



John B. Mains Papers (R0245)

Collection Number: R0245

Collection Title: John B. Mains Papers

Dates: 1861-1864

Creator: Mains, John B., 1844-1940

Abstract: The John B. Mains Papers contain photocopies of Civil War letters written by John B. Mains who served in the 6th Missouri Infantry. Mains wrote from camps in Missouri while he served in John C. Fremont's Army of the West, and from Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama during service with the Army of the Tennessee.

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.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *John B. Mains Papers* (R0245); 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 James Means via John P. Skaggs on January 8, 1986 (Accession No. RA0327).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the John B. Mains Papers can be found in the following collections:

Coleman Family Papers (R0619)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, February 7, 1986. Revised by Kathleen Seale, February 2, 2022.

Biographical Note:

John B. Mains (also spelled Means) was born in Ohio on March 28, 1844 to David and Mariah E. *Bower* Mains. He spent most of his life around Silver Mine in Madison County, Missouri. Mains married Mary Ellen Polk in 1866 and together they had two children. Mary Ellen died in 1881 and Mains married again to Nancy Pope in 1883. The couple had three children. At the time of his death in 1940 he was one of only three remaining Civil War veterans in Madison County.

Mains enlisted in Company D, 6th Missouri Infantry on August 11, 1861 at Pilot Knob. The regiment was assigned to General John C. Fremont's Army of the West in the fall of 1861, and Mains saw service during the abortive advance on Springfield. Following the termination of that campaign, the regiment guarded the Pacific Railroad between Jefferson City and Tipton.

The 6th Missouri was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee in April 1862, an association which lasted almost without interruption until the end of the war under Generals Grant and Sherman. The Army of the Tennessee campaigned in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, and the Carolinas. John B. Mains served with his regiment until his discharge in September 1864.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains the Civil War letters of John B. Mains of the 6th Missouri Infantry. The correspondence were written from Jefferson City, Springfield and Camp Lamine in Missouri and Memphis, Tennessee, Corinth and Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Larkinsville, Arkansas. With the exception of one letter by a family friend in Ohio, the Mains correspondence is addressed to David Mains, Mains' father, in Madison County, Missouri. John B. Mains was inconsistent in the spelling of his surname, styling it as "Means" on numerous occasions. He is listed as "Mains" in the official military records maintained by the Missouri State Archives. Also included is a copy of a photograph of John B. Mains in his Civil War uniform.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 Correspondence, 1861-1864

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Abbeyville (Miss.)	1	
Bowen, Isaiah	1	
Camp Lamine (Mo.)	1	
Corinth (Miss.)	1	

Index Term	Folder	Image
Jefferson City (Mo.)	1	
Mains, John B., 1844-1940	1	Yes
Memphis (Tenn.)	1	
Mississippi--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1	
Missouri--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1	
Rogersville (Ohio)	1	
Springfield (Mo.)	1	
Tennessee--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1	
United States. Army. Missouri Infantry Regiment, 6th	1	Yes
Vicksburg (Miss.)	1	