



Franklin Spilman Denny Papers (R0548)

Collection Number: R0548

Collection Title: Franklin Spilman Denny Papers

Dates: 1853-1917

Creator: Denny, Franklin Spilman, 1825-1902

Abstract: The Franklin Spilman Denny Papers contain photocopies and typescripts of family correspondence, a Civil War diary, and military service and pension records of Franklin Spilman Denny of Company C, 1st Missouri Cavalry.

Collection Size: 0.1 cubic foot
(3 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-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection are in the public domain.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Franklin Spilman Denny Papers* (R0548); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The papers were loaned for photocopying to the University of Missouri by Patricia Dooms Flanigan on July 24, 1995 (Accession No. RA0634).

Alternate Forms Available: Digital images of the John J. Watts genealogical record books are available online at <https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/amcw>.

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Franklin Spilman Denny Papers can be found in the following collections:

Henry Ellison Skaggs Papers (R0247)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, September 12, 1995. Revised by Niki Cox, May 2, 2023.

Historical Note:

Franklin Spilman Denny was born October 7, 1825, to James E. Denny and Mary Polly *White* Denny in Bond County, Illinois. Before the Civil War, he was a blacksmith in Platteville, Wisconsin. He married Mary Ann Pennington, who died in 1859.

On August 1, 1861, he enlisted in Company C, 1st Missouri Cavalry, at Litchfield, Illinois. He was elected third sergeant, but, by February 1862, had been promoted to first sergeant, the top non-commissioned officer in his company. Also in 1862 he contracted typhoid fever while marching from Springfield, Missouri to Arkansas, he was sent back and spent four months in the hospital at Springfield. He served in that capacity until September 17, 1864, when he was discharged at the expiration of his enlistment.

In 1868, Denny married Susan Puterbaugh at Freeport, Illinois. By 1874, Franklin and Susan were living in Springfield, Missouri, where Franklin operated a carriage shop. Franklin died in 1902, and Susan died in 1917.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains family correspondence, a Civil War diary, and military service and pension records of Franklin Spilman Denny of Company C, 1st Missouri Cavalry.

The family correspondence includes an ante-bellum letter from Platteville, Wisconsin, by Denny's first wife, Mary Ann Pennington. There are also postwar letters written by Denny's brothers from Millerton and Visalia, California, and the Palmetto Mining District in Nevada.

Denny's Civil War diary spans two years of military service in Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas. The entries in the diary concern three different periods. The first begins at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on February 14, 1862, and follows Denny's activities in operations around Fort Leavenworth and Independence, Missouri, to the end of May 1862. The second section of the diary covers the march from Rolla to Pilot Knob, Missouri, and thence toward Little Rock, Arkansas, as part of Davidson's Cavalry Expedition in June-August 1863. The last entries detail operations near Little Rock in March 1864.

Folder 3 contains copies of Denny's military service and pension papers from the National Archives.

Container List:

Box 001	f. 1	Correspondence, 1853, 1868-1874
	f. 2	Diary, February 14, 1862 - circa March 28, 1864
	f. 3	Military service and pension records, 1862-1917

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