

## Information Sheet

**R**      **Woodson, Richard Goodridge.**  
**410**      **Papers, 1862-1865.**  
            **Two folders.**

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).

This collection consists of correspondence, orders, and miscellaneous military papers of Richard G. Woodson, of Pike County, Missouri, colonel of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri State Militia Cavalry (New). The papers concern the administration of the post at Pilot Knob, Missouri, and the activities of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri State Militia Cavalry.

Richard Goodridge Woodson was commissioned major of the 10<sup>th</sup> Missouri State Militia Cavalry on 6 May 1862. The regiment, organized at Louisiana, Missouri, was posted along the North Missouri Railroad during the summer before being ordered to Jefferson City, Rolla, and Pilot Knob by the end of the year. The 10<sup>th</sup> regiment failed to recruit the minimum number of soldiers required by state statutes, and at Pilot Knob in February 1863, the unit was reorganized as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri State Militia Cavalry (New). It replaced an earlier regiment with the same numerical designation which had been disbanded. Upon reorganization, Richard G. Woodson was commissioned colonel of the new 3<sup>rd</sup> regiment, with rank to date from 21 May 1863. Portions of the regiment served at Pilot Knob through the end of 1864, operating in southeastern Missouri and northeastern Arkansas. Under Woodson's command, cavalymen of the 3<sup>rd</sup> regiment participated in the campaign against Gen. John S. Marmaduke's Confederate raiders, April-May 1863. The zenith of Woodson's career came in August 1863, when he led a combined expedition from Pilot Knob and Cape Girardeau which resulted in the capture of Gen. M. Jeff Thompson and most of his staff at Pocahontas, Arkansas. This admirable feat was overshadowed by the capture of an entire company of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri State Militia by guerrillas under Timothy Reeves at Centerville, Missouri, on 23 December 1863. Although Woodson was not personally responsible and though the prisoners were rescued by troops from Pilot Knob, the episode was an embarrassment. It led to a contretemps with Gen. Clinton B. Fisk, commander of the St. Louis District, which included Pilot Knob, who wanted to cashier the officers involved in the Centerville affair. Woodson argued leniency, and his disagreement with Fisk may have led to Woodson's resignation of his commission on 27 February 1864.

The Woodson papers consist of official and personal correspondence, reports concerning quartermaster stores for which Woodson was responsible at Pilot Knob, and accounts of ordnance stores issued to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri State Militia. The correspondence includes letters from A. W. Alexander concerning Woodson's personal finances, from J. O. Broadhead, S. M. Breckinridge, and A. W. Alexander regarding soldiers at Pilot Knob voting in state elections, with Gen. Clinton Fisk in connection with the capture of Centerville, and with officials in Washington, D.C., regarding claims against the government by Thomas Vandevier of Callaway County for supplies used by the 10<sup>th</sup> Missouri State Militia Cavalry.

The papers are a useful addition to material on Woodson and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry which was published in *The War of the Rebellion*. They are also useful for study of the military post at Pilot Knob.

r468	16 February 1990	Dennis A. Babbitt	Purchase
r473	23 March 1990	Dennis A. Babbitt	Purchase
r481	17 July 1990	Dennis A. Babbitt	Purchase

## Shelf List

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papers concern the administration of the post at Pilot Knob, Missouri, and the activities of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri State Militia Cavalry.

Folder 1: Correspondence, 1862-1865 (16 items).

- 29 Oct 1862 General Order No. 17, Headquarters, Missouri State Militia, calling attention to abuse of transportation passes.
- 31 Oct 1862 R. G. Woodson, 10<sup>th</sup> M.S.M., Mexico, Missouri, to Assistant Adjutant General G. M. Houston, Headquarters, District of Northeast Missouri, concerning Woodson's withdrawal of resignation. (with cover).
- 27 Mar 1863 "Alexander," St. Louis, Missouri, to R. G. Woodson, Pilot Knob, Missouri, concerning Woodson's personal finances. (with cover).
- 30 May 1863 Special Orders No. 50, Headquarters, Pilot Knob, Missouri, authorizing seven days leave to R. G. Woodson to travel to St. Louis.
- 25 May 1863 Lt. J. M. Simeral, Asst. Commissary of Musters, St. Louis, to R. G. Woodson, Pilot Knob, regarding muster as colonel. (with cover).
- 10 Sept 1863 P. Draper, Deputy Provost Marshal, Louisiana, Missouri, to R. G. Woodson, Pilot Knob, concerning investigation of soldiers of 3<sup>rd</sup> M.S.M. in Pike County, Missouri.
- 29-30 Oct 1863 Letters of A. W. Alexander, J. O. Broadhead and S. M. Breckinridge, St. Louis, to R. G. Woodson, regarding soldiers voting at Pilot Knob, Missouri (with cover).
- 1 Jan 1864 R. G. Woodson, Headquarters Post, Pilot Knob, to General C. B. Fisk, St. Louis, regarding reprimands to officers involved in capture of post at Centerville, Missouri.
- 8 Jan 1864 Lt. W. T. Clark, aide de camp to Gen. C. B. Fisk, St. Louis, to R. G. Woodson, Pilot Knob, regarding reprimands of officers connected with Centerville affair.
- 1 Mar 1864 Affidavit of Sgt. Thomas J. Tidswell, Jr., concerning loss of ordnance stores at Pilot Knob, Missouri, for which Colonel R. G. Woodson was held accountable.
- 11 Mar 1864 G. W. Long, Pilot Knob, Missouri, to R. G. Woodson, regarding collection of a debt for Woodson.
- 15 Mar 1864 G. W. Long, Pilot Knob, Missouri, to R. G. Woodson, concerning Woodson's personal finances, and news of the 3<sup>rd</sup> M.S.M. at Pilot Knob.
- 23 Mar 1864 Statement of Lt. Col. H. M. Matthews, Pilot Knob, Missouri, certifying that Richard G. Woodson is not indebted to the quartermaster or commissary departments of the 3<sup>rd</sup> M.S.M.
- 26 Oct 1865 Asst. Commissary General of Subsistence, Washington, D.C., to R. G. Woodson, Louisiana, Missouri, concerning a claim against the government for supplies furnished by Thomas Vandevier of Callaway County, Missouri (with cover).
- 30 Nov 1865 R. G. Woodson, Naylor's Store, Missouri, to Commissary General of Subsistence, Washington, D.C., in reply to a query regarding the claim of Thomas Vandevier for supplies taken by the 10<sup>th</sup> M.S.M. in Callaway County, Missouri.
- 24 Dec 1865 John F. L. Jacoby, Clarksville, Missouri, to R. G. Woodson, Naylor's Store, Missouri, containing news of former members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> M.S.M. and a certificate that R. G. Woodson had properly accounted for all ordnance, quartermaster and commissary stores in his possession [with cover].

Folder 2: Reports and receipts for ordnance stores, 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri State Militia Cavalry, 1863 (6 items).

- 24 Jul 1863 Receipt for ordnance stores, Pilot Knob, Missouri.
- 24 Jul 1863 Receipt for ordnance stores, Pilot Knob, Missouri.

1 Aug 1863 Receipt for ordnance stores, Pilot Knob, Missouri.  
 20 Sep 1863 Receipt for ordnance stores, Pilot Knob, Missouri.  
 30 Sep 1863 Quarterly return of ordnance and ordnance stores, 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri State Militia  
 Cavalry  
 31 Dec 1863 Quarterly return of ordnance and ordnance stores, 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri State Militia  
 Cavalry

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### **Index Cards**

Alexander, A. W.  
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 Broadhead, James O. (James Overton), 1819-1898.  
 Callaway County (Mo.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.  
 Centerville (Mo.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.  
 Draper, Philander.  
 Fisk, Clinton Bowen, 1828-1890.  
 Iron County (Mo.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.  
 Jacoby, John F. L.  
 Long, G. W.  
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 Military bases—Missouri—Pilot Knob.  
 Missouri—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.  
 Missouri. State Militia. Cavalry regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> (1863-1865).  
 Missouri. State Militia. Cavalry regiment, 10<sup>th</sup>.  
 Pilot Knob (Mo.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.  
 Reynolds County (Mo.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.  
 Tidswell, Thomas J.  
 United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.  
 Vandevier, Thomas.  
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