



**Champaign County Civil War Documents Collection,
1862-1865**

COLLECTION 52

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Eric Fair; Sherrie Bowser (2015)

Creator/Corporate name: Champaign County Historical Archives

Inclusive Dates: 1862-1865

Physical Description: 1 box (0.5 linear ft.)

Provenance:

Gift. Correspondence and currency were added to this collection in 2015.

Access:

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Historical Note:

The American Civil War remains one of the crucial events in American history. The conflict impacted everyone during those four years. Hundreds of thousands of men and women volunteered or were drafted for service during the war. For residents of Champaign County, the experience was no different. The War Department assigned the county a quota of 2,222 men to recruit for service, and, by 1865, it provided some 2,276 volunteers. Considering that the entire population of the county numbered at about 18,000, this was indeed a huge sacrifice. These men would leave home and join companies that were recruited from the area. These companies would then be assigned to volunteer regiments from the state. Four such units – Company “C” of the 25th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Company “K” of the 67th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Company “E” of the 125th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and Company “B” of the 135th Illinois Volunteer Infantry were all recruited from Champaign County and are all represented in the collection. The 25th Illinois mustered in for service in August 1861. The unit participated in many battles in the western theater of the war, including Pea Ridge, Stones River, Chickamauga, and Chattanooga before its term expired in August 1864. The 67th Illinois was formed for ninety days of service, mustering in on June 13, 1862. Its primary duty consisted of guarding prisoners at Camp Douglas in Chicago. The 125th Illinois served for three years, mustering into federal service on September 3, 1862. It saw action in many of the major battles of the western theater, including the Battle of Perryville, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, the battles for Atlanta, and the “March to the Sea.” The 135th Illinois was another ninety-day unit and mustered in on June 6, 1864. Its men spent their time guarding railroads and supplies in Missouri. Each of these units generated rosters, requests, receipts, orders, and other forms to meet the needs of the soldiers and satisfy their governance.

Correspondence Biographies

Oliver Perry Hunt was born June 13, 1832, in Huntsville, Indiana. In 1856 he moved to Vermilion County, Illinois to teach school where he lived with his great-uncle Abel Williams. He married Eliza Jane (Jennie) McDowell, of Vermilion Co., in 1859. He served four years in the Union Army (1861-1865) as a 1st



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Lieutenant in the 125th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Company K. After the war he moved to Sunnyside Farm in Bowdre Township, Douglas County, and practiced law. He was also a supervisor for Bowdre Township for 8 consecutive terms (32 years). In 1894, the family moved to Tuscola, IL.

See: Genealogical records of the [Hunt] family by Eliza Jane Hunt (1880-), Call number A 929.2 HUNT for more information about this family

John D. Grubbs was the brother of Matilda Grubbs Plotner. He enlisted in the Union Army on August 22, 1862, and served as a drummer boy in the 114th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Company K. His muster out date was July 31, 1865, in Houston, Texas. After the war, he worked for the railroad.

Scope and Content Note:

The Champaign County Civil Documents Collection contains a selection of official army documents from the above-mentioned units dating from 1862 to 1865. These include rosters describing soldiers, orders governing their welfare, and receipts for uniforms and equipment. Also included are inventories of personal items carried by soldiers of the 125th Illinois who died in service.

The collection also includes correspondence between Civil War soldiers and loved ones back home. The Hunt correspondence contains 27 letters, six of which have transcripts, dating from 1862-1864. Also present is several denominations of Confederate money.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged into 2 series: Series 1: Army Documents and Series 2: Personal Papers and Artifacts. The organization within each series is chronological.

Subject Terms:

United States. Army. Illinois Infantry Regiment, 25th (1861-1865)
United States. Army. Illinois Infantry Regiment, 67th (1861-1865)
United States. Army. Illinois Infantry Regiment, 125th (1861-1865)
United States. Army. Illinois Infantry Regiment, 135th (1861-1865)
United States. Army, Ohio Infantry Regiment, 114th (1861-1865)
Soldiers -- Illinois -- Correspondence.
Soldiers -- Ohio -- Correspondence.
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Champaign County (Ill.)

Names:

25th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Company C.
125th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Company E.
125th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Company K.
67th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Company K.
135th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Company B.
114th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Company K.



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Grubbs, John D.
Hunt, Eliza Jane McDowell, 1837-1898
Hunt, Jennie
Hunt, Oliver Perry, 1832-1902
Plotner, Matilde Grubbs, 1844-1929

Container List:

Box 1

Series 1: Army Documents

Folder 1: Morning Reports, Company C, 25th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1861-1864
Folder 2: Rosters, Muster Rolls, Pension Records, Company C, 25th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1862-1902
Folder 3: Sutler Credit Voucher, William Phillips, Company K, 67th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1862
Folder 4: Descriptive Roll, Company E, 125th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1862
Folder 5: Forms, Receipts, and Orders, Company E, 125th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1864-1865
Folder 6: Clothing Issuance Form, Company E, 125th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1865
Folder 7: Muster and Descriptive Rolls, Company B, 135th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1864
Folder 8: Forms, Receipts, and Orders, Company B, 135th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1864

Series 2: Personal Papers and Artifacts

Folder 9: Correspondence between Oliver P. Hunt and Jennie (Eliza Jane McDowell Hunt), 1862-1864
Folder 10: Letter from John D. Grubbs to Matilda Grubbs Plotner, August 5, 1863
Folder 11: Confederate Currency