Beverly A. Davis Papers  
(R0204)

Collection Number: R0204

Collection Title: Beverly A. Davis Papers

Dates: 1865

Creator: Davis, Beverly A., 1840-1887

Abstract: The Beverly A. Davis Papers contain a Civil War letter written by a member of the 32nd Missouri Infantry at Rouse’s Plantation, North Carolina, to his niece, Ellen, at Steelville, Missouri. Davis commented on the capture of Richmond, Virginia, and the prospects for peace.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot  
(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@shsmb.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] Beverly A. Davis Papers (R0204); 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 Pat Davis on September 18, 1984 (Accession No. RA0245).

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, December 7, 1984. Revised by Kathleen Seale, August 26, 2021

Biographical Note:
Beverly A. Davis was born in 1841 to Henry Ewing and Mary “Polly” Ficklin Davis. Davis was a farmer from Steelville in Crawford County, Missouri. He enlisted in August 1862 in the 32nd Missouri Infantry, and served under Major General William T. Sherman at Vicksburg and on the “March to the Sea.” By April 6, 1865 Sherman’s army was encamped at Rouse’s Plantation near Goldsboro, North Carolina. The troops had been given official word of the fall of Richmond, and Davis commented in his letter to his niece at Steelville that, “I think there is a better prospect than ever at this time of having peace soon.” The Confederate army under General Joseph Johnston surrendered to Sherman on April 26, 1865 at present-day Durham, North Carolina. Davis returned to Missouri after the war and married Sarah Rosa Hull on April 4, 1870 in Webster County, Missouri. Together they had three children, Walter S., William B., and Bernard A.

Davis’ older brother John, born in 1825 married Barbara Jane Anderson and together they had six children, Mary Ellen, William E., Lucy E., Martha C., Horace T., and Henry E. Mary Ellen was born in 1849 in Missouri.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains a letter written by Beverly A. Davis on April 6, 1865 to his niece, Ellen Davis, back in Steelville, Missouri. Davis was a member of the 32nd Missouri Infantry and wrote from his post at Rouse’s Plantation, North Carolina. In the letter he talked about the capture of Richmond, Virginia and speculated on the possibly of peace. A typescript is available with the original letter.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 Letter, 1865

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