



John Holland Papers (R0405)

Collection Number: R0405

Collection Title: John Holland Papers

Dates: 1865

Creator: Holland, John

Abstract: The John Holland Papers contain a typescript copy of the Civil War diary of John Holland. Holland served with Company F, 2nd United States Veteran Volunteers in Virginia, Washington D.C., and New York in 1865.

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] *John Holland Papers* (R0405); 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 Elaine Campbell on June 12, 1987 (Accession No. RA0380).

Note: Copies on 35mm slides contain images of the Veterans Reserve Corp, military prison camps, and a portrait of John Holland and his wife are available in the administration folder.

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, July 31, 1990. Revised by Kathleen Seale, September 1, 2020.

Historical Note:

The Veteran Volunteer Corps was authorized in November 1864 by the War Department. It consisted of veteran soldiers who had been honorably discharged from service of not less than two years and who would enlist for at least one year. The corps was headquartered in Washington, D.C., and was commanded initially by Major General Winfield Scott Hancock.

John Holland enlisted in Company F, 2nd United States Veteran Volunteers at Alton, Illinois, on February 16, 1865. He was a veteran of service on the Mississippi River aboard the U.S. Ram *Monarch*, from which he was discharged on December 26, 1864. The veteran regiment was posted at Camp Stoneman in Washington, D.C. The regiment spent April and May 1865 in camp at Winchester, Virginia, then returned to Washington in June. The regiment was assigned to the prison camp at Elmira, New York, in July, where it remained through the end of 1865. John Holland served at Elmira until his discharge at the expiration of his enlistment on February 16, 1866. Elmira was an army training camp from May 1861 to May 1864, after which it served as a prisoner of war camp. Confederate prisoners remained in camp as late as August 1865, although most had been released by early summer.

Born in Illinois in 1842, John Holland married Cordelia Curtis Barclay in 1870, and together they had five children. They lived in Benton County, Missouri, until John's death in 1890.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order in one folder.

Scope and Content Note:

Holland's diary entries consist of daily notations concerning camp life, regimental duties, and the weather. His military responsibilities were minimal, primarily consisting of drill, guard duty, and provost marshal assignments. Holland apparently had little to do with the remaining prisoners in camp, but had a considerable acquaintance with the attractions of the town of Elmira. He noted sampling the local "lager," and attending performances of Bailey's Circus and various acrobatic and theatrical acts and "Old Ann's" bawdyhouse. From the latter, he may have contracted a venereal disease, which bothered him in late October.

Holland's diary offers an entertaining and useful view of the morale and discipline of veteran Union soldiers following the conclusion of the Civil War. Some aspects of camp life seem to have remained constant. The food was wretched, the paymaster was tardy, and the duty was monotonous. Discipline seems to have deteriorated markedly. There are many references to drunken sprees and resulting fights among the soldiers, which occasionally involved citizens of Elmira. Holland frequently noted disciplinary actions against soldiers who refused to salute officers, wore civilian clothes rather than regulation uniforms, and came into camp drunk and abusive.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1

Diary, 1865

Index:

Index Term	Folder
Bartlett, E.W., -1864	1
Camp Stoneman (Washington, D.C.)	1
Elmira (N.Y.)	1
Giesburg Point (Va.)	1
Haze, Amos B.	1
Holland, Cordelia	1
Holland, John	1
Imhoff, Joseph	1
Lindsey, G.W., -1864	1
Long, Scott, -1864	1
Military bases--New York	1
Military bases--Virginia	1
Military bases--Washington (D.C.)	1
<i>Monarch</i> (Ship)	1
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1
United States. Army. Veteran Volunteer Corps. Regiment, 2 nd	1
Winchester (Va.)	1