

## Information Sheet

**R**      **Sitton, John James, 1842-1915.**  
**377**      **Civil War memoir, n.d.**  
            **One folder, photocopies.**

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This is a military history of the Oregon County company of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Division, Missouri State Guard, 4 July -- 1 December 1861. The narrative was written by John James (J. J.) Sitton, who also served in the 7<sup>th</sup> Division, but in a different regiment. Sitton became captain of the Oregon County men in later Confederate service. The memoir also includes biographical data on selected Oregon County soldiers.

John James Sitton was born in 1842 at Palmer, Washington County, Missouri. He fled to Arkansas when the Civil War began, enlisting there in the 4th Arkansas Infantry but serving only briefly before joining the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division Missouri State Guard. He was with the Missouri State Guard at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, and was mustered out with his regiment on 1 December 1861. Sitton and many of the former Guardsmen enlisted in the Confederate army. Sitton joined the 4<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry (CSA). He was elected second lieutenant, and later became captain of Company G. He was with the regiment at the battles of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, Corinth, Iuka and Hatchie Bridge in Mississippi, and in Sterling Price's 1864 Missouri Expedition. During the latter campaign, Sitton was seriously wounded, captured, and spent the remainder of the war in Union prisoner of war camps. Following the war, Sitton lived in Illinois, Oregon County, and northwest Arkansas before returning to reside in Oregon County for the remainder of his life. He died in 1915.

Sitton's account concerning the Oregon County company of the Missouri State Guard was based partly on his own wartime journal (for the period in which his itinerary and that of the Oregon County company were the same), and on the memories of fellow veterans and postwar neighbors. The Oregon County men organized a company on 4 July 1861 and elected R. O. Tribble captain. After incorporation into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment of Gen. James H. McBride's 7<sup>th</sup> Division, the Oregon County Guardsmen began the marches which led to battles at Wilson's Creek, Dry Wood, and Lexington before mustering out in December 1861. Sitton's brief entries in journal form which provide a chronology and itinerary for the Oregon County soldiers. The entries are short but useful for research on the Missouri State Guard, especially Gen. McBride's division. Sitton mentioned himself only once (his first meeting with Missouri troops) but included notes on the following military and postwar careers of some of his fellow soldiers. The memoir is undated, but internal evidence indicates that it was written after 1900, perhaps in connection with United Confederate Veteran activities. The Oregon County Genealogical Society held a typescript of the memoir, the original of which is no longer available. Sitton's journal and other papers are available on microfilm (SHSMO-R1286).

*r255 27 November 1984 Oregon County Genealogical Society recataloged March 2013 Gift*

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