



Henry Ellison Skaggs Papers (R0247)

Collection Number: R0247

Collection Title: Henry Ellison Skaggs Papers

Dates: 1862-1895

Creator: Skaggs, Henry Ellison, 1831-1899

Abstract: The Henry Ellison Skaggs Papers contains the diary and papers of Henry Ellison Skaggs, pertaining to his service in the 1st Missouri Cavalry in Missouri and Arkansas during the Civil War. Included are a diary, two letters from Little Rock, Arkansas, a photograph of Skaggs in uniform, and a group of prayers. There are also correspondence concerning his military pension and genealogical data.

Collection Size: 0.3 cubic foot
(3 folders)

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 and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Henry Ellison Skaggs Papers* (R0247); 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 John R. Skaggs on November 21, 1984 (Accession No. RA0324). An addition was made on July 10, 1989 by Violet Brown (Accession No. RA0447).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Henry Ellison Skaggs Papers can be found in the following collections:

Franklin Spilman Denny Papers (R0548)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, February 13, 1986. Revised by John F. Bradbury, October 11, 1989. Revised by Kathleen Seale, February 2, 2022.

Biographical Note:

Henry Ellison Skaggs was born on March 28, 1831 in Weakley County, Tennessee. By 1854 he had located to Camden County, Missouri where he married Narcissa George. They moved to Cooke County, Texas around 1859. As a Union man during the Civil War, Skaggs was prompted by threat of Confederate conscription to leave his family in Texas in 1862. Intercepted by Confederate authorities in Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) and faced with enrollment in the southern army, Skaggs fled to safety inside Union lines at Mount Vernon, Missouri. He continued to Springfield, where he enlisted in Company C, 1st Missouri Cavalry on September 13, 1862. Skaggs served in Missouri and Arkansas from October 1862 to June 1864. During this time, the regiment operated with the Army of the Frontier in southwestern Missouri and northwest Arkansas, was part of Davidson's Cavalry Division in the campaign to capture Little Rock and served in the cavalry of the Army of Arkansas. After the war, Skaggs returned to his home in Cooke County, Texas where he lived until his death in 1899.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains the diary and personal papers of Henry E. Skaggs. Skaggs kept a diary in a small pocket notebook during most of his enlistment in the 1st Missouri Cavalry. The diary was submitted as additional evidence of military service in 1895 when Skaggs petitioned the government for an increase in his pension. The diary contains a partial index, notes on financial matters, a register of correspondence, and chronological entries detailing service in Missouri and Arkansas from October 1862 to June 1864. The diary entries are brief, occasionally summarizing a period of several days. They continue through June 10, 1864, when Skaggs was on furlough in Miller County, Missouri. The last page is fragmentary. It bears the address of a St. Louis firm which sold bullet-proof vests to soldiers.

A group of five prayers, presumably written by Skaggs, accompanies the diary. They are written on small notebook pages similar to those of the diary. They include prayers for morning and evening use, for wounded and dying soldiers, and for those going into battle. Transcripts of the diary and prayers have been prepared by Luther R. Fruit, a descendent of Henry E. Skaggs. An introduction to the typescript includes biographical information on Skaggs and the individuals mentioned in his diary. Also available is a map showing the area of operations and the itinerary of the 1st Missouri Cavalry.

Among the miscellaneous papers are copies of pension records at the National Archives. They include the correspondence and a deposition regarding a request for an increase in pension. The deposition includes a brief narrative of Skaggs's Civil War service, in which he recounted the details of his flight from Texas to Missouri, and his service in the cavalry. He noted the hardships endured by his family during his absence, and detailed his own physical complaints, which he attributed to wartime service.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 Diary and prayers, 1862-1864
 f. 2 Typescript of diary and prayers, no date
 f. 3 Miscellaneous papers, 1862-1865, 1893-1895

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