

## Information Sheet

**R Mains, John B., 1844-1940.**  
**245 Letters, 1861-1864.**  
**One folder, photocopies.**

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).

These are Civil War letters of John B. Mains of the 6<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry. Mains wrote from camps in Missouri while he served in John C. Frémont's Army of the West, and from Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama during service with the Army of the Tennessee.

John B. Mains was born in Harrison County, Ohio, but spent most of his life around Silver Mine in Madison County, Missouri. At the time of his death in 1940 he was one of only three remaining Civil War veterans in Madison County.

Mains enlisted in Co. D, 6<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry, on 11 August 1861 at Pilot Knob. The regiment was assigned to Gen. John C. Frémont's Army of the West in the fall of 1861, and Mains saw service during the abortive advance on Springfield. Following the termination of that campaign, the regiment guarded the Pacific Railroad between Jefferson City and Tipton. Mains described his experience with the Army of the West in letters from Jefferson City, Springfield, and Camp Lamine on the Pacific Railroad.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Missouri was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee in April 1862, an association which lasted almost without interruption until the end of the war under Generals Grant and Sherman. The Army of the Tennessee campaigned in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, and the Carolinas. John B. Mains served with his regiment until his discharge in September 1864. His papers include letters written from Memphis, Tennessee, Corinth and Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Larkinsville, Alabama.

With the exception of one letter by a family friend in Ohio, the Mains correspondence is addressed to David Mains in Madison County, Missouri, by his son. John B. Mains was inconsistent in the spelling of his surname, styling it as "Means" a good deal of the time. He is listed as "Mains" in the official military records maintained by the Missouri State Archives.

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## Shelf List

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30 September 1861	Jefferson City, Missouri.
8 November 1861	Springfield, Missouri.
5 February 1862	Camp Lamine, Missouri.
1 June 1862	Corinth, Mississippi.
10 August 1862	Memphis, Tennessee.
5 September 1862	Memphis, Tennessee.
7 December 1862	Camp near Abbeyville, Mississippi.
20 January 1863	Memphis, Tennessee.
24 June 1863	Camp in the rear of Vicksburg, Mississippi.
26 July 1863	Camp near Bear Creek, Mississippi.
*30 November 1863	Rogersville, [Ohio?].

14 January 1864	Larkinsville, Alabama.
3 June 1864	General Hospital, Chattanooga, Tennessee.
n.d.	Photocopy of photograph, John B. Means in Civil War uniform.

\* Dr. Isaiah Bowen to David Means (Mains). All others are from John B. Mains to his father, David Mains.

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### **Index Cards**

Abbeyville (Miss.)  
Bowen, Isaiah  
Camp Lamine (Mo.)  
Corinth (Miss.)  
Jefferson City (Mo.)  
Mains, John B., 1844-1940  
Means, John B. [SEE Mains, John B., 1844-1940.]  
Memphis (Tenn.)  
Mississippi—History—Civil War, 1861-1865  
Missouri—History—Civil War, 1861-1865  
Missouri Infantry—6<sup>th</sup> Regiment [SEE United States. Army. Missouri Infantry Regiment, 6<sup>th</sup>.]  
Rogersville (Ohio)  
Springfield (Mo.)  
Tennessee—History—Civil War, 1861-1865  
United States. Army. Missouri Infantry Regiment, 6<sup>th</sup>  
United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865  
Vicksburg (Miss.)