

R Ray, Joseph L. (1842-1933) Pension Application Papers, 1911-1928
1339 1 folder

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INTRODUCTION

This collection consists of pension claim papers for Joseph Lafayette Ray (1842-1933) a veteran of the Civil War. In 1911, Joseph L. Ray began the process of applying for a pension for his service during the Civil War.

DONOR INFORMATION

The photocopied documents were donated to The State Historical Society of Missouri by Donna Caruthers on 27 November 1984 (Accession No. RA0257).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Joseph L. Ray, born 21 February 1842, was the third of seven children, born to Amos and Martha (Allen) Ray, of Burnsville, North Carolina. He and four of his brothers all served in the Civil War. In his deposition, Joseph states he was ‘mised’ when he entered into service for the Confederate Army in North Carolina, May 21, 1861; he did not fight but deserted at the first opportunity by surrendering to the Union at the Battle of Fredericksburg. He was a prisoner for one day before being exchanged for a Union soldier and was put back into service for the Confederacy. He was pressed into service again at Chancellorsville, Virginia and again, did not fight but after the dust settled, walked across the field to the Union side and was made a prisoner of war on May 3, 1863. He was sent to Philadelphia Pennsylvania, and there took the oath of allegiance to the United States. He enrolled in the Union Army at Cincinnati, Ohio as a private, in Co. “H”, 5th Regiment of Ohio Cavalry Volunteers and he was mustered out as a corporal, October 30, 1865.

In August of 1872, at the age of 30, Joseph married Edmona “Loretta” Cole (1857-1892), aged 15. To this union seven children were born. Edmona died in 1892 leaving six children. In Scott County, Virginia, on August 24, 1897, at age, 54, Joseph was united in marriage to 17-years old Elizabeth McNutt (18 Mar 1880 – 26 Nov 1958), the daughter of Dewitt Phillip and Sarah. A. (Blaylock) McNutt, both of Virginia and to this union seven more children were born. In 1900, the family was living in Buncombe, North Carolina. The years between 1901 and 1909, the family was residing in Oklahoma as shown by the birth of three children on the 1910 census of Bosworth City, Carroll County, Missouri. By 1930 the family had relocated to Springfield, Greene County, Missouri, where Joseph spent the remainder of his days.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The papers have been arranged chronologically and contain his deposition, paperwork pertaining to his pension, including a copy of his marriage certificate.

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