



## **Richard Goodridge Woodson Papers (R0410)**

**Collection Number:** R0410

**Collection Title:** Richard Goodridge Woodson Papers

**Dates:** 1862-1865

**Creator:** Woodson, Richard Goodridge, 1833-1911

**Abstract:** The Richard Goodridge Woodson Papers consist of the correspondence, orders, and miscellaneous military papers of Richard G. Woodson of Pike County, Missouri, colonel of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri State Militia Cavalry (New). The papers concern the administration of the post at Pilot Knob, Missouri, and the activities of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri State Militia Cavalry.

**Collection Size:** 0.1 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](#). (Change link to specific research center.) If you would like more information, please contact us at [rolla@shsmo.org](mailto:rolla@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Richard Goodridge Woodson Papers* (R0410); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

**Donor Information:** The papers were purchased by the University of Missouri of Missouri from Dennis A. Babbitt on February 16, 1990 (Accession No. RA0468). Additions were purchased on March 23, 1990 (Accession No. RA0473) and on July 17, 1990 (Accession No. RA0481) from Dennis A Babbitt.

**Alternate Forms Available:** Digital images of the Richard Goodridge Woodson Papers are available online at <https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/amcw>.

**Processed by:** Processed by John F. Bradbury, October 11, 1990. Revised by Haley Frizzle-Green, February 20, 2023.

### **Biographical Note:**

Richard Goodridge Woodson was born September 6, 1833, in Virginia. He was commissioned major of the 10<sup>th</sup> Missouri State Militia Cavalry on May 6, 1862. The regiment, organized at Louisiana, Missouri, was posted along the North Missouri Railroad during the summer before being ordered to Jefferson City, Rolla, and Pilot Knob by the end of the year. The 10th regiment failed to recruit the minimum number of soldiers required by state statutes, and at Pilot Knob in February 1863, the unit was reorganized as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri State Militia Cavalry (New). It replaced an earlier regiment with the same numerical designation which had been disbanded. Upon reorganization, Richard G. Woodson was commissioned colonel of the new 3<sup>rd</sup> regiment, with rank to date from May 21, 1863. Portions of the regiment served at Pilot Knob through the end of 1864, operating in southeastern Missouri and northeastern Arkansas. Under Woodson's command, cavalymen of the 3<sup>rd</sup> regiment participated in the campaign against Gen. John S. Marmaduke's Confederate raiders from April to May 1863.

The zenith of Woodson's career came in August 1863, when he led a combined expedition from Pilot Knob and Cape Girardeau which resulted in the capture of Gen. M. Jeff Thompson and most of his staff at Pocahontas, Arkansas. This admirable feat was overshadowed by the capture of an entire company of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri State Militia by guerrillas under Timothy Reeves at Centerville, Missouri, on December 23, 1863. Although Woodson was not personally responsible, and though the prisoners were rescued by troops from Pilot Knob, the episode was an embarrassment. It led to a contretemps with Gen. Clinton B. Fisk, commander of the St. Louis District, which included Pilot Knob, who wanted to cashier the officers involved in the Centerville affair. Woodson argued leniency, and his disagreement with Fisk may have led to Woodson's resignation of his commission on February 27, 1864. He died on March 8, 1911, in St. Charles County, Missouri.

### **Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

The collection consists official and personal correspondence, reports concerning quartermaster stores for which Woodson was responsible at Pilot Knob, and accounts of ordnance stores issued to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri State Militia. The correspondence includes letters from A. W. Alexander concerning Woodson's personal finances, from J. O. Broadhead, S. M. Breckinridge, and A. W. Alexander regarding soldiers at Pilot Knob voting in state elections, with Gen. Clinton Fisk in connection with the capture of Centerville, and with officials in Washington, D.C., regarding claims against the government by Thomas Vandevier of Callaway County for supplies used by the 10<sup>th</sup> Missouri State Militia Cavalry.

### **Container List:**

Box 001	f. 1	Correspondence, 1862-1865
	f. 2	Reports and receipts, 1863

**Index:**

Index Terms	Folder
Alexander, A. W.	1
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Draper, Philander	1
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