

McLean County Museum of History

**The Ninety-Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry
Regiment Collection**

Collection Information

Volume of Collection:	One Box
Collection Dates:	1859-1921
Restrictions:	Some brittle documents. Use photocopies unless authorized by Librarian / Archivist.
Reproduction Rights:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History.
Other Finding Aids:	Record in National Union Catalog Manuscripts Collection On-Line
Location:	Archives
Notes:	None

Brief Historical Sketch

The Ninety-Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment was mustered into service the summer of 1862. This regiment was important in that it was comprised entirely of volunteers from McLean County. The response was so great that several companies of McLean County men had to be placed in another regiment.

The Ninety-Fourth was led by Col. William W. Orme and second in command was former cavalry commander John McNulta. Both were well to do Bloomington citizens who had previous experience in war. Third in command was Lt. Col. Rankin Laughlin of Heyworth. Majors in the regiment were Alexander Briscoe and James McFarland. The regiment left Bloomington for St. Louis on August 25, 1862 with a force of 930 men. In St. Louis, the regiment trained through the autumn. On December 7, 1862, the Ninety-Fourth participated in the Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas. Repeated Confederate charges were repelled by the Union troops. Despite seeing heavy action, the Ninety-Fourth's casualty list included only one killed and twenty-six wounded.

After participating in a minor campaign to secure Van Buren, Arkansas, tragedy struck New Year's Day 1863. As the Ninety-Fourth was marching back into Missouri, Company H Captain Joseph Orme was accidentally shot through the lungs, mortally wounding him. On January 6, 1863, during a Confederate assault on a Springfield garrison, the Ninety-Fourth suffered one dead and two wounded. One month later, seventeen men from the regiment died from pneumonia.

In June and July 1863, the Ninety-Fourth participated in Gen. U. S. Grant's epic siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi. With William Orme's appointment as brigadier general, McNulta was left in command of the regiment. The Ninety-Fourth's role in the siege included digging trenches and capturing rifle pits. Vicksburg, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River, fell on July 4, 1863.

In August 1863, after an uneventful expedition to Yazoo City, the Ninety-Fourth was sent to Carrollton, Louisiana, located six miles north of New Orleans. Here, the regiment struggled with the swampy terrain, insects, a lack of fruits and vegetables, and the oppressive heat. On September 5, 1863, the Ninety-Fourth engaged in a "running battle" at Morganza, Louisiana with a pocket of Confederates. During the fighting, Col. McNulta was shot in the hip. Though he survived and continued to lead the regiment, he had the noticeable limp the remainder of his life. On October 25, 1863, the Ninety-Fourth boarded a Gulf Coast steamer and participated in the capture of Brownsville, Texas. The regiment stayed in Brownsville for several months, checking the ability of Confederates to cross the border.

In August 1864, the Ninety-Fourth participated in the successful siege and capture of Fort Morgan, Alabama, located on the eastern approach to Mobile Bay. The battle to capture the City of Mobile began on March 25, 1865. An impediment to the taking of the city was the "Spanish Fort," a line of breastworks almost two miles long with forts at either end named "Battery Alexis" and "Spanish Fort Proper." The Ninety-Fourth was placed on the left flank of the Union line across from Battery Alexis. During the siege, the regiment suffered only a handful of casualties, including one killed and three wounded. On April 9, after several days of repeated artillery bombardment, the Ninety-Fourth stormed Battery Alexis. A few days after the fall of its main defenses, the city of Mobile fell to the Union army.

Shortly after the capture of Mobile, Union troops learned of General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Virginia. The Ninety-Fourth was then shipped to Galveston, Texas, and remained there until late July.

On August 9, 1865, the Ninety-Fourth returned home to Bloomington with about 680 men. The men of the Ninety-Fourth were away from home almost three years. They had traveled 1,200 miles by foot, 610 miles by rail, and 6,000 miles by steamer. The regiment from McLean County also took part in nine battles, sieges, and skirmishes.

Scope Note

This collection contains documents, both official and personal, related to the Ninety-Fourth Illinois Infantry Regiment. Mustered into service the summer of 1862, this regiment, comprised almost entirely of McLean County men, served in Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and Alabama.

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Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Regimental History

- 1.1 Information on the Battle of Prairie Grove, the Ninety-Fourth's first engagement
- 1.2 Information on all engagements the Ninety-Fourth was involved in
- 1.3 Statistical information of the Ninety-Fourth
- 1.4 A history of the Ninety-Fourth Infantry as told by an Adjutant General (2x)
- 1.5 A listing of long-arms used by the Union infantry during the Civil War (2x)
- 1.6 A summary of the Ninety-Fourth's history in the Civil War
- 1.7 List of primary source documents related to 94th at the Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park in email from Museum Registrar, Dec 12, 2012.

Folder 2: Extra Duty Vouchers

Folder 3: Invoices of Ordnance and Stores I

- 3.1 9/2/1862; For rifles, ammunition, and tools from the Ordnance Officer at Springfield, IL
- 3.2 9/2/1862; For swords and belts from Springfield, IL
- 3.3 9/3/1862; For muskets and ammunition from Springfield, IL
- 3.4 9/3/1862; For muskets, ammunition, and tools from Springfield, IL
- 3.5 9/5/1862; For swords and belts from Springfield, IL
- 3.6 9/10/1862; For muskets, ammunition, belts, and equipment from the St. Louis Arsenal
- 3.7 9/30/1862; For some clothing and equipment from Springfield, MO
- 3.8 10/9/1862; For envelopes and paper from Springfield, MO (in triplicate)
- 3.9 10/18/1862; For ink and paper from Springfield, MO (in triplicate)
- 3.10 10/18/1862; For an axe and a hatchet from Springfield, MO

Folder 4: Invoices of Ordnance and Stores II

- 4.1 10/18/1862; For an axe and a hatchet from Springfield, MO (in duplicate)
- 4.2 10/20/1862; For a horse and a halter from Springfield, MO (in triplicate)
- 4.3 10/31/1862; For some blankets from Springfield, MO
- 4.4 11/11/1862; For a few rifles, ammunition, and belts from Springfield, MO (in duplicate)
- 4.5 11/15/1862; For rifles, muskets, revolvers, ammunition, and tools from Springfield, MO
- 4.6 12/5/1862; For swords and belts from Springfield, MO (in duplicate)
- 4.7 12/25/1862; For a saddle, bridle, and blanket from Springfield, MO (in triplicate)
- 4.8 4/28/1863; For tents and poles from Missouri (in triplicate)
- 4.9 1/4/1864; For some desks, chairs, and a stove from Chicago, IL (in duplicate)
- 4.10 1/15/1864; For and office table from Chicago, IL (in duplicate)
- 4.11 10/27/1864; For ammunition and boxes from Mississippi

Folder 5: Ordnance Receipts

- 5.1 9/14/1862; Received weapons and equipment for all of Company G
- 5.2 9/14/1862; Received weapons and equipment for all of Company I

- 5.3 9/14/1862; Received weapons and equipment for all of Company C
- 5.4 9/14/1862; Received weapons and equipment for all of Company E
- 5.5 9/14/1862; Received weapons and equipment for all of Company A
- 5.6 9/14/1862; Received weapons and equipment for all of Company D
- 5.7 9/14/1862; Received weapons and equipment for all of Company K
- 5.8 9/14/1862; Received weapons and equipment for all of Company A
- 5.9 9/14/1862; Received weapons and equipment for all of Company H
- 5.10 9/14/1862; Received weapons and equipment for all of Company F
- 5.11 9/14/1862; Received weapons and equipment for all of Company B
- 5.12 9/15/1862; Received 10,000 ball cartridges (in duplicate)
- 5.13 9/16/1862; Received various guns, belts, and plates
- 5.14 11/13/1862; Received some guns, belts, and plates
- 5.15 11/15/1862; Received long rifles
- 5.16 11/15/1862; Received rifles, muskets, and tools
- 5.17 11/15/1862; Received rifles and tools
- 5.18 11/15/1862; Received a Colt revolver
- 5.19 11/15/1862; Received long rifles
- 5.20 11/15/1862; Received many rifles, ammunitions, and swords
- 5.21 11/15/1862; Received a few rifles and 1000 rounds of ammunition
- 5.22 11/15/1862; Received rifles and tools
- 5.23 11/15/1862; Received rifles and tools
- 5.24 12/5/1862; Received swords and belts

Folder 6: Special Recommendations

- 6.1 A letter from General Gordon Granger recommending promotions and awards for some officers of the Ninety-Fourth

Folder 7: Laughlin Orders

- 7.1 4/23/1863; An inspection order to Lt. Colonel Laughlin
- 7.2 5/24/1864; An order authorizing a trial for officers said to have been AWOL while on duty in Brownsville, Texas
- 7.3 3/16/1865; A note authorizing transportation to New Orleans for John Moore, who was on sick leave

Folder 8: Circular of Instruction

- 8.1 4/13/1864; A circular with new rules in it as written by Colonel Laughlin

Folder 9: Orme/Laughlin Letters

- 9.1 8/7/1864; A letter written by Orme while at home in Bloomington to Laughlin, with a memoranda from Laughlin in response

Folder 10: Orme Medical/Personal

- 10.1 11/7/1862; A list of men to whom Col. Orme owed \$2 each
- 10.2 11/11/1863; Note by Col. Orme after receiving \$500 from a John Potts
- 10.3 11/22/1863; A letter from a medical officer advising Charles Orme's removal from command due to contacting hepatitis

- 10.4 12/2/1863; A letter from Charles Orme to headquarters asking to be allowed to go to New Orleans for treatment with an accepting response on the back from a commanding officer

Folder 11: Deceased Soldiers

- 11.1 1/6/1862; A listing of eight men of the regiment who died from typhoid fever
11.2 2/1863; An envelope from a report of deceased soldiers from February of 1863
11.3 2/1863; The report of deceased soldiers (1 man) from February of 1863

Folder 12: News Clippings

- 12.1 3/24/1862; A clipping from the *Daily Pantagraph* featuring Bloomington's abolitionist sympathies
12.2 3/1/1859; A clipping from the *Daily Pantagraph* about Frederick Douglass speaking in Bloomington against slavery
12.3 8/20/1862; A farewell show ticket for the Ninety-Fourth
12.4 A story about the possibly last reunion of the Ninety-Fourth Regiment
12.5 3/17/1963; A story from the *Daily Pantagraph* about a Ninety-Fourth Regiment discussion as held by the McLean County Historical Society

Folder 13: Reunion Material

- 13.1 8/25/1888; An invitation to the Ninety-Fourth's 6th annual reunion
13.2 8/25/1892; A regimental roster of the Ninety-Fourth from the 1892 reunion (2x)
13.3 8/29/1901; An invitation to the Ninety-Fourth's 18th reunion
13.4 8/24/1916; 94th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Reunion Association Thirty-third Annual Reunion Bloomington, Illinois
13.5 8/25/1921; An invitation to the Ninety-Fourth's 38th reunion

Folder 14: Promotion, Discharge, etc. Documents for Individual Soldiers

- 14.1 Request from Paymaster N.W. Brown certifying that Dr. Selden M Payne is entitled to pay as acting assistant surgeon, Oct 1, 1862. Includes response by order of Major Genl Curtis suggesting censure for Col. Orme.
14.2 Discharge for Jacob W. Burns, Co, E, July 17, 1865. Plus Oct 1910 envelope.
14.3 Discharge for John C. Thompson, Co. C, July 17, 1865.
14.4 Discharge for Hiram W. Barnett, Co. A, July 17, 1865. Includes list of battles in which Barnett served.
14.5 Photocopy of discharge for Jasper Gilmore, July 17, 1865.

Folder 15: Beckler, Christian Diary

- 15.1 Typed transcription, 30 pp. Cover Jan 1-Dec 31, 1863. Includes records of cash accounts.

Folder 16: Coe, Proctor Diary

- 16.1 Brown leather diary, Aug 5, 1862-May 26, 1863. Drummer for Co. A.z
Fragile; front cover loose.
16.2 Four sheets of photocopies of diary.

Folder 17: Daniel, Alex Diary

17.1 Photocopies of handwritten transcription of diary, Aug 9, 1862-Mar 14, 1865.

Folder 18: Gibbs, William Diary

18.1 Handwritten diary entries on 32 pages of blue paper, Aug 1862-Nov 1863.

Folder 19: Gilmore, Jasper Diary

19.1 Handwritten transcription of diary, Nov 1863-Aug 3, 1863. 11 pages, 2 copies.

Folder 20: Laughlin, R.G.

- 20.1 Commission as First Lieutenant of Randolph Union Guards, Dec 5, 1861.
- 20.2 Appointment as Major in 94th, effective Aug 20, 1862. Dated Oct 4, 1862.
- 20.3 Appointment as Lieutenant Colonel of 94th, Apr 3, 1863.
- 20.4 Appointment as Colonel, effective Nov 29, 1864. Dated Nov 29, 1864.
- 20.5 U.S. President Johnson's appointment to brevet colonel effective Mar 26, 1865, dated Apr 5, 1865.
- 20.6 U.S. President Johnson's appointment to brevet brigadier general effective Mar 13, 1865, dated May 22, 1866.
- 20.7 Letter from Secretary of War Stanton announcing appointment to brevet colonel, July 27, 1865.
- 20.8 Letter from Adjutant General's Office in Washington enclosing commission of Colonel by Brevet, May 15, 1866.
- 20.9 Letter from Adjutant General's Office in Washington enclosing commission of Brigadier General by Brevet, Jul 12, 1866.

Folder 21: Pancake, William

- 21.1 Discharge, Co. A, July 17, 1865.
- 21.2 Appointment to sergeant, Nov 1, 1864.
- 21.3 History of Claimant's Disability, July 16, 1865.
- 21.4 Grand Army of the Republic Post No 146 transfer card "Duplicate" Dec 17, 1894.
- 21.5 Census in Danvers, 1880.
- 21.6 Photocopy of MCHS letter to donor Ruth Helm, Sep 19, 1968.

Folder 22: Rouie, Peter J.

- 22.1 Letter from donor Arthur P. Kane, Mar 5, 1962. Applies to all but the final document.
- 22.2 Appointment to 2nd sergeant, Oct 1, 1862.
- 22.3 Appointment to 1st Sergeant, Feb 11, 1864.
- 22.4 Commission to Captain, Jul 22, 1864. 3 copies, one partly torn.
- 22.5 Discharge, Jul 17, 1865.
- 22.6 Quartermaster General's Office acknowledgment of returns of clothing and camp and garrison equipage for Co A, Jan 29, 1866.
- 22.7 Pension to widow Margaret Rowie, Nov 29, 1873.
- 22.8 Adjutant General's Office certification that Rouie was mustered into service as private in militia guard for fifteen days on Jun 10, 1862, dated Jun 2, 1884.
- 22.9 Officer's Certificate of Disability, claim of widow Margaret Rouie.

- 22.10 Paymaster General's Office notice of settlement of claim for arrears, etc. with \$438.36 payment enclosed, Jan 28, 1892.
- 22.11 Bloomington Lodge No 43 of AF & AM certifying that Rouie was member in good standing when he died and was buried with Masonic honors, Jun 12, 1924.
- 22.12 Letter from Vicksburg National Military Park historian Edwin C. Bearss attaching info about Rouie, Jan 24, 1957. Attached includes one paragraph about Rouie's service and balance about the regiment's history. 3 pp. This appears to be the only item in folder that is not from donor Arthur Kane.

Folder 23: Rouie, Peter J. Equipage Journal

- 23.1 Brown leather book showing accounts due, bills receivable, payments, items issued to soldiers, etc.