

Information Sheet

R Rogers, James S., 1837-1864.
249 Papers, 1862-1863.
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.

This collection includes a Civil War diary and letters of James S. Rogers, a resident of Corydon, Iowa, and member of Co. M of the 3rd Iowa Cavalry. The diary and letters cover his departure from home, enlistment and training at Davenport, Iowa, and cavalry service in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas.

Born in Illinois, James Rogers was living in Corydon, Wayne County, Iowa, when the Civil War began. He remained at home during the first year of the war, but he determined to enlist in August 1862 as a replacement in the 3rd Iowa Cavalry. His brother, William H. H. Rogers, was already serving in that unit. Rogers and several other recruits left Corydon for Keokuk, where they enlisted in the 3rd Cavalry. They were sent to Camp McClellan at Davenport for initial training, after which they were dispatched to Benton Barracks in St. Louis, Missouri, in October 1862. Once armed, equipped, and mounted, Rogers and the other replacements joined the regiment at Lebanon, Missouri. They served for the next six months in southern and southeastern Missouri, and then moved into Arkansas, assisting in the capture of Little Rock in September 1863. James Rogers re-enlisted as a veteran on 1 January 1864. He became ill soon thereafter, and was sent home for recuperation. He died at Corydon on 10 March 1864.

Rogers's papers consist of his diary, 19 August-14 November 1862, and letters to his wife, Emily, 22 August 1862--24 December 1863. There are also two letters, an undated item, and a fragment concerning the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, written by William H. H. Rogers prior to his brother's enlistment in the 3rd Iowa Cavalry. James Rogers's diary and letters overlap for the period during his training, providing a good view of life in the camps of instruction at Davenport and St. Louis. The diary entries ended when Rogers joined his regiment at Lebanon in November 1862, but his letters continued throughout his term of service. There are letters from Lebanon, Hartville, Houston, Pilot Knob, Arcadia, and Bloomfield in Missouri, and from Little Rock and Benton in Arkansas. The most useful are those from Houston, Pilot Knob, Arcadia, Bloomfield, and Little Rock. They contain camp news, speculations on army movements and the position of the enemy, and Rogers's comments on the progress of the war in the Trans-Mississippi.

A typescript copy of the diary of William H. H. Rogers is located at the State Historical Society of Iowa in Des Moines.

r268

28 January 1985

Kirk Pearce

Loaned for photocopying

Shelf List

This collection includes a Civil War diary and letters of James S. Rogers, a resident of Corydon, Iowa, and member of Co. M of the 3rd Iowa Cavalry. The diary and letters cover his departure from home, enlistment and training at Davenport, Iowa, and cavalry service in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas.

Folder 1: Letters, March 1862--December 1863 (25 items with typescripts).

1862, Mar 16 Unsigned fragment to "Brother" with description of march to Springfield, Missouri, thence to the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas. The author

- probably was William H. H. Rogers, James's brother, and a member of the 3rd Iowa Cavalry.
- 1862, Aug 22 Boston, Iowa. En route to Keokuk, Iowa, for enlistment in the 3rd Iowa Cavalry.
- 1862, Aug 28 Camp McClellan, Davenport, Iowa.
- 1862, Sept 7 Camp McClellan, Davenport, Iowa.
- 1862, Sept 13 Camp McClellan, Davenport, Iowa.
- 1862, Sept 16 Camp McClellan, Davenport, Iowa.
- 1862, Sept 19 Camp McClellan, Davenport, Iowa.
- 1862, Sept 21 Camp McClellan, Davenport, Iowa.
- 1862, Sept 27 Camp McClellan, Davenport, Iowa.
- 1862, Sept 27 Camp McClellan, Davenport, Iowa [fragment].
- 1862, Oct 8 Camp McClellan, Davenport, Iowa.
- 1862, Oct 16 On board steamboat *Henry Clay*, en route to St. Louis.
- 1862, ca. Oct 21 Benton Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri.
- 1862, Nov 14 Lebanon, Missouri. [portions of letter missing].
- 1862, Dec 1 Hartville, Missouri.
- 1862, Dec 18 Houston, Missouri.
- 1863, Jan 6 Houston, Missouri. [Reverse contains a letter of same date to "Sister," by William H. H. Rogers.].
- 1863, Mar 8 St. Louis, Missouri.
- 1863, June 13 Pilot Knob, Missouri.
- 1863, June 29 Arcadia, Missouri. Disparaging comments about Brig. Gen. John W. Davidson.
- 1863, July 13 Bloomfield, Missouri. Expects a fight at Chalk Bluffs, Arkansas.
- 1863, Sept 16 Little Rock, Arkansas. Describes capture of Little Rock and expects quick end to war in Trans-Mississippi.
- 1863, Nov 5 Benton, Arkansas. Rogers detailed as carpenter to build winter quarters.
- 1863, Dec 24 Little Rock, Arkansas.
- n.d. n.p. One-page fragment of letter from William H. H. Rogers to James S. Rogers, probably written prior to November 1862, when James enlisted in the 3rd Iowa Cavalry.

Folder 2: Diary, 19 August-14 November 1862

- August 19 Left home to join the 3rd Iowa Cavalry.
- August 20-21 En route to Keokuk, Iowa, via Dogtown and Possum Hollow.
- August 22-24 Boarding at Pioneer House in Keokuk; waiting for mustering in.
- August 25 Aboard steamer *Jennie Wipple*, bound for Davenport.
- August 26 Sworn into U.S. service.
- August 26 to October 16 Camp McClellan, Davenport, Iowa; drills, inspections, details as Provost Guard, etc. Visit Scott County Fair, Rock Island, Illinois, and "Old Fort." Break camp on October 16, board steamer *Henry Clay*, bound for Keokuk.
- October 17-20 Proceed down river to St. Louis, Missouri; quartered in "Old Negro Prison" (Fifth Street Barracks) until ordered to Benton Barracks on October 20.
- October 21 to November 10 Benton Barracks; draw arms, equipment, and horses.
- November 10 Sent to Rolla, Missouri, by rail.
- November 11 March to Waynesville, Missouri.
- November 12 March to Lebanon, Missouri, to join 3rd Iowa Cavalry.
- November 14 Making preparations to leave Lebanon.

Index Cards

Arcadia (Mo.).
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Benton (Ark.).
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Bloomfield (Mo.).
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Davenport (Iowa).
Davidson, John W., 1825-1881.
Hartville (Mo.).
Houston (Mo.).
Iowa—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
Iowa Cavalry—3rd Regiment [SEE United States. Army. Iowa Cavalry Regiment, 3rd.].
Lebanon (Mo.).
Little Rock (Ark.).
Missouri—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
Pea Ridge, Battle of, 1862.
Pilot Knob (Mo.).
Rock Island (Ill.).
Rogers, Emily.
Rogers, James S., 1837-1864.
Rogers, William H. H.
Rolla (Mo.).
Saint Louis (Mo.).
United States. Army. Iowa Cavalry Regiment, 3rd.
United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.