



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

SIMPSON, SAMUEL ROBERT (1823-1906)
PAPERS, 1862-1906

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INTRODUCTION

The papers of Samuel Robert Simpson, Captain and Quartermaster of the 30th Tennessee Regiment of the Confederate Army, were given to the Manuscript Section on October 21, 1922 by Mrs. Prudence Simpson Dresser of Gallatin, Tennessee, the daughter of Captain Simpson.

The materials in this collection measure .84 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Samuel Robert Simpson Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Simpson Papers, 1862-1906, are composed of approximately 300 items dealing primarily with the career of Captain Samuel Robert Simpson as Quartermaster in the 30th Tennessee Regiment of the Confederate Army. One volume in the collection contains records of the members of the various companies of the 30th Tennessee Regiment, giving dates, places, and circumstances of their imprisonments, woundings, deaths, and burials with information added as late as 1906, the year of Captain Simpson's death. There are a large number of clippings dealing with the Revolutionary and the Civil Wars and other historical subjects. Many of the clippings are the articles of Colonel A. K. McClure, some of which were clipped from the *Philadelphia Record* and some from the *Nashville American*. Three small volumes contain Captain Simpson's diary during the four years 1861, 1862, 1863, and 1864. About 100 items make up the ordnance reports, requests, muster rolls, and payrolls of the 30th Tennessee Regiment. Some biographical material, personal memorabilia, and photographs make up the remainder of the collection.

An addition to the above diaries covers the period of Simpson's enlistment in the Confederate Army in April 1861, until the fall of Fort Donelson in February 1862. An account is given of the Fort Henry-Fort Donelson engagement, with incidents involving Col. John W. Head, Gen. Gideon J. Pillow, and Col. Alfred Robb during the conflict. Others mentioned are Thomas Menees and Col. James J. Turner. Confederate weapons are described.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Samuel Robert Simpson

- 1823 Born in Philadelphia, son of Samuel Pollock Simpson, a horticulturist. His parents were Irish and he was devoted and constant in his love for that country.
- 1844 Always a Democrat and cast his first vote for James K. Polk. On August 14, he married Catherine Cressman who died in 1904.
- 1861 Entered Confederate Service in 30th Tennessee Regiment under Colonel James J. Turner and served until the end of the War. Was among those taken prisoners at Fort Donelson and held at Johnson's Island. He was quartermaster.
- 1862 Exchanged and returned to his regiment in Abbeyville, Mississippi on November 29th.
- 1865 Returned to Springfield, Tennessee, at the close of the War, and spent the remainder of his life delivering mementoes of his dead companions to their relatives.
- 1867- Several years Superintendent of Bridges on the Edgefield Kentucky Railroad, now the Louisville and Nashville System.
- 1870 Raised the outside rail in one of the curves of the trestle at Baker's Hill, five and three quarter inches above the other. He was in advance of his times and his superiors had it lowered thinking it was unsafe.
- 1898 Appointed by Governor Turney as one of the commissioners for the construction of the Tennessee State Penitentiary. Saved the state money.
- 1906 April 29 – Captain Simpson died in Gallatin, Tennessee, where he had lived for some time. Survived by five of his nine children who reside in Gallatin. They were Mrs. Catherine Hitchcock, Mrs. Prudence Dresser, Miss Nellie Simpson, S. H. and W. A. J. Simpson.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Clippings – Civil War
2. Clippings – Revolutionary War
3. Clippings – Tennesseans *et al*
4. Correspondence – Armstrong
5. Diaries – S. R. Simpson, 1861 - 1865

Box 2

1. Memorabilia
2. Military records – Muster Rolls – 30th Tennessee Regiment (CSA)
3. Military records – Ordnance and Ordnance Stores, 1863
4. Military records – Ordnance and Ordnance Stores, 1864
5. Photographs – Brushy Mountain Prison, n.d. [Note: copy negative #3125 missing]
6. Sketches – Biographical – Gen. Hardee
7. Sketches – Biographical – Samuel R. Simpson
8. Sketches – Historical – Battle of New Orleans