

The Filson Historical Society

**Watts, Elijah S.
Papers, 1861-1907**

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Curator of Special Collections.

Size of Collection:

.66 cu. ft.

Locator Number:

Mss./A/W349

**Watts, Elijah S.
Papers, 1861 – 1907**

Scope and Content

The collection consists of several letters and documents related to Watts' experiences as a Union cavalry officer in the Civil War and his post-war political beliefs. The letters are primarily military correspondence, consisting of orders involving his unit, the 2nd Kentucky Cavalry Regiment. There is a large group of General Orders issued by the War Department and various Union army headquarters, many of which are courts martial proceedings. Watts became an active member of the G.A.R. in Chicago, Ill., after the war and was called upon frequently to give patriotic and memorial speeches, of which a dozen or so are included in the collection. There is also a detailed history of the early months of his regiment, including its formation at Camp Holt, Indiana, and its activities in Kentucky in late 1861. Watts was an outspoken Republican and two documents relate to his strong political beliefs. Other items include a series of military maps of the Chickamauga campaign and muster rolls of his regiment

**Watts, Elijah S.
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Biographical Note

Elijah S. Watts was born 16 Dec. 1836 in Bardstown, Nelson County, Kentucky. He was the fourth of eight children born to Elijah and Elizabeth Watts. His father was a tailor and a strong supporter of the Union. At the age of 24, Elijah S. joined the local company of the Home Guard (The Wickliffe Blues) in 1861. Shortly after the First Battle of Bull Run, Watts and 17 comrades left Nelson County to join the Union forces. He was appointed captain of Company A, 2nd Ky. Cavalry Regt., which was formed at Camp Joe Holt in Jeffersonville, Ind. He was promoted to the rank of major in Feb. 1862 and to the rank of lieutenant colonel in Jan. 1863. His regiment saw action in the Battles of Perryville, Stones River and Chickamauga. After the war, he moved to Chicago, Ill., with his wife, Lucy, and established a business as a general commission agent in 1871. He was called upon to deliver patriotic and memorial speeches on numerous occasions in Oak Park, Ill., and was very active in veterans' groups. He died 4 May 1909 in Louisville, Ky. Lucy Watts died 26 August 1909 in Louisville.

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List of Folders

Folder 1: Military correspondence, 1862-1863

Folder 2: Military correspondence, Jan. - March 1864

Folder 3: Military correspondence, April- Aug., 1864; 24 May 1865

Folder 4: Military correspondence, 1888-1889

Folder 5: Printed military publications, 1861-1862

General Orders Affecting the Volunteer Force; Adjutant General's Office, War Dept., Washington, D.C., 1861; bound orders range from No. 15 – No. 111

General Orders; Adjutant General's Office, War Dept, Washington, D.C., 1861
Order No's: 39, 44, 45, 49-51, 54, 58, 67, 70, 71, 74, 75, 77, 78, 82, 83, 87, 89-93, 95

General Orders; Headquarters, Dept. of the Ohio, Louisville, Ky., 1861; Order No's: 11-16; 18-26

General Orders; Adjutant General's Office, War Dept., Washington, D.C., 1862
Order No's.: 1, 10, 13-18, 20-33, 35-42, 44, 48-55, 57, 59, 62-64, 67, 70, 72, 74

Folder 6: Printed military publications, 1863

General Orders; Adjutant General's Office, War Dept., Washington, D.C., 1863;
Order No's: 32, 82, 83, 93, 106, 109, 110, 116, 117, 119, 120, 127-129, 134, 135, 138, 140, 142, 147, 149, 154-157, 170, 171, 174, 176, 180-183, 185-187, 194, 207, 208, 210-213, 216, 222, 225, 228-230, 237

Folder 7: Printed military publications, 1863

General Orders; Adjutant General's Office, Headquarters, Kentucky Volunteers, Frankfort, Ky., 1863; Order No.16

General Orders; Headquarters, Dept. of the Cumberland, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 1863
Order No's: 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 19-21, 24, 26-28, 34, 35, 38, 39, 41-46, 49-51, 55, 58-63, 65-67, 69, 70, 75-77, 85, 92, 97, 107, 110, 112-114, 116-119, 124, 133, 135, 141, 146, 147, 151, 159, 161

General Orders; Headquarters, Dept. of the Cumberland, Tullahoma, Tenn., 1863
Order No's 163, 165-170

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Folder 7: (Continued)

General Orders; Headquarters, Dept. of the Cumberland, Winchester, Tenn., 1863
Order No's 171, 174, 175, 180

Circulars (2 items); Inspector-General's Office, Headquarters, Dept. of the
Cumberland, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 1863

Circular; Headquarters, Dept. of the Cumberland, Winchester, Tenn., 1863

Folder 8: Printed military publications, 1864

General Orders; Adjutant General's Office, War Dept., Washington, D.C., 1864;
Order No's: 99, 105, 106, 114, 119, 121, 132,138, 140, 141, 145, 147, 153-155,
158, 160, 169, 171, 176, 178,179, 185, 189

Circular No. 35; Adjutant General's Office, War Dept., 1864

Folder 9: Miscellaneous printed military documents

General order No. 70: Appropriation of funds for recruiting, organizing
volunteers (3 Sept. 1861)

Ky. certificate of commission of rank of major; E. S. Watts (1 Feb. 1862)

Ordnance documents, 5 items; (1863-64)

Military pass (20 June 1864);

Pension certificate, E. S. Watts (9 Oct. 1907)

Description of railroad bridges and tunnels in East Tennessee and Northwest
Georgia

Folder 10: Memorial speeches by E.S. Watts, 1890-1895

Memorial Day speech, Oak Park, Ill, 29 May 1890

Memorial Day speech, Oak Park, Ill., 1893

Memorial speech honoring recently deceased veterans, Phil Sheridan Post No.
615, G.A.R., Oak Park, Ill., 21 Dec. 1894

Memorial Day speech, Oak Park, Ill., 29 May 1895

Memorial speech honoring the life of Dr. Robert Miller Luckey, Oak Park, Ill., 30
Dec. 1895

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Folder 11: Speeches, 'The Kentucky Unionist', by E.S. Watts, 1889-95

Read at "Letter Club", Oak Park, Ill., 14 Dec. 1889

Read at Gen. Thomas Post No. 5, G.A.R., Grand Army Hall, Chicago, Ill., 14 Feb. 1890

Written 24 April, 1894 and read at Custer Post No. 40, Chicago, Ill., 9th May 1894

Rewritten 28 Aug., 1895 and read to Ill. Commandery of the Loyal Legion, Oct. 1895

Folder 12: Miscellaneous speeches, memoirs by E.S. Watts, 1887-91

Report of 21st Annual Encampment, Dept. of Ill., G.A.R., to Phil Sheridan Post No. 615, Oak Park, Ill., 1887

Speech concerning history of Phil Sheridan Post No. 615, Oak Park, Ill. 6 April 1891

Account record book containing:

List of ordnance, ordnance supplies belonging to 2nd Ky. Cavalry Regt., May 1864

Early history of 2nd Kentucky Cavalry regiment

"The Chickamauga Campaign"

"Gambling etc."

2 pg. remnant of speech

Folder 13: Miscellaneous papers written by E. S. Watts

Letter to the editor supporting Gen. John A. Logan for nomination to the presidency of the U.S., 15 May 1884

Views and opinions on the Republican and Democratic Parties, tariffs etc., circa 1890

Letter to the editor advocating the separation of Oak Park, Ill., from the town of Cicero, Ill., circa 1895

"A Singer"; undated humorous memoir concerning his singing attempts as a young man

Folder 14: Miscellaneous typewritten manuscripts, undated, anonymous

Incomplete drafts of a short story entitled "Altruism or Neuresthesia?"

Paper entitled "The Montessori System of Education"

Paper entitled "The Kindergarten"

Partial paper concerning early childhood education

Miscellaneous pages dealing with early childhood education

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List of Folders (continued)

Folder 15: Miscellaneous items

Photograph of Elijah S. Watts, age 43, 1879
Photograph of Mrs. W. H. C. Carhart, *nee* Margaret Manker
Unidentified photograph of cemetery
Business account sheet

Folder 16 (oversize)

Military maps, Aug.-Sept., 1863, Chickamauga campaign

Map showing Shelmont, Jasper, Tenn., east of Chattanooga, 13 Aug. 1863
Map showing McLamore's Cove and Lookout Mt., south of Chattanooga, 28 Aug. 1863
Map showing region west of Trenton, Ga. 28 Aug. 1863
Map showing Stevenson, Bridgeport, Ala., 29 Aug. 1863
Map showing Chattanooga and Vicinity, 8 Sept. 1863.
Partial map showing Dalton and Ringgold, Ga.

Muster-in roll of Field Officers, 2nd Ky. Cavalry Regiment (U.S.A.; 23 April 1863)

Muster roll: Company A, 2nd Ky. Cavalry Regiment (U.S.A.; 5 Dec. 1863)

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Subject Headings

Halleck, Henry Wager, 1815-1872
McCook, Alexander McDowell, 1831-1903
Rousseau, Lovell Harrison, 1818-1869
Sherman, William Tecumseh, 1820-1891
Smith, Charles Ferguson, 1807-1862
Speed, James, 1812-1887
Stanton, Edwin McMasters, 1814-1869
Democratic Party (U.S.)
Grand Army of the Republic. Dept. of Illinois
Kentucky. State Guard
Republican party (U.S.: 1854-)
United States. Army – Appropriations and expenditures
United States. Army – Courts-martial and courts of inquiry
United States. Army – Military life
United States. Army – Supplies and stores
United States. Army – Surgeons
United States. Army. Kentucky Cavalry Regiment, 2nd (1861-1865)
Camp Joe Holt (Jeffersonville, Ind.)
Chickamauga, Battle of, Ga., 1863
Early childhood education – United States
Gambling
Memorial Day
Montessori method of education
Military pensions
Patriotism – United States
Presidents - United States - Election - 1884
Shiloh, Battle of, Tenn., 1862
Tariff - law and legislation – United States
Kentucky - History – Civil War (1861-1865)
Nelson County (Ky.) – History – Civil War (1861-1865)
Oak Park (Ill.) – History – 19th century
Tennessee – History – Civil War, 1861-1865
United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Claims
United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Maps
United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Medical care