

Guide to the Henry Flad Papers

circa 1855-1978

1996.001

2.0 Linear Feet



Abstract:

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.

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Descriptive Overview

Provenance: Gift of Patty Mulkey

Citation: Henry Flad Papers, Special Collection and Archives, Southeast Missouri State University.

Restrictions: None

Biographical Note

Henry Flad was an immigrant born on July 30, 1824 near Heidelberg, Baden. He graduated from the University of Munich in 1846. He was employed by the Bavarian government as a hydraulic worker on the Rhine River. He married Helen Richard in 1848. During the Revolution of 1848-1849 he was a Captain in the Parliamentary Army in Germany. Following the defeat of the Parliamentary Army, he was sentenced to death, but was never captured before he fled the German states in 1849.

He served as a draftsman in New York for a while before he left to work as a construction engineer during the building of the New York and Erie Railroad. In 1852 he became resident engineer on the construction of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad. In 1854 he moved to St. Louis to become the resident engineer of the Iron Mountain Railroad. In the intervening years, his wife Helen died, and he married her sister, Caroline Richard in 1856.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Flad enlisted as a private in a regiment of the U.S. Reserve Corps. After a few weeks he was commissioned a Captain and transferred to command of Company B, Engineer Regiment of the West. Starting in August 1861, he constructed the fortifications around Cape Girardeau. Later that year he was detailed to General Pope's staff. He served at Island No. 10, Fort Pillow, Shiloh, and Corinth. Following these battles he was detailed to railroad construction and other engineering work. He served all over the western theater. He was promoted through the ranks to Colonel, commanding the 1st Engineer Regiment, Missouri Volunteers. He was mustered out of service in November 1864.

In 1865, he served as assistant engineer for James P. Kirkwood of St. Louis and worked to improve the water supply for St. Louis. He helped design the Chain of Rocks in St. Louis, part of the new metropolitan water system. He was on the Board of Water Commissioners, and served as the Commissioner of Water Works for eight years.

In 1868, James B. Eads offered Flad the job of chief assistant engineer for the construction of what later became known as Eads Bridge. He held this position until 1874, at times serving as chief engineer when Eads was away.

In 1871 he became a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. In 1874, he laid out Forest Park in St. Louis, as the chief engineer of the Forest Park Commissioners. In 1876, he was elected first president of the St. Louis Board of Public Improvements. He held this office for 14 years. He was elected president of the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1886. In 1890 he left the Board of Public Improvements to become a member of the Mississippi River Commission, a position he would hold until his death.

Henry Flad died on June 20, 1898 from heart failure while visiting a friend in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Biographical Note (cont)

During his life he was also an avid inventor as well. He invented a water meter and filters, a hydrostatic and hydraulic elevator, a deep sea sounding apparatus, pressure gauges and a pile driver, electromagnetic and straight air brakes, a recording velocimeter, a rheobathometer, a device for indicating the velocity of running fluids, and an automatic airbrake valve controlled by electricity.

(Compiled from biographical sources within the Henry Flad Papers)

Scope and Content

Material dates almost exclusively from the American Civil War. The collection contains correspondence received by Colonel Flad between 1861 and 1864, and in the later 1800s while he was trying to recover his pension. It has promotion notices, and muster rolls¹. There are notes, army passes, some sketches and maps, and password notices throughout the collection. Also included in this collection are copies of Flad's service records from the government, including his marriage records, and death records. These items are arranged first by folder size, with smaller folders bearing earlier folder numbers, and then by date, with information of an earlier date bearing earlier folder numbers. Biographical information and photographs are in folders 1 and 2.

¹ When an officer was promoted in the service during the Civil War, he was mustered out of the Army at his old rank, then re-commissioned at his new rank, effectively leaving the Army, and returning without ever packing his bags.

Series Descriptions

Series I: Secondary Source Biographical Information

This series contains one folder of information about Henry Flad's life. It is mostly photocopies of book segments and brief biographical sketches. Much of the information is from about 1900.

Series II: Photographs

This series contains one folder of photographs. There are four original photographic carte de visites from the war era and after, and then 8" x 10" modern copies of three of them.

Series III: Documents

This series contains all of the standard sized original paper material. This material ranges from 1861 to 1892, and encompasses letters, maps, musters, orders, promotions, and reports.

Series IV: Oversized Map

This series contains one oversized map of northern Georgia, used by Henry Flad, probably dating from 1863.

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Container Listing

Series I Secondary Source Biographical Information

Box 1504

Folder 1	Biographical Information on Col Henry Flad, US Army (Retired) from several sources	undated
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Series II Photographs

Box 1504

Folder 2	Photographs (7), 8" x 10" prints, 25" x 4" carte de visites, 4" x 6" carte de visite, b/w, of Henry Flad, both military and civilian outfits	circa 1861-1898
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Series III Documents

Box 1504

Folder 3	Military and pension records of Henry Flad (copies)	1862-1909
Folder 4	Home Guard muster rolls and correspondence, Cape Girardeau, MO, (copies)	1862
Folder 5	War permit from the Mutual Life Insurance Company	1861 Jun 17
Folder 6	Personal pass belonging to Henry Flad	1861 Aug 1
Folder 7	Orders for Flad to help construct forts at Cape Girardeau, MO	1861 Aug 3
Folder 8	Sketch of Cheatham County, TN	undated
Folder 9	Telegram from Gen Fremont giving Flad command of construction in Cape Girardeau, MO	1861 Aug 17
Folder 10	3 month enlistment discharge papers for Henry Flad	1861 Aug 18
Folder 11	Map and letter to Gen Fremont concerning Cape Girardeau, MO	1861 Aug 21
Folder 12	Certificate for Mr Ditelinger's house from Henry Flad	1861 Nov 26
Folder 13	Special orders for Henry Flad to report to New Madrid, MO	1862 Mar 18
Folder 14	Special orders for Henry Flad to report to Gen Pope	1862 Apr 9
Folder 15	Orders for Company B, Engineer Regiment of the West to report for fatigue duty	1862 May 9
Folder 16	Orders for Company B, Engineer Regiment of the West to return to headquarters	1862 May 13
Folder 17	Henry Flad's Major's commission	1862 Dec 15
Folder 18	Henry Flad's Lieutenant Colonel's commission	1863 Jul 30
Folder 19	Miscellaneous correspondence	1864 Sep-Oct
Folder 20	Authorized passwords	1864 Sep-Oct
Folder 21	Military discharge papers of Henry Flad	1864 Nov 18
Folder 22	Letter from the Dept of US Military Railroads to Henry Flad	1865 Feb 23
Folder 23	Correspondence between Henry Flad and the State of Missouri's Adjutant General's Department	1892
Folder 24	Sketch of Southern fortifications at Vicksburg, MS	undated
Folder 25	Related information not about or concerning Henry Flad, (copies)	undated
Folder 26	Report from unknown engineer to John C. Fremont about fortifications at Cape Girardeau, MO	1861 Aug 8

Series III Documents**Box 1504**

Folder 27	Letter of approval from Gen Fremont concerning construction of the forts at Cape Girardeau, MO	1861 Aug 15
Folder 28	Flad's appointment to Captain and orders to go to Cape Girardeau, MO	1861 Aug 19
Folder 29	Letter of complaint to Gen Fremont about Captain Flad	1861 Sep 9
Folder 30	Letter to Captain Flad from headquarters about the officer's dissatisfaction	1861 Sep 30
Folder 31	Letter to Captain Flad from headquarters concerning official reports	1861 Oct 5
Folder 32	Letter concerning property seizure	1861 Nov 26
Folder 33	Letter from Captain Flad requesting leave	1862 Mar 21
Folder 34	Special orders to Colonel Bissell from Gen Grant	1862 Aug 11
Folder 35	Orders for Captain Flad from Colonel Bissell	1862 Aug 13
Folder 36	Cover letter accompanying Flad's major's commission	1862 Dec 11
Folder 37	Orders to Major Flad from headquarters	1863 Jan 14
Folder 38	Miscellaneous correspondence	1863 Jan
Folder 39	Muster out roll of Captain Henry Flad (prior to his commission as major)	1863 Jul 20
Folder 40	Muster in roll of Major Henry Flad	1863 Jul 22
Folder 41	Muster out roll of Major Henry Flad (prior to his commission as Lt Colonel)	1863 Aug 18
Folder 42	Muster in roll of Lt Colonel Henry Flad	1863 Aug 18
Folder 43	Muster out roll of Lt Colonel Henry Flad (prior to his commission as colonel)	1863 Nov 3
Folder 44	Assorted communications	1864

Series IV Oversized Map**MMC 1.2**

Folder 006	Map of northern Georgia	circa 1864
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