

Information Sheet

R Crawford, John D., -1864.
472 Civil War letters, 1862-1863.
One folder.

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 letters by John D. Crawford, 2nd Missouri State Militia Cavalry, and his brother, H. T. Crawford. The letters note events in Adair, Knox, Schuyler, and Scotland counties in Missouri, and the execution of prisoners by Union authorities at Palmyra, Missouri.

The collection consists of three letters, 31 August 1862 – 21 August 1863. The first, by H. T. Crawford at Bible Grove in Scotland County, mentions military events in northeastern Missouri including skirmishes in Schuyler County and at Newark (Knox County), and the action at Kirksville (Adair County). Crawford, who seems to have been a noncombatant, wrote that he had visited the battlefields and had seen unburied bodies. He also wrote that the rebels had threatened him and his neighbors, but “have not yet done anything worth notice.” The letter is addressed to “Sister and Cousin.”

John D. Crawford was a soldier in Co. K, 2nd Missouri State Militia Cavalry. His letters are addressed to “Cousin” Annie M. Baker of Burton, Illinois. Crawford’s letter of 24 October 1862, written at Palmyra, describes the circumstances leading to the execution of ten captured rebels by order of Brig. Gen. John McNeil. Condemned by some, the executions were “just the right thing in the right place” according to Crawford.

The 2nd Missouri State Militia Cavalry was assigned to southeastern Missouri in July 1863. John D. Crawford wrote Annie Baker on 21 August 1863 from Camp Lowry at Cape Girardeau. The letter is devoted to the merits of a prospective partner for his cousin. Crawford’s nominee was Leonard T. Bragg, commissary sergeant of the regiment. Crawford also wrote that he liked his situation better than he expected, and that he was getting along well. However, it was a situation which would not last. John D. Crawford died of “winter fever” at Cape Girardeau in January 1864.

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<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
31 August 1862	H. T. Crawford, Bible Grove, Mo. (photocopy)	“Sister and Cousin”
24 October 1862	John D. Crawford, Palmyra, Mo. (original)	“My Dear Cousin”
21 August 1863	John D. Crawford, Camp Lowry, Cape Girardeau, Mo. (photocopy)	Annie M. Baker, Burton, Ill.

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