



John Miller Leach Diary (R1147)

Collection Number: R1147

Collection Title: John Miller Leach Diary

Dates: 1861-1863

Creator: Leach, John Miller, 1830-1907

Abstract: The John Miller Leach Diary contains a typescript copy of the diary written by John Miller Leach, a member of the 10th Cavalry Regiment, 8th Division, Missouri State Guard, and the 6th Missouri Infantry (CSA). The diary begins on September 2, 1861, and continues through July 29, 1863. It describes operations around Pea Ridge, Arkansas; Corinth Mississippi; and Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Collection Size: .25 cubic foot
(2 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center - Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *John Miller Leach Diary* (R1147); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Joe F. Webb on October 31, 2006 (Accession No. RA1302).

Custodial History: John M. Leach's diary exists in the form of a twenty-three page typescript apparently prepared for newspaper publication. The typescript was among the personal papers of Joseph Ney Foster, a co-editor and co-owner of the *Hartford Republican* in Kentucky and grandfather of the donor, Joe F. Webb. According to Mr. Webb, who researched the diary and its

provenance in his grandfather's papers, John M. Leach lived after the Civil War in Ohio County, Kentucky, the same county where the *Hartford Republican* was published. Marginal notation and editorial corrections also indicate the typescript's newspaper origins. It is not known if the original diary still exists.

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the John Miller Leach Diary can be found in the following collections:

Carthage, Missouri Civil War Battle Memoir (R0167)

Moses Jasper Bradford (R0360)

John James Sitton Civil War Memoir (R0377)

Henry Perrin Mann Civil War Diaries (R0455)

John James Sitton Papers (R1286)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, January 2, 2007. Revised by Kathleen Seale, November 7, 2018.

Historical Note:

John M. Leach was a native of Ohio County, Kentucky, and a resident of Cass County, Missouri, when the Civil War broke out. He became a member of Company F, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 8th Division, Missouri State Guard. Leach and his company saw no action before they joined the main army at Springfield on December 22, 1861. On the first day of January 1862, Leach left the state force and joined the Confederate service in what was known as Adams's or Fleming's company. On March 3, 1862, Leach and the others participated in the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, after which they proceeded east of the Mississippi River with the rest of the Confederate Army. After joining in the defense of Corinth, Mississippi, in May 1862, Leach's battalion was organized as part of Colonel Eugene Erwin's 6th Missouri Infantry (CSA). Leach and several others transferred to Captain Francis M. McKinney's Company F in July 1862.

The 6th Missouri Infantry suffered severe casualties in the Battle of Corinth, Mississippi, on October 3, 1862. Captain McKinney was among those killed; Leach suffered a wound to his right arm, was captured, and hospitalized at Iuka. He was exchanged at Jackson, Mississippi, on November 13, 1862, and rejoined his regiment at Grenada, Mississippi. The regiment was engaged in fighting at Grand Gulf, Port Gibson, Edwards Station, Baker's Creek, and Big Black River Bridge as operations around Vicksburg developed in the spring of 1863. The regiment entered the fortifications of Vicksburg on May 17, 1863. Leach and his comrades were closely engaged on June 25, 1863, when Colonel Erwin was killed in action, and again on July 1, 1863. Surrendered with the Confederate Army at Vicksburg, Leach was paroled and obtained a furlough. He traveled to Knoxville, Tennessee, in late July and apparently did not return to the army.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged by material type.

Scope and Content Note:

The John Miller Leach Diary contains a typescript copy of the diary written by John Miller Leach, a member of the 10th Cavalry Regiment, 8th Division, Missouri State Guard, and the 6th

Missouri Infantry (CSA). Folder one contains a photocopy of the typescript from the diary, also included is an introduction to the diary written by the donor, Joe F. Webb, containing his research on the provenance of the diary and its author John M. Leach. Folder two contains a typescript copy of the diary.

The diary begins on September 2, 1861, at High Blue, Missouri, when Leach was with the Missouri State Guard, and continues through his Confederate service and capture at Vicksburg, Mississippi. It ends on July 29, 1863, with Leach in Knoxville, Tennessee, trying to return to Kentucky to visit family. The most detailed parts of the diary feature operations around Corinth, Mississippi, in 1862, and Vicksburg, Mississippi, in 1863.

Container List:

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	f. 2	Typescript of diary, 1861-1863

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