Robert Huston Carnahan Papers
(R0627)

Collection Number: R0627

Collection Title: Robert Huston Carnahan Papers

Dates: 1861

Creator: Carnahan, Robert H., 1821-1913


Collection Size: 0.01 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.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] Robert Huston Carnahan Papers (R0627); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: This letter was purchased for the University of Missouri from Normal Civil War Antiques on January 23, 1998 (Accession No. RA0693).

**Historical Note:**

Robert Huston Carnahan, a native of Pennsylvania, enlisted in the 3rd Illinois Cavalry on August 24, 1861 and was commissioned captain of Company K. The regiment organized at Camp Butler, Illinois, and was mustered in on August 27, 1861. Its first service came in the fall of 1861, during Frémont’s campaign to capture Springfield, Missouri, after which it moved to Rolla. In December 1861, the 3rd Illinois Cavalry became part of General Samuel R. Curtis’s Army of Southwest Missouri.

The 3rd Illinois did not enjoy the comforts of winter quarters. The regiment was part of the cavalry expedition which began the Pea Ridge campaign, and participated in several skirmishes and engagements culminating in the Battle of Pea Ridge in March 1862. The 3rd Illinois Cavalry remained with General Curtis until the army reached Helena, Arkansas, in the summer of 1862. Once away from the Department of the Missouri, the 3rd Illinois Cavalry served in Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee. Carnahan remained with the regiment during its entire length of service. He was commissioned lieutenant colonel and colonel in 1864 and 1865. The regiment spent the summer of 1865 operating against the Sioux in Minnesota and the Dakotas, then was mustered out in October. Carnahan was brevetted brigadier general upon his muster out in October 1865.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The collection contains a letter from Robert H. Carnahan, an officer in the 3rd Illinois Cavalry stationed at Rolla in Phelps County, Missouri. In the letter, dated December 6, 1861, Carnahan commented on winter quarters and camp life. Carnahan wrote to his daughter, Clara, from the regiment’s camp near Rolla. He commented on riding sixty miles in a day’s scout, and speculated on the possibility of going into winter quarters. He also wrote of rations, his black servant, and camping arrangements.

**Container List:**

| Box 001 | f. 1 | Letter, Robert H. Carnahan to Clara, 1861 |

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