

S Dyson-Bell-Sans Souci, Papers, 1845-1880
0016 0.2 cubic feet, also available on 1 roll of microfilm

MICROFILM

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri-Research Center, St. Louis. If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

INTRODUCTION

The papers contain 83 letters written by or to Absalom Roby Dyson (1832-1864) and his wife, Louisa Johnson Dyson (1833-1898), between 1850 and 1880 regarding their life in Steelville and Franklin County, Missouri before the Civil War and Absalom Dyson's service as a Confederate soldier. Also included are various teaching contracts, business and employment records, and other documents related to Absalom Dyson's work as a farmer, postmaster, and teacher.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Linda San Souci Sanders on July 25, 1975 (Accession No. SA0660).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Absalom Roby Dyson was born on August 2, 1832 in Franklin County, Missouri, one of six sons. Dyson was educated at Steelville Academy and taught at schools in Franklin, Crawford, and Gasconade Counties. He was also a farmer in Franklin County and postmaster for his community. He joined the 5th Missouri Infantry Regiment of the Confederate States Army in 1861 and served in it alongside his brothers.

Dyson's regiment was involved in the Western Theater of the Civil War and engaged in the battles of Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, Corinth, and Champion's Hill. Dyson was severely wounded several times throughout the war, and he died outside of Selma, Alabama on September 10, 1864 due to disease and infection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers have been arranged by date and topic into 21 folders, beginning with two photographs, one of Dyson's wife Louisa and one of their daughter Cornelia, as well as a brief record of Dyson's military service information compiled by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The bulk of the collection is comprised of letters, beginning with pre-war letters from Dyson's friends from Steelville Academy. The core of the collection is Dyson's letters to his wife Louisa during the war, as well as letters to Dyson from Amanda Robertson, a nurse that attended him while he was wounded in Mississippi. The collection ends with post-war correspondence between Mrs. Robertson and Louisa, as well as various documents related to Dyson's work, including school employment and teaching exercise papers.

The papers have been duplicated on microfilm and all 21 folders are available on one roll.

PREFERRED CITIATION

Specific item; box number; folder number *Dyson-Bell-Sans Souci Papers, 1845-1880 (S0016)*, The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center–St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-STL].

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 Biographical papers, including brief biography and explanatory statement by descendent, G.V. Sans Souci; photocopy of Dyson's military record, compiled by the United Daughters of the Confederacy-Missouri division; and genealogical data.
- f. 2 Photographs, Louisa Johnson Dyson and Cornelia Dyson
- f. 3 Envelopes
- f. 4 Correspondence, Ellis G. Evans (schoolmate at Steelville Academy) to Dyson, 8 letters, 1855-1860
- f. 5 Correspondence, Mahala A. and Jessie Evans (Mother and Sister of Ellis G. Evans) to Dyson, 2 letters, 1856-1859
- f. 6 Correspondence, W. H. Ferguson (Schoolmate at Steelville Academy) to Dyson, 9 letters, 1855-1861
- f. 7 Correspondence, John Peter Hitchcock (Schoolmate at Steelville Academy) to Dyson, 5 letters, 1855-1856
- f. 8 Correspondence, William Hudspeth to Dyson, 1 letter, n.d.
- f. 9 Correspondence, Rebecca McKeegan to Louisa Dyson, 3 letters, 1858-1859
- f. 10 Correspondence, J. Smith to Dyson, 1 letter, 1856
- f. 11 Correspondence, Absalom Dyson to Louisa Dyson, 18 letters, 1862-1864
- f. 12 Correspondence, Absalom Dyson to Mrs. Amanda W. F. Robertson (Mrs. Robertson of Raymond, Mississippi, took care of Dyson in her home when he was wounded in the Civil War) 6 letters, 1863-1864
- f. 13 Correspondence, Mahala Johnson (Louisa Dyson's Sister) to Louisa Dyson, 1 letter, 1876
- f. 14 Correspondence, Mrs. Amanda Robertson to Louisa Dyson, 7 letters, 1865-1868
- f. 15 Business affairs, land deeds, rents, affidavit, 5 items, 1858-1859
- f. 16 Election results lists, n.d.
- f. 17 Dyson's Post Office employment records, 2 items, n.d.
- f. 18 Dyson's School employment records, 11 items, 1845-1859
- f. 19 Dyson's School Exercise papers, 12 items, 1855
- f. 20 Steelville Baptist Church Covenant, n.d.
- f. 21 Union Literary Society of Steelville Academy Farewell Address, n.d.

INDEX TERMS

Index Term	Folder	Image
Baptist Church--Missouri, Franklin County	20	
Champion Hill, Battle of, Miss., 1863	11	
Civil War--Battle of Big Black River Bridge, Mississippi	12	

Civil War--Battle of Grand Gulf, 1863	14	
Civil War--Second Battle of Springfield, 1863	11	
Confederate States of America. Army.	11-14	
Corinth, Battle of, Corinth, Miss., 1862	11	
Deeds--Missouri, Franklin County	15	
Dyson, Absalom Roby (1832-1864)	1-21	
Dyson, Cornelia (1860-1932)	2	yes
Dyson, Louisa Johnson	2, 9, 11, 13-14	yes
Election, 1860--Missouri	4-6	
Election, 1860--Missouri gubernatorial	4-6	
Evans, Ellis G.	4	
Evans, Jessie	5	
Evans, Mahala	5	
Ferguson, W.H.	6	
Hitchcock, John Peter	7	
Hudspeth, William	8	
Johnson, Mahala	13	
Lookout Mountain, Battle of, Tenn., 1863	12	
McKeehan, Rebecca	9	
Missouri, Crawford County	1-21	
Missouri, Franklin County	1-21	
Missouri. Confederate Infantry, 5 th Regiment, Company E	11-12, 14	
Missouri--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1-21	
Missouri--Politics and government--To 1865	4-6	
Pea Ridge, Battle of, Ark., 1862	11	
Post offices--Missouri, Franklin County	17	
Robertson, Amanda W. F.	12	
Slavery--Missouri	1-21	
Smith, J.	10	
Steelville Academy, Steelville, Missouri	4-7, 21	
Teaching	18-19	
United Daughters of the Confederacy, Missouri Division	1	
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Correspondence	3-14	
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Hospitals	11-14	
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Western Theater	1-21	
Vicksburg (Miss.)--History--Siege, 1863	11-12	
Wilson's Creek, Battle of, Mo., 1861	1	

Processed August 2017