



Benjamin Guy Sweet Papers (R0190)

Collection Number: R0190

Collection Title: Benjamin Guy Sweet Papers

Dates: 1862-1872

Creator: Sweet, Benjamin Guy, 1838-1909

Abstract: The Benjamin Guy Sweet Papers contain a bound typescript of four journals kept by Benjamin Sweet. They describe his experiences in the 74th Illinois Infantry during the Civil War, removal to Jasper County, Missouri, in 1867, and operation of a newsstand and bookstore in Carthage in 1872. The typescript includes a subject-name index to the journals.

Collection Size: 0.1 cubic foot
(1 volume)

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.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the University all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Benjamin Guy Sweet Papers* (R0190); 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 Marcella E. Sweet Roper on May 1, 1984 (Accession No. RA0221).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Benjamin Guy Sweet Papers can be found in the following collections:

Lyman G. Bennett Papers (R0274)

W. E. Patterson Civil War Memoir (C3292)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, June 18, 1984. Revised by Kathleen Seale, April 6, 2021.

Biographical Note:

Born July 23, 1838 at West Troy, New York, to Clark and Annie *Greene* Sweet, Benjamin Guy Sweet was a resident of Norvell, Michigan, by the time of the Civil War. He enlisted in the 74th Illinois Infantry at Rockford, Illinois, in August 1862, and served throughout the war despite chronic illness. After training at Camp Fuller near Rockford, the 74th Illinois joined Federal forces operating in Kentucky. The regiment was involved in several small skirmishes and got its first real combat experience at the Battle of Perryville in October 1862. Soon after the battle, the regiment was ordered to Munfordville, where it spent the next several months as the post's garrison force. Sweet, afflicted with chronic rheumatism which left him unable to walk, reported himself disabled at Munfordville, and spent the next several months in the hospital. He was transferred to the Invalid Corps in 1863 and was sent to Camp Douglas near Chicago to guard Confederate prisoners-of-war.

Sweet married Inez Hall at Geneseo, Illinois, in 1866, and together they had two children, Minnie and Clayton. Sweet moved his family from Illinois to Jasper County, Missouri, in 1867, arriving at Carthage in September. There he established a newsstand and bookstore, and by 1872, he offered a large stock of newspapers, books, and stationery. According to the family, Sweet went on to operate businesses in Webb City, Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas, and owned lead mines in Oklahoma. He and his wife moved to Empire City, Kansas, by 1900, where he owned and operated a notions store until 1909 when he sold the business to move to Los Angeles, California. Sweet died on December 4, 1909, soon after he and Inez moved to Los Angeles.

Clayton Sweet was born in 1868 in Carthage, Missouri. He married Alfaretta Milnes and together they had seven children, Everett, Alton, Benjamin, Clayton, Bertha, Marcella, and Eva. Marcella, born in 1913, married Carl R. Roper in 1939 in Dallas, Texas.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

Sweet's journals were preserved through the years by his wife, son, and grandson. Of the four journals, two detail his service during the Civil War. The other two cover his postwar activities. All the diaries have chronological gaps separating them, and they do not form a complete record for 1862 to 1872.

The Civil War journals conclude with entries written at Camp Douglas and a single entry for March 1865. Accompanying the journals are copies of two wartime photographs of Sweet and P. H. Bohart, a comrade-in-arms from the 74th Illinois Infantry.

The last two journals describe Sweet's removal from Illinois in 1867 and his business operations at Carthage in 1872. The travel journal consists of a mileage log and short notes on the three-week journey. The journal for 1872 concerns his business at Carthage and difficulties in finding suitable commercial space after losing the lease on his first location. Sweet ultimately moved into new facilities owned by C. C. Colby in May 1872.

Container List:

Box 001 v. 1 Benjamin Guy Sweet journals, 1862-1872

Index:

Index Term	Medium	Image
Bohart, P. H.	v. 1	Yes
Booksellers and bookselling--Missouri	v. 1	
Camp Douglas (Ill.)	v. 1	
Camp Fuller (Ill.)	v. 1	
Camp Joe Holt (Jeffersonville, Ind.)	v. 1	
Carthage (Mo.)	v. 1	
Colby, C. C.	v. 1	
Garrison, Benjamin F.	v. 1	
Illinois-Description and travel	v. 1	
Illinois--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	v. 1	
Indiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	v. 1	
Jasper County (Mo.)	v. 1	
Kentucky--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	v. 1	
Louisville (Ky.)	v. 1	
Munfordville (Ky.)	v. 1	
Newspaper vendors--Missouri	v. 1	
Parker, Jennie F., -1887	v. 1	
Perryville, Battle of, Perryville, Ky., 1862	v. 1	
Rockford (Ill.)	v. 1	
Spencer, C. E.	v. 1	
Stepp and Company	v. 1	
Sweet, Benjamin Guy, 1838-1909	v. 1	Yes
Sweet, Inez Hall, 1846-1871	v. 1	
Sweet family	v. 1	
United States. Army. Illinois Infantry Regiment, 74th (1862-1865)	v. 1	
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	v. 1	