



Wilbur Nelson Papers c.00159

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall

943 Conrad Road, Room 101

East Lansing , MI 48824

Business Number: 517-355-2330

archives@msu.edu

URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University Archives and Historical Collections
Creator:	Nelson, Wilbur
Creator:	Nelson, Gaylord, 1886-1947
Title:	Wilbur Nelson papers
ID:	c.00159
Date [inclusive]:	1864-1865
Physical Description:	0.1 Cubic Feet 3 folders
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: "Item title, Collection title, Collection Identifier, Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan."

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Biographical Note

Wilbur Nelson of Arcadia Township, Clinton County, Michigan, was born January 15, 1839. Nelson served in the 8th Michigan Infantry from 1861 to 1863. He was promoted from sergeant to second lieutenant on January 1, 1863. In late November 1863, Wilbur was wounded in action and resigned. In March 1864, he accepted a commission as captain in the 102nd U.S. Colored Infantry. During the Civil War, Black troops served in segregated units which were led by white officers. When the war ended Nelson returned to Michigan, opened a store, and married Cornelia Church.

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Scope and Contents

This collection consists of Nelson's war diaries, several transcriptions, a narrative describing Nelson's war experiences, and a muster roll. Nelson wrote his diaries in shorthand. Included are his original diary for 1864, typed and handwritten transcriptions of the 1864 diary, and a typed transcription of Nelson's diary for 1865 (the original is not included in the collection). The narrative, written by Nelson's son Gaylord Nelson, is based on Wilbur Nelson's diary for 1863 and his correspondence (which are not included in the collection). The muster roll for Company I, 102nd Regiment, U.S. Colored Troops, dated February 14, 1864, lists the name, age, and rank of the soldiers in the unit.

This collection has been transcribed, scanned and placed online at http://civilwar.archives.msu.edu/collection/7-1C-1C/wilbur_nelson/.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish material from this collection must be obtained from University Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University.

Conditions Governing Access

Legal Status: Donor(s) have transferred any applicable copyright to Michigan State University but the collection may contain third-party materials for which copyright was not transferred. Copyright restrictions may apply. Property Rights: Michigan State University.

Custodial History

Gift of Miles Nelson, 1959-07-07. Transferred by Michigan State University Museum.

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Controlled Access Headings

- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
- Diaries
- Nelson, Wilbur
- United States. Army. Colored Infantry Regiment, 102nd (1863-1865)
- United States. Army -- Military life -- History -- 19th century
- United States. Army. Michigan Infantry Regiment, 8th (1861-1865)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
Papers	
Diary Written in Shorthand, 1864	folder 1
Transcription of Diary, 1864	folder 2
Gaylord Nelson - When the Infantry Marched, 1863	folder 3

Oversized Materials

Title/Description	Instances
Muster Roll, 1864	Drawer 44

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