



## **Edwin D. Wheelock Papers (R0654)**

**Collection Number:** R0654

**Collection Title:** Edwin D. Wheelock Papers

**Dates:** 1862-1901

**Creator:** Wheelock, Edwin D., 1847-1926

**Abstract:** The Edwin D. Wheelock Papers contain photocopied Civil War correspondence written by Edwin D. Wheelock, a soldier in Company G of the 17th Illinois Cavalry. The letters were written from camps at Alton, Illinois; St. Louis, Rolla, and Pilot Knob, Missouri; and Fort Scott, Kansas. There is also a letter written by a friend, Emery F. Farnsworth, who was a soldier in the 37th Illinois Infantry, a photographic copy of Wheelock in uniform, postwar information on veterans of the unit printed by the *Nunda Herald*, and a brief family record.

**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](https://www.shsmo.org/research-center-rolla). If you would like more information, please contact us at [rolla@shsmo.org](mailto:rolla@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the University all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Edwin D. Wheelock Papers* (R0654); 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 for photocopying by Thomas Rusch on October 6, 1998 (Accession No. RA0713).

**Processed by:** Processed by John F. Bradbury, June 2, 1999. Revised by Aaron Schmidt, April 2020.

**Biographical Note:**

Edwin Dickinson Wheelock was born on April 15, 1847, in Vermont to Cyrus and Lois *Ober* Wheelock. He married Eliza McClelland in 1869 in Minnesota. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he lived in Forksville, Illinois. He enlisted in the Union Army on March 30, 1864 in Chicago, Illinois joining the 17th Illinois Cavalry. Wheelock died on November 6, 1926 in South Dakota.

The 17th Illinois Cavalry was organized at St. Charles, Illinois, in January and February of 1864. After being equipped at Jefferson Barracks near St. Louis, the regiment moved to Alton, Illinois to guard Confederate prisoners of war. Edwin Wheelock's Company G moved to Glasgow, Missouri, in June 1864, then traveled to Rolla in September. Later that month, during Confederate General Sterling Price's Missouri Expedition, the 17th Illinois rode from Rolla to Leasburg to assist General Thomas Ewing Jr.'s retreat from Pilot Knob. The regiment joined General John B. Sanborn's cavalry brigade in operations against Sterling Price's forces, returning to Rolla in November 1864. In January 1865, the regiment moved to Pilot Knob, where it remained until April. After a short stay in Cape Girardeau, the regiment moved to Fort Scott, Kansas, in June 1865, where they remained until mustering out in November and December 1865.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The collection consists of nine letters to Edwin Wheelock's family including his sister and mother and a few miscellaneous items pertaining to Wheelock and his military service in the 17th Illinois Cavalry. Except for the earliest item in the collection, written by E. (Emery) F. Farnsworth of the 37th Illinois Infantry at Boonville, the letters were written by Edwin D. Wheelock and are addressed to his family. The letters contain camp news, details about pay and rations, news of friends and acquaintances, and speculation as to the final course of the war. Wheelock's letter from Rolla describes his unit's activities during Price's Expedition. Unfortunately, a fragment of the letter is missing. Five letters were written in 1865 from Pilot Knob, Missouri. The last letter in the collection was penned at Fort Scott, Kansas, where the regiment had been sent for duty on the Plains.

The other items in this collection include a photocopy print of Wheelock in his uniform and family record of the Edwin D. Wheelock and Eliza McClelland family. There is also a newspaper supplement from the *Nunda Herald* (Illinois) concerning members of the 17<sup>th</sup> Illinois Calvary from around 1888.

**Container List:**

Box 001    f. 1            Edwin D. Wheelock papers, 1862-1901

**Index:**

Index Term	Folder	Image
Boonville (Mo.)	1	

Index Term	Folder	Image
Farnsworth, Emery F., 1839-1862	1	
Missouri--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1	
Phelps County (Mo.)	1	
Pilot Knob (Mo.)	1	
Rolla (Mo.)	1	
Saint Louis (Mo.)	1	
United States. Army. Illinois Cavalry Regiment, 17 <sup>th</sup> (1864-1865)	1	
United States. Army. Illinois Infantry Regiment, 37th	1	
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1	
Wheelock, Edwin D., 1847-1926	1	Yes