Primary Source Material on the American Civil War*

in Special Collections and Archives

--Photograph from the Henry Flad Papers

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*This is a selected list of resources from our holdings. For a comprehensive list of materials in Special Collections, please consult the Regional History and the University Archives Collections Guides.

Burton, Dennison L. Collection, 1862-1899. 38 items. 2001.054. History of the 24th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers, a camp report listing daily activities of the regiment from September 16, 1862-June 1, 1863, correspondence between James Reeves (author of the history of the 24th) and several of the regiment's members, or their widows, telling the story of the regiment: formation, daily life, and the battle of Chancellorsville, and news clippings.

Cape Girardeau Eagle (Microfilm), 1851-1852, 1857-1861. 4 reels + 214 cards. 1998.067. Microfilm and microfiche copies of the newspaper out of Cape Girardeau [MO].


Cape Girardeau Weekly Argus, 1863-1871. 4 bound volumes + 2 items. 2008.016. Original copies of a weekly newspaper published by W. H. Hamilton in Cape Girardeau, Mo. For additional information, see catalog record in Galahad (071.7896 C17).

Clippings Collection, 1871-2001. 12.0 linear feet. 2007.204. Consists of newspaper clippings, from a variety of sources, on topics relating to the history of southeast Missouri and the surrounding region. Clippings are arranged by subject.


Confederate Scrapbooks, circa 1907-1930. 3 items. 2002.183. Two scrapbooks and one printed address memorializing the Confederate States of America, and containing primarily newspaper clippings, currency, poetry, written tributes and memorials, and photographic images. Address is a tribute to General Robert E. Lee by Honorable Harry B. Hawes of Missouri.

Cooper Discharge Papers, James, 1862. 1 item. 1998.162. Holograph document (1p) discharging Private Cooper from the service of the 7th Arkansas Regiment, Confederate States of America.

Dalton Ledger, Thomas J., 1863-1864. 2 items. 2001.061. Transcriptions (2 copies) of memoranda book kept by Thomas J. Dalton, a private in Company E, 8th Missouri Cavalry (CSA). Dalton’s record book consists various combinations of personal memoranda and records pertaining to Co. E, including clothing and ordnance issues, records of the men in his unit (i.e., AWOL, captured, injured), and records of goods issued and payments to individuals affiliated with camp life (e.g., laundresses, laborers).
Transcribed letters (29p) of Captain Dawson, Confederate States of America, to his wife Amanda in New Madrid, with biographical information on Dawson and historical information on the American Civil War. Dawson was one of the founders of the 1st Missouri Infantry Volunteers. Compiled and edited by H. Riley Bock, with references (19p).

Typed manuscript (1p) on “The Early Telegraph in Cape Girardeau, Missouri,” by Dillon, chronicling the history of the first telegraph lines running between Cape Girardeau and St. Louis in 1850, the impact of the American Civil War, and line construction by the Western Union Telegraph Company in the 1870s.

Flad Papers, Henry, circa 1855-1978. 2.0 linear feet. 1996.001.
Correspondence and documents received by Captain Flad, Company B, Engineer Regiment of the West, during the American Civil War, who was responsible for building the fortifications (Forts A, B, C, and D) around Cape Girardeau and concerning his pension. Includes letters, maps, musters, orders, promotions, reports and photographs of Flad. Flad also served as the chief assistant engineer on the Eads Bridge in St. Louis, and laid out Forest Park in St. Louis as the chief engineer of the Forest Park Commissioners.

Illustrated Newspapers Collection, 1861-1890. 39 items. 2000.004.
Selections from the illustrated newspapers Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspapers, Harpers Weekly, Every Saturday, Gleason’s Pictorial Drawing room Companion, and Ballou’s Pictorial Drawing Room Companion dealing with Missouri and the Mississippi River. The majority of the selections deal with the Civil War, other topics include steamboats, agriculture, and flooding.

McMinn-Berry Collection, 1801-1895. 1.0 linear foot. 2001.069.
Personal, business, and legal paperwork from North Carolina and Missouri. Includes product receipts from Missouri State Guard camps during the American Civil War, election results from Wayne County, [Mo], elections 1837 and 1840, and Bollinger County, [Mo], 1857. Also included are business ledgers, legal documents, and published materials.

Missouri Civil War Maps, 1918, undated. 6 items. 1999.006.
Illustrated maps of southeastern Missouri and surrounding areas during the US Civil War. Some maps depict Union and Confederate positions in Belmont, Missouri and New Madrid, Missouri.

Missouri State Militia Records, 1861-1864. 3 items. 1998.158.
Muster Roll, list of materials consumed, and personal letter, all from Company K, Third Regiment, Missouri State Militia.

Copy of Colonel Murdoch’s reminiscences (46p) about his service in the American Civil War. Murdoch was first commissioned as a Captain in the Union Army, Co. A, 50th Infantry Volunteers, and in 1861 became Lt. Colonel of the Fremont Rangers. He commanded Forts A, B, C, and D in Cape Girardeau. Includes information on the organization of the Fremont Rangers and the Missouri State Militia, and Union and Confederate activities in Stoddard, New Madrid, Bollinger, Wayne, Madison, Perry, Scott, Mississippi, and Cape Girardeau Counties in Missouri. The reminiscences are accompanied by background information on the Murdoch family, a poem by Murdoch, and copies of photographs related to Murdoch’s American Civil War service, home and family.

National Union Party Campaign Ticket, 1864. 1 item. 2006.027.
Broadside listing candidates in the National Union Party or Missouri Radical Party election, and candidates running in Cape Girardeau County elections.
Letterbook (307p) and typescript containing the correspondence from the Office of the Chief of Ordnance of the Department of Kentucky, kept primarily by Captain Henry F. Potter. Also included are monthly return forms, receipts, invoices and cover letter.

Correspondence between Colonel John R. Purvis, First Division of Missouri, Confederate States of America, and other Confederate military personnel. Provides information regarding troop movements, care of army horses, soldier dissatisfaction, and capture of Federal soldiers. Originals held at the University of North Carolina. Photocopying not permitted.

St. Louis Civil War Roundtable Collection, circa 1861-1867. 1.5 linear feet. 2003.043.
General Orders, Special Orders, equipment reports, legal documents and receipts pertaining to the American Civil War, and originating from the Cape Girardeau district. Pertain to subjects including enlistment, handling and movement of civilians, southern support in the region, supplies for the troops, and changes in command. The collection was a gift of the St. Louis Civil War Roundtable.

Carbon typescript (6p) by Snider entitled “History of the Cape Girardeau Eagle (Union Series),” a local 19th century newspaper.

Photocopied typescript (3p) entitled “The Civil War Forts in Cape Girardeau” by Cape Girardeau County Prosecuting Attorney and author Morley Swingle, briefly relating the history of Forts A, B, C, and D.

United Daughters of the Confederacy Collection, James B. Gantt Chapter, 1832-1944. 2.0 linear feet. 2007.066.
Biographies of James B. Gantt, a Confederate Veteran and Missouri Supreme Court Judge, and chapter members Sarah Elizabeth Ledbetter-Tucker, Nannie Tucker-Lotz, Ermine M. Massie-Young, and two unnamed women, a handwritten document, history of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, notes from a serviceman of the Confederate Army, a scrapbook consisting of news clippings on the American Civil War and pro-south related articles.

United Daughters of the Confederacy Scrapbook, 1861-1952. 2.0 linear feet. 2001.071.
Scrapbook consisting primarily of news clippings about the American Civil War and postwar activities, such as veteran reunions, memorials, and tributes, some photographs (10) and postcards(2), as well as news clippings about activities throughout the years.

United States Military Forts Reports, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, (Microfilm). 1860-1865. 1 reel. 2007.081.
Microfilmed reports of U.S. Forts in Cape Girardeau during the American Civil War.

Holograph and typewritten letters from Vancil-Rizer, St. Joseph, [Mo], to Mississippi Riverboat Captain Clarence N. Fultz, Cape Girardeau, [Mo], regarding her grandfather’s riverboat the Paw Paw, sunk by the Union Army during the American Civil War just north of Cape Girardeau at Vancil’s Landing.

An artificial collection of military and historical publications and ephemera collected by Young. Also includes postcards, photographs, ration books, currency, newspapers, scrapbooks, and clippings from American and European military conflicts, primarily 19th and 20th centuries.