



James Washington Woodard Papers (SP0048)

Collection Number: SP0048

Collection Title: James Washington Woodard Papers

Dates: 1862-1867

Creator: Woodard, James Washington, 1831-1863

Abstract: James Washington Woodard Papers consist of Civil War letters that recount the horror of war, camp life, the fate of comrades at the battles of Corinth and Vicksburg, and the movements of General Sterling Price's army as they evacuated Missouri in 1862 and 1863. The collection consists of six letters written by a Confederate Lieutenant serving in Company D, 5th Missouri Infantry, 1st Brigade. Also included is a document dealing with an 1867 property transfer from his wife's family, the Lemmons, to his widow.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic feet
(2 folders)

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-Springfield](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at springfield@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the Society all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the Society from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *James Washington Woodard Papers* (SP0048); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Springfield].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by The Dunnegan Gallery of Art on April 29, 2019 (Accession No. SPA0055).

Processed by: Processed by Erin Smither, April 30, 2019

Biographical Note:

James Washington Woodard was born in Cooper County, Missouri, in 1833 to Thomas Woodard and Susan Fambrough Woodard. His parents migrated to Missouri from Tennessee in the 1820s, and then moved to what is now Polk County when Woodard was a very small child. He was one of fourteen children, seven girls and seven boys. At least four of the boys were ministers, and only three survived the Civil War.

Woodard married Alsana Jane Lemmon on March 7, 1853, in Polk County. They had four children, all of whom survived to adulthood. Lemmon's family were also early immigrants to Polk County.

Woodard served in the Confederate Army, most likely starting out in the Missouri State Guard under Governor Claiborne Jackson. He fought at the Battle of Oak Hills (Wilson's Creek) in August of 1861, before enlisting in Company D, 5th Missouri Regiment, 1st Brigade in January of 1862 in Polk County. He took part in the Battles of Elk Horn (Pea Ridge), Arkansas, as well as Farmington, Corinth, Grand Gulf, Port Gibson, and Baker's Creek, Mississippi. He was killed on June 29, 1863, during the siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Woodard obtained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant three months before he died.

Woodard's estate probated twice and was seized by the county, most likely for nonpayment of taxes. Alsana's father disappeared during the war and he was presumed dead. In 1867, her siblings and their spouses deeded land from their father's estate to her. She never remarried and died in 1909 in Polk County.

Arrangement:

The James Washington Woodard Papers have been organized into two folders. The first folder contains six letters written by Woodard in 1862 and 1863. The letters have been arranged chronologically. Folder two contains a document transferring land to his widow in 1867.

Scope and Content Note:

The James Washington Woodard Papers contain six letters written by Lieutenant James Washington Woodard during his service in the Confederate Army from 1862 to 1863. Woodard was from Bolivar, Missouri, and served in Company D, 5th Missouri Regiment, 1st Brigade, commanded by General Sterling Price. His letters contain detailed descriptions of the Confederate Army's movements, in particular Price's retreat from the state of Missouri in 1862. He describes the battles of Corinth, Vicksburg, and Grand Gulf and reports the fate of comrades who have been wounded in battle or fallen ill. He reports that President Jefferson Davis, and Generals Joseph E. Johnston, John C. Pemberton, and Sterling Price, whom he refers to as "Ol' Pap," reviewed the Army in Christmas of 1862. Union soldiers are referred to as either "the enemy" or "the feds," and his letters graphically describe the chaos and violence of battle. Woodard feared for the safety of his family, since Missouri law made it illegal for family

members to correspond with Confederate soldiers. He suggests that family and friends send letters without signatures, and to discuss things that occurred at home that only he would understand. James Woodard died June 29, 1863, of wounds sustained at the siege of Vicksburg. The final document deals with the transfer of property to his widow.

Container List:

Box 001	f. 1	James Woodard correspondence, 1862-1863
	f. 2	Land deed, 1867

Index:

Index Term	Folder
Bond, Corena Lemmon, 1830-1878	2
Bond, Holbert, 1835-1909	2
Corinth, Battle of, Corinth, Miss., 1862	1
Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889	1
Hamilton, Susan Ann Lemmon, 1847-1889	2
Johnston, Joseph E. (Joseph Eggleston), 1807-1891	1
Lemmon, Elizabeth Baldwin, 1836-1904	2
Lemmon, Jefferson, 1846-1897	2
Lemmon, Mary M. Anderson, 1848-1918	2
Lemmon, William, 1831-1904	1-2
Pemberton, John C. (John Clifford), 1814-1881	1
Price, Sterling, 1809-1867	1
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1
Vicksburg (Miss.)--History--Siege, 1863	1
Woodard, Alsana, 1833-1909	2
Woodard, James Washington, 1831-1863	1