



James S. Spencer Papers (R0216)

Collection Number: R0216

Collection Title: James S. Spencer Papers

Dates: 1862-1864

Creator: Spencer, James S., 1838-1927

Abstract: The James S. Spencer Papers contain photocopies and typescript of a Civil War diary of a resident of Phelps County, Missouri, and sergeant in the 32nd Missouri Infantry. The diary covers the period preceding the captures Jackson and Vicksburg, Mississippi, and the advance on Tuscumbia, Alabama. It also includes a roster of Company I of the 32nd Missouri from June 1863 to May 1864.

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@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *James S. Spencer Papers* (R0216); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The papers were loaned for photocopying to the University of Missouri by Mary Morris on June 4, 1985 (Accession No. RA0293).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the James S. Spencer Papers can be found in the following collections:

Aquilla Standifird Papers (R0458)

Henry C. Fike Diaries (C2215)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, June 21, 1985. Revised by Kathleen Seale, November 5, 2021.

Biographical Note:

James S. Spencer was born on August 6, 1838 in Greene County, Illinois. He married Sarah Jane Turner of Phelps County, Missouri on February 14, 1861. Together they had six children, Mary E., Henry B., Matilda H., James A., John, and Isaac I. In October 1862 Spencer enlisted in Company I of the 32nd Missouri Infantry, a unit raised largely in south-central Missouri. After uneventful service in southeastern Missouri, the regiment was ordered south to Federal armies operating against Vicksburg. It was assigned to the 15th Army Corps, a connection which lasted until the end of the war. The regiment saw service with General William T. Sherman's armies in Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and the Carolinas before mustering out in July 1865. A sergeant by the time of his discharge, Spencer returned to his home in Phelps County, where he farmed until his death near Elk Prairie on February 8, 1927. He is buried in Beaver Creek Cemetery next to Sarah who died in 1913.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

This is a Civil War diary of a resident of Phelps County, Missouri, and sergeant in the 32nd Missouri Infantry. The diary covers the period preceding the captures Jackson and Vicksburg, Mississippi, and the advance on Tuscumbia, Alabama. It also includes a roster of Company I of the 32nd Missouri from June 1863 to May 1864.

Spencer began keeping records in his pocket diary around July 1863. The volume includes five distinct sections, beginning with an annotated roster of Company I, July 1863--May 1864, followed by a list of equipment issued to members of the company in July 1863. A monthly summary of events from October 1862 to July 1863 begins Spencer's record of service, with a daily accounting from May to October 1863. The monthly and daily summaries mention engagements at Raymond, Jackson, Champion's Hill, and Mechanicsville, Mississippi, during the Vicksburg campaign, and the captures of Vicksburg and Jackson. Reassignment to Memphis, Tennessee, in September 1863 preceded an advance on Tuscumbia, Alabama. The diary ends on October 22, 1863. An account of the commissary fund for Company I, June-October 1863, completes the volume.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 Diary, 1862-1864

Index:

Index Term	Folder
Alabama--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1

Index Term	Folder
Arkansas Post (Ark.)	1
Brandon (Miss.)	1
Corinth (Miss.)	1
Greenville (Miss.)	1
Iuka (Miss.)	1
Jackson (Miss.)	1
Mississippi—History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1
Raymond (Miss.)	1
Spencer, James S., 1838-1927	1
United States. Army. Missouri Infantry Regiment, 32 nd	1
Vicksburg (Miss.)	1