

Information Sheet

R **Williamson, Jacob P.**
664 **Letter, 1862.**
 One folder.

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This is a Civil War letter written 27 February 1862 from Camp Rolla in Phelps County, Missouri, by a soldier in the 13th Illinois Infantry. The letter notes the Union capture of Springfield, Missouri, by soldiers who had marched from Rolla, and rumors of future movements.

Jacob P. Williamson was a resident of Rock Island County, Illinois, and an enlisted member of Company D of the 13th Illinois Infantry. Under Col. John B. Wyman, the regiment had been part of the federal garrison at Rolla since August 1861 and remained at the railhead when Gen. Samuel R. Curtis led the Army of Southwest Missouri from its winter camps toward Springfield in January 1862. Ultimately, Curtis's army met the enemy on the battlefield at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, in March 1862. Although victorious, Curtis ordered reinforcements to bolster his army. The 13th Illinois Infantry regiment left Rolla and joined Curtis at Sugar Creek, Arkansas, on 18 March 1862.

Williamson's letter, addressed to his brother, notes the march of the army from Rolla, the occupation of Springfield, rumors that the regiment would soon be called to join Curtis in Arkansas, and the preference of the soldiers to be sent down the Mississippi River.

r704 *13 July 1998* *Dr. Kathleen Dietrich* *Purchase*

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