

Information Sheet

R Williams, Francis Marion, 1835-1909.
413 Papers, 1862-1866.
One folder, photocopies.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are Civil War papers of Francis M. Williams, a native of Fredericktown in Madison County, Missouri, who served in the 4th Missouri Militia Regiment and the 50th Missouri Infantry. The collection includes correspondence and military papers concerning duty at St. Francis Bridge and in Iron and Washington counties in Missouri.

The Williams family came to Missouri in the early 1800s from Virginia and North Carolina. They were among the first settlers of Madison County. Francis Marion Williams was born in Madison County in 1835. He married Sarah Ann Berry of the same county in 1859. Williams joined Union forces during the Civil War, serving first in the 4th regiment of Missouri militia, a six-months unit commanded by Samuel P. Simpson. Later in the war, Williams enlisted as sergeant of Co. F of the 50th Missouri Infantry, a unit composed of six- and twelve-months volunteers. Part of the regiment, including Williams's company, was engaged in 1864 at the Battle of Pilot Knob. Williams was discharged in April 1865. He returned to Madison County, where he lived until his death in 1909. He is buried in Mine La Motte Cemetery.

Williams's papers consist of items pertaining to his military service during the war. The earliest item, dated 27 February 1862 at Ironton, is a certificate of discharge from the 4th Missouri Militia (Simpson's regiment). The remainder of the collection, 1865-1866, regards service with the 50th Missouri Infantry. There are several items headed "St. Francis Bridge," including a letter to Sarah Ann Williams which mentions guerrillas in the vicinity of Irondale and Blairsville and military papers concerning the return of army clothing from a civilian, and a roster of the squad stationed at St. Francis Bridge. Two postwar items in the collection are a letter from James Lindsay at Ironton about land papers destroyed during Price's raid in 1864, and from Robert L. Lindsay, formerly Williams's company commander, regarding claims against the government.

The Williams papers will be useful for research on the waning months of the Civil War in southeastern Missouri.

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Shelf List

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27 Feb 1864	Discharge, 4 th Missouri Militia
13 Feb 1865	Frank Edwards, Mineral Point, Missouri, to Sgt. Francis M. Williams
21 Feb 1865	Francis M. Williams, St. Francis Bridge, Missouri, to Sarah A. Williams
22 Feb 1865	Capt. P. F. Lonergan, Pilot Knob, Missouri, to commanding officer, St. Francois[sic] Bridge, Missouri; endorsements by Capt. Robert L. Lindsay

22 Feb 1865 Sgt. Francis M. Williams, St. Francis Bridge, Missouri, to "Capt."
n.d. Roster of Sgt. Francis M. Williams, St. Francis Bridge, Missouri.
22 Jul 1865 James Lindsay, Ironton, Missouri, to F. M. Williams
2 Oct 1866 Robert L. Lindsay, Ironton, Missouri, to F. M. Williams

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Index Cards

Blairsville (Mo.).
Buckner, Joel.
Edwards, Herman.
Iron County (Mo.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
Irondale (Mo.).
Ironton (Mo.).
King, George W.
Lindsay, James.
Lindsay, Robert L.
Mineral Point (Mo.).
Missouri—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
Missouri Infantry—50th Regiment [SEE United States. Army. Missouri Infantry Regiment, 50th.].
Missouri. Militia. Regiment, 4th.
Pilot Knob (Mo.).
Saint Francis Bridge (Mo.).
Simpson, Samuel P.
United States. Army. Missouri Infantry Regiment, 50th.
United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
Washington County (Mo.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
Williams, Francis Marion, 1835-1909.
Williams, Sarah Ann Berry.