



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

**THOMPSON, JOSEPH D.
PAPERS
1861-1865**

Processed by:

Lori D. Lockhart
Archival Technical Services

Accession Number: 1998.039
Date Completed: July 14, 2006
Location: III-B-1
Microfilm Accession Number: 1800

MICROFILMED

INTRODUCTION

The Joseph D. Thompson Papers, 1861-1865, are centered around letters written by Joseph D. Thompson to his wife, Mary. The collection primarily focuses on Mr. Thompson's experiences as a Confederate soldier during the Civil War. The Joseph D. Thompson Papers are a gift of Mr. Jerre H. Cline of Terre Haute, Indiana.

The materials in this collection measure .3 linear feet of shelf space. There are approximately 78 items included in this collection. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Joseph D. Thompson Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Joseph D. Thompson Papers, containing approximately 78 items, spans the period 1861-1865. The collection is composed of letters written by Joseph D. Thompson to his wife, Mary, during the Civil War. Since all of the correspondence was written by Joseph D. Thompson, the arrangement of items is chronological.

The correspondence is centered around Mr. Thompson's experiences in the Civil War. Letters of note include: a letter dated April 9, 1862, that discusses the Battle of Shiloh; a letter dated May 24, 1862, regarding a deserter from the 30th Mississippi Regiment being tried and shot; a letter dated June 10, 1862, stating that all mail matter had been burned in Corinth; a letter dated February 1, 1865, conveying that a cup of coffee costs \$3 in Selma; a letter dated February 16, 1865, that discusses Mr. Thompson attending a Masonic event in which the degrees of Master Mason's Daughter and Star of the East were conferred; a letter dated Dec. 4, 1865, regarding the price of butter and eggs; a letter dated January 26, 1865, that discusses a raid on women who were protesting because they were starving; a letter dated February 14, 1865, regarding a party of Tories and negroes murdering, plundering, burning and raping women; and a letter dated March 7, 1865, where Mr. Thompson tells his son, Henry, about a boy about 8 or 9 who smoked poison vine and died. The lone newspaper clipping (no paper name or date was included) is of a poem entitled "The Marriage Vow".

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Joseph D. Thompson

Joseph D. Thompson was of Irish descent. He was in the shoe business in Cincinnati, Ohio, prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. Immediately after the secession of the Confederate States, he enlisted in the Confederate Army. He spent the entire war in the 38th Tennessee Regiment. He and his wife, Mary, had 8 children; however, only 3 survived to adulthood (Edgar, Ella, and Grace). After the war ended, Joseph Thompson returned to Cincinnati. He died on Thanksgiving Day, 1881.

Source: The information contained in this biographical note was taken from a letter, dated March 5, 1998, from Jere H. Cline that is included in the accession record for this collection.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Correspondence, 1861
2. Correspondence, 1862
3. Correspondence, 1864-1865
4. Correspondence, n.d.
5. Correspondence -- Typescripts, 1862-1865, n.d.
6. Newspaper -- Original and Typescript, n.d.