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M.M. Parsons letter, 1863

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M.M. Parsons letter
SMC.045.007

Finding aid prepared by the Arkansas State Archives

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

August 20, 2020

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Arkansas State Archives
Title	M.M. Parsons letter
Date	1863
Extent	0.2 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation

M.M.Parsons letter, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock,Arkansas.

Biographical/Historical Note

Writer of the letter, Brigadier General Mosby Monroe Parsons (1822-1865) commanded the 10th Missouri (aka Steens-Parsons-Picketts Brigade, CSA). Parsons led troops in northwest Arkansas/SW Missouri battles early in the Trans-Mississippi theater - Carthage, Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove and in later campaigns - Little Rock, Helena, Red River, Camden. At war's end, Parsons went to Mexico with several fellow Confederates, including a brother-in-law; he and his companions were killed by Mexican soldiers, giving rise to an international lawsuit.

Recipient of the letter, Confederate Major General Sterling Price (1809-1867), was then District Commander for Arkansas. After unsuccessfully challenging Union forces in Arkansas in summer-fall 1863, Price subsequently conducted campaigns in Louisiana, Texas and his home state of Missouri, with mixed results on the battlefield. At the Civil War's end, he took his troops to Mexico for about a year rather than surrender. He died in St. Louis in September 1867 from illness contracted in Mexico. A former Missouri governor, banking official and hero of the U.S.-Mexican War as well as the Confederacy, his funeral was a huge public occasion.

The subject of the letter is believed to be Thomas William Steele (1827-1900), an extensive and prosperous land owner in Pulaski and Ashley Counties, who established a multi-generational family of landholders with his wife Elizabeth Little Steele (1835-1919). Steele served with Price south of the Arkansas River during the war. He is referred to as 'Col. Steele' in post-Civil War documents.

Scope and Contents

Civil War battlefield correspondence between two Confederate generals - M.M. Parsons and Sterling Price - concerning safe passage for a third, T.W. Steele.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Arkansas State Archives 1/23/2012

Conditions Governing Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Unknown

Collection Inventory

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MG00227

1863: September 23: Brigadier General M.M. Parsons to Major General Sterling Price, introducing General Thomas W. Steele, assuring Steele's loyalty to Confederacy and requesting safe passage 1863

Biographical/Historical note

Brigadier General M.M. Parsons was commander of Steen's-Parson's-Pickett's brigade, an active unit in the Arkansas Confederacy under Theophilous Holmes and Sterling Price's commands. In 1863, Major General Sterling Price was District Commander of Arkansas.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Unknown

Preferred Citation note

Parsons Letter, Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas

Scope and Contents note

1863 battlefield communication among Confederate generals: M.M. Parsons to Sterling Price requesting safe passage for Thomas Steele.