

C Kavanaugh, William H., Papers, 1861-1939
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INTRODUCTION

The Civil War memoir written by William H. Kavanaugh describes battles and events he witnessed or participated in with Company E, 1st Regiment, Infantry and Company D, 2nd Regiment, Infantry Volunteers, C.S.A., in addition to descriptions of his time in military prisons. Also includes genealogical material on the Kavanaugh family.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Mrs. N.C. Reusser on 20 February 1976 (Accession No. 1189).

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William H. Kavanaugh was born October 12, 1844, in Moniteau County, Missouri, the oldest son of Charles and Elizabeth Kavanaugh. Kavanaugh was in school when the Civil War broke out. Due to his parents' southern lineage, he left school in September of 1861 to join the Confederacy and served in the Missouri State Guard as a private with Capt. Williams' Company in Tipton, Missouri. He was only 17 years old. In November 1864, Kavanaugh participated in the Second Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, where he was taken prisoner and moved to Camp Douglas, a Confederate prison in Chicago, Illinois.

In February 1865, Kavanaugh was released and sent back south to join his company. On April 9, 1865, he was fighting the last battle of the Confederacy at Fort Blakely, Alabama, where once again he was taken prisoner. After two weeks, the prisoners of Fort Blakely were moved to Jackson, Mississippi, and Kavanaugh never fought again. On June 22, 1865, after more than three years with the Confederacy, Kavanaugh returned to Tipton, Missouri. Six years later he married Nancy Chaney and they had six children. He died February 4, 1926, in Versailles, Missouri.

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