



**State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives**

**Lt. Charles F. Humphreys
Fort Donelson Ordnance Account Book, 1864-1865**

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:

Humphreys, Charles F., b. 1833-

Inclusive Dates:

1864-1879, bulk 1864-1865

Scope & Content:

Lt. Charles F. Humphreys kept this ordnance ledger at Ft. Donelson, Tennessee, from September 1864 through May 1865. It gives a detailed accounting of the military supplies that flowed through Ft. Donelson during the final year of the Civil War.

Lt. Humphreys receipted invoices for a variety of weapons, including .58 caliber Springfield rifled muskets, non-commissioned officer swords, and bayonets. An invoice of ordnance stores lists two “12 pdr. Guns, Model, 1839,” four “32-pdr. Guns, Model, 1829,” and one “8-inch Howitzer, (Siege), Model, 1841” along with the accompanying shells, cartridges, and related supplies. In addition to weapons and ammunition, Lt. Humphreys receipted saddles and other equine supplies, building and blacksmith supplies, wagons, and boxes.

The ledger also contains a three-page account of the actions of a Board of Survey, appointed by Special Order No. 127, to meet on December 5, 1864, to determine responsibility for deficient ordnance stores. The Board found that Lt. S. H. Stevens, the Acting Assistant Quartermaster in Nashville, Tennessee, bore responsibility for the deficiency, rather than Lt. Humphreys.

The Abstract of Issues to Volunteers & Militia found on page 80 has two entries for September 1864. The first is for 5000 elongated ball cartridges and 6000 percussion caps for Colt pistols for the 83rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry. The

second is for 1000 elongated ball cartridges for Battalion C, 2nd Illinois Light Artillery.

Pages 100 through 119 contain records relating to the quartermaster stores, including lists of quartermaster stores, quartermaster stores expended, and quartermaster stores transferred. The stores included items such as paper, ink, envelopes, pens, pencils, erasers, desks, leather, tents, oil, brooms, a garrison flag, a memorandum book, lanterns, and tents.

Several pages are missing from the ledger, including pages 33-36, 49-54, 63-78, 91-96, and 105-108.

After the war, the ledger was used as a personal and business ledger. There are a variety of accounts, including sales, property appraisals, and election results. Charles Humphreys signed two of the 1866 entries as "Clerk of Elections." He also recorded two chattel mortgage transactions in 1879.

Physical Description/Extent:

1 microfilm reel; 16mm

Accession/Record Group Number:

Mf. 2035

Language:

English

Permanent Location:

Available on microfilm only

Repository:

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

Administrative/Biographical History

Charles F. Humphreys, the son of Alexander B. V. and Nancy R. Humphreys, was a farmer from Christian County, Illinois. He enlisted in the Union Army at the age of twenty-seven on August 5, 1861, as a private in Company C, 2nd Illinois Light Artillery. During the war, this company was ordered to garrison duty at Ft. Donelson and Clarksville and engaged in mounted scout duty between the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. Humphreys was promoted to 2nd lieutenant on June 25, 1864. He became the acting ordnance officer at Fort Donelson later that

year. In April 1865, he was appointed adjutant of the regiment. He mustered out on August 3, 1865.

Lt. Humphreys returned home, married Jane L. Williams, and bought her father's farm. By 1900, they had moved to Eureka Springs in Carroll County, Arkansas. The 1910 federal census reveals that Jane L. Humphreys was a widow.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Organized by type of record: ordnance records are in the front, quartermaster records toward the back, with postwar entries interspersed between them.

Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:

None

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:

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Index Terms

Personal Names:

Humphreys, Charles F., b. 1833

Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:

United States. Army. Illinois Light Artillery Regiment, 2nd
United States. Army. Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 83rd
United States. Army -- Ordnance and ordnance stores

Geographic Names:

Fort Donelson (Tenn.) -- Records and correspondence
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Equipment & supplies
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Sources

Document Types:

Ledgers

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:

Ledger was loaned for microfilming on November 1, 2012, as part of the *Looking Back: The Civil War in Tennessee* digitization project in Jackson, Tennessee.

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:

Lt. Charles F. Humphreys Fort Donelson Ordnance Account Book, 1864-1865, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Processing Information:

Processing completed by Genny Carter in December 2012

Existence and Location of Originals:

Privately owned

Electronic Location and Access:

<http://www.tn.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/mf2035.pdf>

DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

CONTAINER LIST

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