



John Smith Phelps Receipt (R0562)

Collection Number: R0562

Collection Title: John Smith Phelps Receipt

Dates: 1864

Creator: Phelps, John Smith, 1814-1886

Abstract: The John Smith Phelps Receipt is a receipt given by John S. Phelps at Ozark, Christian County, Missouri, to Jesse Jennings, administrator of the estate of George Yocum.

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 are in the public domain.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *John Smith Phelps Receipt* (R0562); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The record was donated to the University of Missouri by Robert S. Wiley on February 8, 1995 (Accession No. RA0618).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the John Smith Phelps Receipt can be found in the following collections:

[John Smith Phelps Letter](#) (C1626)

[John S. Phelps Scrapbook](#) (C3058)

[Robert S. Wiley Collection](#) (R0521)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, January 29, 1996. Revised by Niki Cox-Miniea, December 21, 2023.

Biographical Note:

A native of Simsbury, Connecticut, John Smith Phelps studied at Trinity College at Hartford and was admitted to the bar in 1835. After his marriage to Mary Whitney in 1837, he came to Missouri, locating at Springfield. He quickly became one of the leading lawyers in southwest Missouri and was elected to the state legislature in 1840. Four years later he was elected to Congress as a Democrat and served his district for eighteen years. He was a champion of government bounties to soldiers, aid to railroads, and inexpensive postage.

Phelps was popular in Washington and at home; in 1857 Missourians honored him by naming the newly created county of Phelps after him. At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Phelps returned to Springfield and organized home guard forces for the Union. Following the northern defeat at Wilson's Creek, Mary Phelps cared for the body of General Nathaniel Lyon, killed at the battle, while her husband retreated with the Union army to Rolla. By special arrangement with President Lincoln, Phelps organized the infantry regiment which bore his name, Phelps's Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry. The regiment spent most of the winter of 1861-1862 as the garrison of Fort Wyman at Rolla. In March 1862, he led his regiment in the fierce fighting at Pea Ridge, Arkansas. President Lincoln appointed Phelps military governor of Arkansas in July 1862, but he resigned the position due to ill health.

Phelps returned to Springfield in 1864 to resume his law practice. He was an unsuccessful candidate for governor of Missouri in 1868, but in 1876 was elected to the position as the only candidate who could successfully lead Northern and Southern factions in the state. During his tenure as governor, Phelps supported currency reform and increased support for public education. He retired in 1881, and he died in Springfield in 1886.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into 1 folder.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains a receipt given by John S. Phelps at Ozark, Christian County, Missouri, to Jesse Jennings, administrator of the estate of George Yocum, deceased. The receipt was for a retainer paid to Phelps for legal services involving the Yocum estate. The receipt was removed from the Robert S. Wiley collection. It was deacidified and encapsulated by Claudia Powell of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia.

Container List:

f. 1 Receipt, 1864

Index:

Index Terms	Folder
Christian County (Mo.)	1
Jennings, Jesse	1
Ozark (Mo.)	1

Index Terms	Folder
Phelps, John Smith, 1814-1886	1
Yocum, George	1