



Civil War Veteran Homestead Ledgers (SP0069)

Collection Number: SP0069

Collection Title: Civil War Veteran Homestead Ledgers

Dates: 1874

Creator: unknown

Abstract: The Civil War Veteran Ledgers collection contains two small volumes of handwritten notes taken in 1874 by a government land agent. The notes record information about Union veterans of the Civil War who served in the United States Army or the Missouri State Militia and had made homestead claims of 160 acres or less via the Homestead Act of 1862. The veterans resided in five Missouri counties: Douglas, Ozark, Barry, McDonald, and Stone.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot
(1 folder, 2 volumes)

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: Materials in this collection are in the public domain. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Civil War Veteran Homestead Ledgers* (SP0069); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Springfield].

Donor Information: The volumes were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Mary Goodnight on February 13, 2020 (Accession No. SPA0078).

Processed by: Processed by Erin Smither, June 25, 2020

Historical Note:

The law being enforced by the land agent who created this collection is not named in the volumes, but it may have been the Homestead Act of 1862. President Abraham Lincoln signed the act into law on May 20, 1862. The act allowed citizens, regardless of race or gender, to make claims for up to 160 acre homesteads, if they paid the application fee of \$18.00. The law required applicants to be 21 years of age, to live on the land for at least five years, to construct a home on the site, and to farm and improve the land. Union veterans were allowed to subtract their time of Army service from the occupation requirement. Loopholes and lack of oversight resulted in the majority of homestead claims going to corporations, speculators, and railroad companies. It did make land ownership possible for many individuals who otherwise would have never had the means to purchase property on their own. It also resulted in the removal of Indian tribes from their ancestral homes onto reservations to make way for homesteaders. Congress repealed the Homestead Act in 1976, and replaced it with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which placed public lands under Federal government control. The land thereafter was managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Arrangement:

This collection has been arranged into one folder.

Scope and Content Note:

The Civil War Veteran Ledgers collection contains two small volumes of handwritten notes taken by a government land agent. The notes regard Union veterans of the Civil War who served in the United States Army or the Missouri State Militia and had made homestead claims of 160 acres or less via the Homestead Act of 1862. The veterans, and in some cases their widows, are listed by county, alphabetical by name and the location and acreage of their homesteads is also recorded. The veterans resided in five Missouri counties: Douglas, Ozark, Barry, McDonald, and Stone.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 Ledgers, 1874

Index:

Index Term	Folder
Homestead Act of 1862	1
Homestead law	1
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1