

Collection #
SC 2945

JAMES C. STUART LETTER, 1863

Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Contents

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 Folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 1863

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NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

James C. Stuart of Dearborn County, Indiana mustered into the army on April 22, 1861. He was a Private in Company E of the Seventh Indiana Regiment Infantry, which originally served three months after its organization.

The Seventh Indiana was re-commissioned for three years of service on September 13, 1861 in Indianapolis, and at time Stuart became a Sergeant in Company A. He was still serving in September 1864 this when the Seventh Indiana merged with the Nineteenth Indiana Regiment Infantry. Stuart mustered out of the army on March 17, 1865.

The Seventh Indiana Regiment Infantry began its three years of service in western Virginia, and participated in a number of battles including Winchester Heights, Second Bull Run and Antietam. Its members also fought and faced heavy losses in the Battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, and took part in the Battles of Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor, as well as in the assault on Petersburg later in the war.

In the last days of November 1863, General George Meade led Union troops, including members of the Seventh Indiana, south across Virginia's Rapidan River in an offensive against General Lee's troops. Meade's objective was to push the Confederates back toward Richmond; however, Lee's men were able to block the Union attack in a number of skirmishes that became known as the Mine Run Campaign. The Union was unsuccessful in gaining the advantage in this last effort before the troops settled in to camp for the winter.

Sources:

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Terrell, W.H.H. *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana*, Vol. II – 1861-1865. Indianapolis: W.R. Holloway, State Printer, 1865, 47.

Terrell, W.H.H. *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana*, Vol. IV – 1861-1865. Indianapolis: Samuel M. Douglass, State Printer, 1866, 20, 91.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains a letter written by James C. Stuart of the Seventh Indiana Regiment Infantry, to his friend John P. Ewan. The letter is dated November 24, 1863, just a few days before the Mine Run Campaign. Stuart writes that the next day his regiment is to be sent across the Rapidan River and into the front. He also describes the “wilderness” where his regiment is stationed and recounts the “destitute” condition of the families who remained in the area where the troops were camped.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Letter from James C. Stuart to John P. Ewan,
November 24, 1863

CONTAINER

Folder 1