



William A. Hawkins Letters (R1423)

Collection Number: R1423

Collection Title: William A. Hawkins Letters

Dates: 1862-1863

Creator: Hawkins, William A.

Abstract: The letters of William A. Hawkins document his stay in the Gratiot prison after his capture in Shelby County, Missouri, on September 15, 1862. Hawkins was a lieutenant in Porter's Regiment (1st Northeast Missouri Cavalry). A Confederate, he remained in Gratiot prison until his parole on February 19, 1863.

Collection Size: 0.1 cubic feet
(1 folder)

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: Materials in this collection are in the public domain.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *William A. Hawkins Letters* (R1423); 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 Jim McGhee on September 27, 2000 (Accession No. RA0760).

Processed by: Processed by Erin Smither, December 20, 2017

Historical Note:

The 1st Northeast Missouri Cavalry, a Confederate regiment during the American Civil War, was commanded by Colonel Joseph C. Porter. Known for its guerrilla warfare, the regiment participated in several engagements including the Battle of Cherry Grove, the Battle of

Memphis, Battle of Vassar Hill, Battle of Florida, Battle of Santa Fe, Battle of Moore's Mill, Battle of Newark and the Battle of Kirksville. All of these engagements occurred in the state of Missouri with the last battle occurring on August 6, 1862. William Hawkins was captured about a month after the Battle of Kirksville.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in chronological order in one folder.

Scope and Content:

The collection contains six letters written by William Hawkins to various friends and family members. Most of the letters are addressed to his father and discuss the difficulties of prison life and frustration of not receiving letters from home. Hawkins fears that he has been forgotten or that nobody cares about him and is desperate for his friends to come forward to petition for his release.

Container List:

f. 1 Letters, 1862-1863

Index:

| Index Term | Folder |
|--|--------|
| Hawkins, William (1840-1863) | 1 |
| Porter, Joseph C. (1809-1863) | 1 |
| 1 st Northeast Missouri Cavalry | 1 |