

Information Sheet

R Tolman, William Long, 1833-1886.
246 Papers, 1852-1919.
Five 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 papers of the Evans and Tolman families of Farmington, Missouri, mostly of Dr. William L. Tolman and his wife, Margaret Frances "Fanny" Evans (1840-1921). Included are letters from relatives in California and Colorado, a file of letters from Civil War veterans seeking invalid pensions, and a collection of stories concerning the early settlers of St. Francois County.

Margaret Frances "Fanny" Evans was born in St. Francois County, Missouri, on 20 December 1840, the daughter of David Evans and Catharine (Murphy) Evans. On 7 December 1869 she married William Long Tolman, who was born on 23 July 1833 at Urbana, Champaign County, Ohio. He was the son of Hosea and Elizabeth Tolman. He received an M.D. degree from Missouri Medical College, St. Louis, in 1858. During the Civil War he was a surgeon with the Tenth Missouri Cavalry. After the war he established a medical practice in Farmington, Missouri, which he continued until his death on 23 April 1886. Fanny (Evans) Tolman continued to reside in Farmington until her death on 25 June 1921.

This collection has three sections. The first consists of family and personal correspondence. The second section relates to William L. Tolman's service as a medical examiner for the Pension Office after the Civil War, including letters from former military comrades seeking his testimony concerning disability claims. The third section is a collection of anecdotal stories collected by Dr. Tolman concerning some of the early settlers of St. Francois County and the surrounding area.

The personal and family correspondence begins with letters from Fanny Evans's brother, Michael Bacon Evans, who sought his fortune in the gold fields of California. Particularly significant here are his comments about factional strife there before and during the Civil War. Later there are papers dealing with Michael's murder by Mexican soldiers, and records of reparations paid to the family by the government of Mexico. There are letters from Fanny's relatives and friends in Missouri, and from W. L. Tolman's relatives in Colorado. In the late summer of 1882 Tolman visited Colorado, and there are letters to him from his wife describing events in Farmington. The papers of Fanny (Evans) Tolman continue until late in her life, and include items dealing with the Presbyterian Church and Orphanage in Farmington, as well as announcements of various social and cultural activities.

The second section, containing military and pension correspondence, 1866-1890, stems from Dr. Tolman's service as a Civil War surgeon with the Tenth Missouri Cavalry Volunteers. This unit participated in the Vicksburg and Meridian campaigns in Mississippi, returned to Missouri for the defense against Price's Raid in 1864, but ended the war back in the southeast at Macon, Georgia. Tolman was mustered out at Nashville, Tennessee, in June 1865. The first items in this section are concerned with the loss of Tolman's personal effects and medical records in the sinking of the steamboat *B. M. Runyan* in the Mississippi River on 21 July 1864. In 1872 Tolman was appointed an examining surgeon on disability claims by the Pension Office of the Department of the Interior. There are several circulars and other communications regarding this service. However, most of the letters are from former comrades in the Tenth Missouri Cavalry who were seeking disability pensions. They needed the testimony of their former medical officer to satisfy the requirements of the Pension Office. However, since Tolman had lost his medical records in the sinking of the *Runyan*, he asked that the applicants describe in detail when, where, and how they had been disabled, and what treatments they had received. The resulting responses provide a unique record of service-related injuries to Civil War soldiers.

The final section is a collection of anecdotal accounts about some of the early settlers and events in St. Francois County and the surrounding area. Compiled in 1878 by William Long Tolman, the seventeen-page manuscript recounts several stories, some alleged to have occurred over fifty years previously. Some of the anecdotes are humorous, and deal with such subjects as frontier justice, bear hunting, and wolf baiting. Family names mentioned in the stories include Holliman, McFarland, Marks, Jekyll, Sebastian, and Murphy.

<i>r235</i>	<i>24 July 1984</i>	<i>Bert L. Beal, Jr.</i>	<i>Loaned for photocopying</i>
<i>r253</i>	<i>28 November 1984</i>	<i>Bert L. Beal, Jr.</i>	<i>Loaned for photocopying</i>

Shelf List

These are papers of the Evans and Tolman families of Farmington, Missouri, mostly of Dr. William L. Tolman and his wife, Margaret Frances "Fanny" Evans (1840-1921). Included are letters from relatives in California and Colorado, a file of letters from Civil War veterans seeking invalid pensions, and a collection of stories concerning the early settlers of St. Francois County.

Folder 1: Personal and family correspondence, 1852-1884.

Folder 2: Personal and family correspondence, 1885-1919, n.d.

Folder 3: Military and pension correspondence, 1866-1883.

Folder 4: Military and pension correspondence, 1884-1890, n.d.

Folder 5: Memoir of early settlers and events, compiled in 1878 (17 pages).

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