

Information Sheet

R Konenszewski family.
208 Papers, 1816-1862.
Two folders, photocopies.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are baptismal and educational certificates, medical records, and immigration papers of Johann Konenszewski and his sons, Ladislaus and Edmund. There is also a Civil War letter by Lieut. Edmund Konenszewski, November 1861, and a diary by Maj. Ladislaus Konenszewski, February—July 1862. Both men served in the 26th Missouri Infantry in Gen. John Pope's Army of the Mississippi.

Johann Konenszewski brought his family to St. Louis, Missouri, around 1850. Their home had been at Sasov in what is now the Ukraine Republic. The territory was under Austrian rule from 1774 to 1919, reverted to Poland in 1919, and was ceded to the Soviet Union in 1945. Family papers from the homeland, written in German and Latin, include various certificates of achievement and personal record. Pre-Civil War papers from the United States include correspondence in 1852 with the Austrian Consulate General in New York, the enrollment certificate in 1855 of Johann Konenszewski in the St. Louis Grays, a local militia to which his sons also belonged, and eulogies delivered upon Johann's death in 1859.

When the Civil War began in Missouri, the Konenszewski brothers sent their sisters and mother to safety with relatives in Minnesota. Edmund's letter to his sister in November 1861 contains general family news concerning the displacement. The brothers joined Col. George Boardman Boomer's 26th Missouri Infantry. Ladislaus was commissioned a major on the regimental staff; Edmund, the younger brother, became a lieutenant in Company F. Assigned with the regiment to the Army of the Mississippi, the Konenszewskis served in the campaigns against New Madrid and Island Number Ten in southeastern Missouri, and in the operations against Fort Pillow, Tennessee, and Corinth, Mississippi. Edmund contracted typhoid fever during the advance on Corinth and was left at Farmington. He died there on 3 June 1862.

Ladislaus remained in the army only a short time following the death of his brother, resigning his commission in October 1862. He returned to his home in St. Louis, where he lived until his death in 1904. His diary of service with the 26th Missouri provides a good record of the regiment's activities for the period from February to July in 1862. The daily entries contain observations on the generalship of the army, the regimental officers, the death of Edmund Konenszewski, and the siege of Corinth. The last entry was written following the occupation of Ripley, Mississippi, on 3 July 1862.

The collection also includes a letter by John T. Stites, a Federal soldier and grandfather of the donor. Stationed at Patterson, Missouri, with the 30th or 31st Missouri Infantry, Stites wrote to his wife from camp on 24 October 1862. He described the assembly of what became the Army of Southeast Missouri and speculated on an advance into Arkansas.

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26 March 1985

Nellie G. Wills

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Shelf List

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February—July 1862. Both men served in the 26th Missouri Infantry in Gen. John Pope's Army of the Mississippi.

Folder 1: Family papers, 1816-1859.

Various certificates for members of the Konenszewski family, 1816—1848; correspondence with the Consulate General of Austria, 1852; the enrollment certificate of Johann Konenszewski in the St. Louis Grays, 1855; and eulogies on the death of Johann Konenszewski, 1859.

Folder 2: Civil War papers, 1861-1862.

Letter to Ludmilla Konenszewski from Edmund Konenszewski, 18 November 1861; photocopy and typescript of the diary of Ladislaus Konenszewski, 16 February—3 July 1862; and letter of John T. Stites to his wife, 24 October 1862.

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