

C Townsend, Henry D., (1846-1881), Papers, 1862-1865
4141 1 folder

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INTRODUCTION

The Civil War letters of Henry D. Townsend, Co. B., 3rd Iowa Cavalry (Union) who fought at Bryce's Crossroads and in Price's Missouri raid, September-November, 1864.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Michael J. Townsend on 24 June 2010 (Accession No. 6246).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Henry D. Townsend was born in Iowa in 1846. His mother was Sarah W. McGaw/McGraw. He enlisted in Co. B, 3rd Iowa Cavalry (Union) on February 25, 1864, in Pilot Grove, Iowa. He fought at Bryce's Crossroads and in Price's Missouri raid, September-November, 1864. He was detailed as an ambulance driver on January 25, 1865.

Townsend contracted syphilis shortly after enlisting, and was later hospitalized in Jeffersonville Hospital for secondary syphilis on March 6, 1865. He was discharged from the hospital on June 23, 1865.

On September 28, 1867, he married Lizzie C. Towell in Winchester, Indiana. He fathered two children, Henry E. Townsend and Jessie M. Townsend (John W.) Mills. Henry D. Townsend died of tertiary syphilis on April 1, 1881, in North Manchester, Indiana.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers consist of six letters by Henry D. Townsend, written to his mother, covering the years 1862-1865. The letters discuss life in camp, marches and battles. The original letters are accompanied by transcripts. Also in the folder is one essay, "The Third Iowa Cavalry in Price's Missouri Raid of 1864," written by Mary B. Townsend.

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