

Information Sheet

R Cree, Alfred B., 1830-1901.
301 Letters, 1862-1864.
Two folders.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are Civil War letters of Capt. Alfred B. Cree of Co. F., 22nd Iowa Infantry. Cree wrote of family matters, camp life, and regimental politics from Benton Barracks at St. Louis, and from camps at Rolla, Salem, Iron Mountain, and Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, 1862-1863. There is also a single letter from Charlestown in what is now West Virginia, in 1864.

Alfred B. Cree was born in 1830 at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. By 1860, he was a resident of Iowa City, Iowa, where he worked as a carpenter and cabinet maker. He married Martha Smith of Iowa City in 1860. Cree answered the call for volunteers by enlisting in the 22nd Iowa Infantry in August 1862. He was prominent enough to be elected captain of Co. F, which was composed largely of men from the Iowa City area.

The 22nd Iowa was ordered to Benton Barracks at St. Louis in September 1862, thence to their first duty station at the post of Rolla. October and November were spent in scout and escort duties. In late December, the regiment joined the brigade of Brig. Gen. Fitz-Henry Warren at Houston, Missouri. Warren's brigade joined the Army of Southeastern Missouri at West Plains in late January 1863, and participated in a dismal winter campaign which terminated at Pilot Knob. The respite was brief before orders arrived directing the 22nd to march to the Mississippi River for transport to the Vicksburg area. The 22nd arrived at Ste. Genevieve on March 11, 1863, and embarked for Vicksburg on March 22.

Capt. Cree served with his regiment during the Vicksburg operations in 1863, the campaigns in western Louisiana and Texas in 1863-1864, Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley campaign in 1864, and Sherman's march through Georgia. He survived a gunshot wound at Winchester, Virginia and a more serious one at Cedar Creek, Virginia in October 1864, recovering to muster-out with the 22nd Iowa at Savannah, Georgia, on July 11, 1865. He returned to Iowa City, where he resumed his trade. Cree was very active in the reunions of the 22nd Iowa, first held in 1886. He died in 1901 and is buried at Iowa City.

The Cree collection consists of letters by the captain to Martha Cree in Iowa City. Most are from camps in Missouri, but the final item in the collection is a letter from Charlestown, [West] Virginia, written in September 1864 shortly before the first of Cree's two wounds in battle. There are also brief notes to Mrs. Cree by the regimental surgeon, William H. White, and the adjutant, John W. Porter. There is a single letter by Capt. Cree to his father-in-law, John M. Smith. The letters generally concern family business matters and regimental politics, especially concerning Co. F, but also include descriptions of Capt. Cree's sickness and hospitalization at Rolla, his meeting with Dr. John Hyer, a noted secessionist at Lake Spring in Dent County, and the town of Ste. Genevieve. Although the 22nd saw no fighting during service in Missouri, Cree's letters provide a view of a hard-working, conscientious company officer without political

pretensions. The letters are especially useful when used in conjunction with letters from the 22nd in the *Iowa City Republican*, the published reminiscences of J. C. Switzer and the history of the 22nd by Samuel C. Jones. Copies of Cree's pension papers in the National Archives are filed with typescripts of the letters in Folder 2.

<i>r372</i>	<i>14 April 1987</i>	<i>Phelps County Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Gift</i>
<i>r373</i>	<i>17 April 1987</i>	<i>John F. Bradbury</i>	<i>Gift</i>
<i>r463</i>	<i>19 December 1989</i>	<i>John F. Bradbury</i>	<i>Gift</i>
<i>r1612</i>	<i>21 October 2014</i>	<i>Carl M. Volz</i>	<i>Gift</i>

Inventory

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Folder 1: Letters, 1862-1864.

19 September 1862	Benton Barracks, Missouri.
21 September 1862	Benton Barracks, Missouri.
7 October 1862	Rolla, Missouri.
8 October 1862	Rolla, Missouri.
12 October 1862	Rolla, Missouri.
12 October 1862	Rolla, Missouri.
17 October 1862	Camp near Rolla, Missouri.
19 October 1862	Camp near Rolla, Missouri.
[Undated]	Camp Seagle[<i>sic</i>], Rolla, Missouri.
25 October 1862	Camp near Rolla, Missouri.
26 October 1862	Camp near Rolla, Missouri.
29 October 1862	Camp near Rolla, Missouri.
31 October 1862	Camp near Rolla, Missouri.
9 November 1862	Camp near Rolla, Missouri.
16 November 1862	Camp near Rolla, Missouri.
18 November 1862	Camp near Rolla, Missouri.
22 November 1862	Camp near Rolla, Missouri.
28 November 1862	Camp near Rolla, Missouri.
1 December 1862	Camp near Rolla, Missouri.
11 December 1862	Salem, Missouri.
14 December 1862	Salem, Missouri.
22 December 1862	Salem, Missouri.
1 January 1863	Camp near Rolla, Missouri.
25 January 1863	Camp near Rolla, Missouri.
16 February 1863	Camp near Rolley[<i>sic</i>], Missouri.
7 March 1863	Iron Mountain, Missouri.
14 March 1863	Camp near Ste. Genevieve, Missouri.
15 March 1863	Camp near Ste. Genevieve, Missouri.
18 March 1863	Camp near Ste. Genevieve, Missouri.
2 September 1864	Camp near Charlestown, [West] Virginia.

Folder 2: Typescripts and pension papers (from the National Archives)

Index Cards

Benton Barracks (Saint Louis, Mo.).
Charlestown (W. Va.).
Cree, Alfred B., 1830-1901.
Cree, Martha Smith, 1838-1907.
Hyer, John.
Iowa Infantry--22nd Regiment [SEE United States. Army. Iowa Infantry Regiment, 22nd (1862-1865).].
Iron Mountain (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Lake Spring (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Missouri--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Phelps County (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Porter, John W.
Rolla (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Sainte Genevieve (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Salem (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Stigleman, Ann.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States. Army. Iowa Infantry Regiment, 22nd (1862-1865).
West Virginia—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
White, William M.