

Information Sheet

R Nelson, Alfred N.
311 Letter, 1861.
One folder, photocopy.

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 is a letter written on 25 November 1861 by Alfred N. Nelson of Co. F, 10th Iowa Infantry, at Birds Point in Mississippi County, Missouri. Nelson mentioned camp sickness and operations in southeastern Missouri.

Birds Point was located across the Mississippi River from Cairo, Illinois, and the mouth of the Ohio River. The area was occupied by Federal forces in the summer of 1861 as protection for the installation at Cairo, and as a base for operations along the Mississippi River and into the interior of southeastern Missouri. Birds Point no longer exists. It was ravaged by a tornado in 1896, and by a fire in 1905. Later it was almost completely destroyed by encroachment by the Mississippi River.

The 10th Iowa infantry moved to Birds Point on 12 November 1861, from Cape Girardeau. The regiment saw action at Bloomfield and Charleston before moving south against the Confederate position at New Madrid/Island No. 10.

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1 December 1987

John Viessman

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