

Information Sheet

R **Denny, Franklin Spilman, 1825-1902.**
548 **Papers, 1853-1917.**
 Three folders, photocopies and typescripts.

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 contains family correspondence, a Civil War diary, and military service and pension records of Franklin S. Denny of Company C, 1st Missouri Cavalry. The correspondence includes letters from relatives in California, Nevada, and Wisconsin, 1853-1874. The Civil War diary covers operations around Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Independence, Missouri, and Little Rock, Arkansas, 1862-1864.

Franklin S. Denny was born 7 October 1825 in Bond County, Illinois. Before the Civil War, he was a blacksmith in Platteville, Wisconsin. He married Mary Ann Pennington, who died in 1859. On 1 August 1861, he enlisted in Company C, 1st Missouri Cavalry, at Litchfield, Illinois. He was elected third sergeant, but, by February 1862, had been promoted to first sergeant, the top non-commissioned officer in his company. He served in that capacity until 17 September 1864, when he was discharged at the expiration of his enlistment. In 1868, Denny married Susan Dulebon at Freeport, Illinois. By 1874, Franklin and Susan Denny were living in Springfield, Missouri, where Franklin operated a carriage shop. They died in 1902 and 1917, respectively.

The family correspondence includes an ante-bellum letter from Platteville, Wisconsin, by Denny's first wife, Mary Anne Pennington. There are also postwar letters written by Denny's brothers from Millerton and Visalia, California, and the Palmetto Mining District in Nevada.

Denny's Civil War diary spans two years of military service in Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas. The entries in the diary concern three different periods. The first begins at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on 14 February 1862 and follows Denny's activities in operations around Fort Leavenworth and Independence, Missouri, to the end of May 1862. The second section of the diary covers the march from Rolla to Pilot Knob, Missouri, and thence toward Little Rock, Arkansas, as part of Davidson's Cavalry Expedition in June-August 1863. The last entries detail operations near Little Rock in March 1864.

Folder 3 contains copies of Denny's military service and pension papers from the National Archives.

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Shelf List

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Folder 1: Correspondence, 1853-1874
(photocopies and typescripts)

Folder 2: Diary, 14 February 1862--ca. 28 March 1864
(photocopies and typescripts)

Folder 3: Military service and pension records, 1862-1917
(photocopies from National Archives)

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