

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid [998.296]

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

William J. Wooden Civil War Correspondence Collection

Abstract: Transcriptions of letters sent by Confederate prisoner William J. Wooden to his family, 1863-1864.

Extent: 1 folder

Physical Description: Paper

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: None

Access Restrictions: None

Publication Restrictions: None

Preferred Citation: [item description], [date]; *William J. Wooden Civil War Correspondence Collection*, Record Group 998.296; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Gift with letter of intent; Accession #2002-0209

Processing Information: Initial processing and digitization by Archives staff; final processing completed by EW on 05/25/2017.

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

From the donor: “William J. Wooden was born May 9, 1826. He was the third of seventeen children from Isaac and Rebecca Wooden. He married Nancy Short October 9, 1850 in Ohio. They moved to Carroll County, Missouri and started a farm. William was arrested May 15, 1863 accused of disloyalty to the government. He died in prison March 20, 1864 [of erysipelas]. His wife and five children survived him. The last child was born while he was in prison.”

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Related Collections

Union Provost Marshal papers, available online through Missouri Digital Heritage, courtesy of the Missouri State Archives: <https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/provost/>.

MS456 James Sullivan Civil War Collection
RG133 Adjutant General

Additional External Resources

The National Archives holds Civil War Prison records.

SERIES

Correspondence, 1863-1999

Arranged chronologically

Scope and Content

This collection primarily consists of transcriptions of letters written by William J. Wooden to his family members during his incarceration in St. Joseph, St. Louis (Gratiot Street Prison) and Alton, Illinois (Alton Prison) during the Civil War. The transcriptions were made by the donor and he retained the original records. The letters relate how Wooden is feeling and what he is curious about back home (family and neighbors). They do describe a little bit about the conditions in the prisons, but only to the extent of stating he is comfortable or eating well.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	96	23	Letter from the donor George Cowan to the Archives	04/08/1999
	96	23	Copy of a photograph "Carroll County Farm" showing Nancy M. Wooden (William's wife) with her children and grandchildren	1895
	96	23	Letter #1: from "Crobae Hotel" in St. Joseph, Buchanan Co. written to Nancy	06/08/1863
	96	23	Letter #2: from St. Joseph to [Rebecca] R.E. Wooden (William's sister)	06/10/1863
	96	23	Letter #3: from St. Joseph to Nancy	06/19/1863
	96	23	Letter #4: from Gratiot Street Prison in St. Louis to Nancy	07/02/1863
	96	23	Letter #5: from Gratiot Street Prison to Nancy	07/13/1863
	96	23	Letter #6: from Gratiot Street Prison to Nancy	07/23/1863
	96	23	Letter #7: from Gratiot Street Prison to Nancy	07/26/1863
			Letter #8: from Alton Prison in Alton, IL to Nancy	07/29/1863
	96	23	Letter #9: from Alton Prison to [R.]A.E. Wooden	08/03/1863
	96	23	Letter #10: from Alton Prison to [R.]A.E. Wooden	08/10/1863
	96	23	Letter #11: from Alton Prison to Nancy	08/21/1863
	96	23	Letter #12: from Gratiot Street Prison to Nancy	09/02/1863
	96	23	Letter #13: from McDowell's College, Gratiot Street Prison to [R.]A.E. Wooden	09/17/1863
	96	23	Letter #14: from McDowell's College, Gratiot Street Prison to Nancy	11/23/1863
	96	23	Letter #15: from Gratiot Street Prison to Rebecca E. Wooden	11/28/1863
	96	23	Letter #16: from Gratiot Street Prison to Nancy	12/06/1863
	96	23	Letter #17: from Gratiot Street Prison to Nancy	12/21/1863
	96	23	Letter #18: from Gratiot Street Prison to Nancy	01/01/1864
	96	23	Letter #19: from Gratiot Street Prison to Nancy	01/26/1864
	96	23	Letter #20: from Gratiot Street Prison to Nancy	02/12/1864

	96	23	Letter #21: from Gratiot Street Prison to Isaac Wooden (William's father)	03/04/1864
	96	23	Letter #22: from Gratiot Street Prison to Isaac	03/16/1864