



## George W. Shinn Papers (CG0015)

**Collection Number:** CG0015

**Collection Title:** George W. Shinn Papers

**Dates:** 1861

**Creator:** Shinn, George

**Abstract:** This collection contains Civil War correspondence from Private George Shinn to his family in Canton, Illinois. Shinn writes about camp life, picket duty, and friends he met while stationed in Cape Girardeau. Shinn enlisted in the Union Army in Company H of the 17<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry. This collection also contains a letter from Solomon Kittrell to his mother and friends. The Kittrell letter was purchased by the donor and included with Shinn letters. There is no known relationship between the two.

**Collection Size:** .11 cubic feet  
(1 folder)

**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-Cape Girardeau](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [capegirardeau@shsmo.org](mailto:capegirardeau@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *George W. Shinn Papers* (CG0015); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Cape Girardeau [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Cape Girardeau].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Robert J. Schmidt on February 8, 2017 (Accession No. CGA0015). An addition was made on March 29, 2017 by Robert J. Schmidt (Accession No. CGA0015.1).

**Processed by:** Processed by Katie Lewis, August 29, 2018

**Historical Note:**

Private George W. Shinn was born on May 29, 1841, in Canton, Illinois, to John W. and Elizabeth Shinn. Before he enlisted in the Union Army, Shinn worked as a clerk for his father's drug store. On May 25, 1861, he enlisted in the Union Army in Peoria, Illinois, and served with Company H of the 17<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry. Shinn was stationed in Camp Fremont in Cape Girardeau from August to November 1861. Shinn was wounded in the Battle of Fort Donelson in February of 1862. He died of his wounds on April 4, 1862.

Solomon Kittrell was born in either North Carolina or Kentucky (census records vary) in 1807. It is unknown when he moved to Missouri. He owned land near Cane Creek and resided by Goose Creek near Poplar Bluff. He served as one of the county's first judges in 1849. He also owned a tannery, general store, and distillery. He was married twice and had ten children between the two wives. According to the 1860 Federal slave schedule he owned seven slaves and listed his occupation as farmer. He died on March 25, 1872, and is buried in the Kinder family cemetery in Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

**Arrangement:** The collection has been arranged into a single series.

### Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains six letters from George W. Shinn to his mother, father, and sister Eliza in 1861. Shinn wrote to his family from Camp Lyon at Bird's Point, Missouri, and Cape Fremont at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, describing camp life, picket duty, and friends he encountered during his service in the Union Army. The seventh letter is from Solomon Kittrell and his wife Louisa to his mother and friends. Kittrell wrote from his home in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, on May 19, 1861. There is no known relationship between Kittrell and Shinn. The donor donated these letters at different times.

### Container List:

Box 001    f. 1            Civil War correspondence, 1861

### Index:

Index Term	Folder
Birds Point (Mo.)	1
Camp Fremont (Mo.)	1
Cape Girardeau (Mo.)	1
Kittrell, Solomon, 1807-1872	1
Poplar Bluff (Mo.)	1
Shinn, George W., 1841-1862	1
United States. Army. Illinois Infantry Regiment, 17th (1861-1866). Company H	1