in October 1862. Soon after the battle, the regiment was ordered to Munfordville, where it spent the next several months as the post's garrison force. Sweet, afflicted with chronic rheumatism which left him unable to walk, reported himself disabled at Munfordville, and spent the next several months in the hospital. He was transferred to the Invalid Corps in 1863, and was sent to Camp Douglas near Chicago to guard Confederate prisoners-of-war there. The Civil War journals conclude with entries written at Camp Douglas and a single entry for March 1865. Accompanying the journals are copies of two wartime photographs of Sweet and P. H. Bohart, a comrade-in-arms from the 74<sup>th</sup> Illinois.

The last two journals describe Sweet's removal from Illinois in 1867 and his business operations at Carthage in 1872. The travel journal is the briefest of the four, and consists of a mileage log and short notes on the three-week journey. The journal for 1872 concerns his business at Carthage and difficulties in finding suitable commercial space after losing the lease on his first location. Sweet ultimately moved into new facilities owned by C. C. Colby in May 1872.

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*1 May 1984*

*Marcella E. Sweet Roper*

*Gift*

## Shelf List

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Pages 1-57: "Book 1," 21 August 1862—6 June 1863.

Pages 58-66: "Book 3," 17 October 1863—13 March 1865.

Pages 67-77: "Book 3, part 2," 22 August 1867—November 1867.

Pages 78-87: "Book 4," 7 April 1872—27 May 1872.

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### Index Cards

Bohart, P. H.

Booksellers and bookselling—Missouri—Carthage.

Camp Douglas (Ill.).

Camp Fuller (Ill.).

Camp Joe Holt (Jeffersonville, Ind.).

Carthage (Mo.).

Colby, C. C.

Garrison, Benjamin F.

Illinois--Description and travel.

Illinois—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.

Illinois Infantry—74<sup>th</sup> Regiment [SEE United States. Army. Illinois Infantry Regiment, 74<sup>th</sup> (1862-1865).].

Indiana—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.

Jasper County (Mo.).

Kentucky—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.

Louisville (Ky.).

Munfordville (Ky.).

Newspaper vendors—Missouri—Carthage.

Parker, Jennie F., -1887.

Perryville (Ky.), Battle of, 1862.

Rockford (Ill.).

Spencer, C. E.

Stepp and Company.

Sweet, Benjamin Guy, 1838-1909.

Sweet, Inez Hall, 1846-1871.

Sweet family—Genealogy.

United States. Army. Illinois Infantry Regiment, 74<sup>th</sup> (1862-1865).

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.