DIVIDED LOYALTIES
CIVIL WAR DOCUMENTS FROM THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES

CONFEDERATE RECORDS

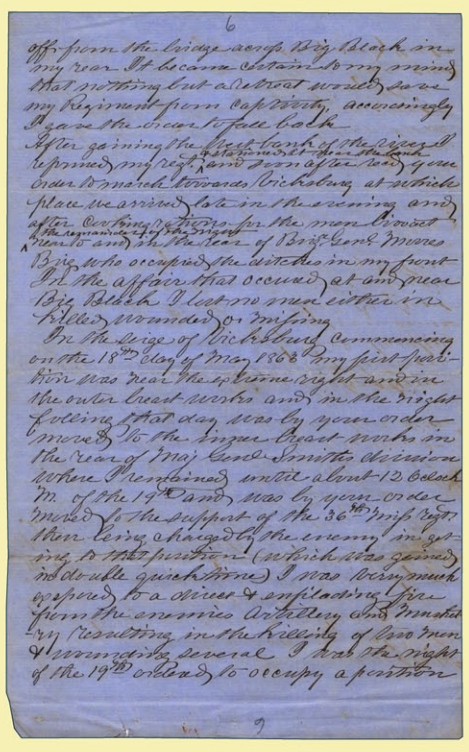
THE CONFEDERATE STORY

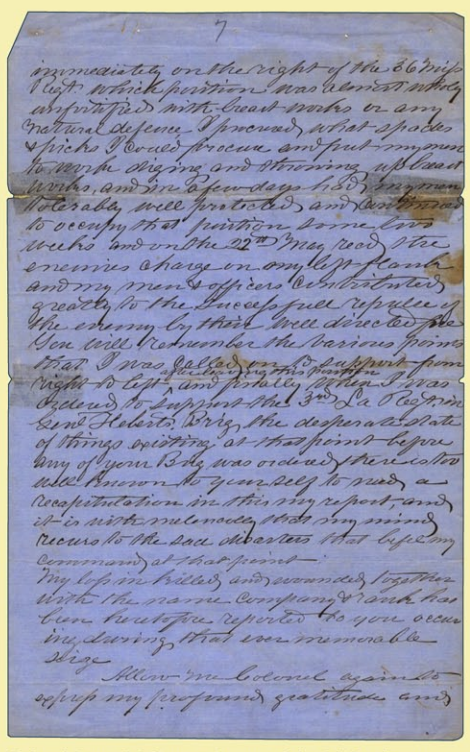
This exhibit highlights some of the Civil War stories that have been uncovered from selected documents from the Missouri State Archives' collection. While our rich collection allows us to share some amazing tales about Missourians and their struggles during the war years, it generally reveals just one side of the story. Why?

While the Missouri State Archives holds more than 9 million pages of Civil War documents, only a handful came from the Confederate government. Missouri's pro-Southern state government was forced to flee Jefferson City in 1861. Because that government operated in southern Missouri, and later in Texas, almost none of the records it generated were returned to Jefferson City after the war ended.

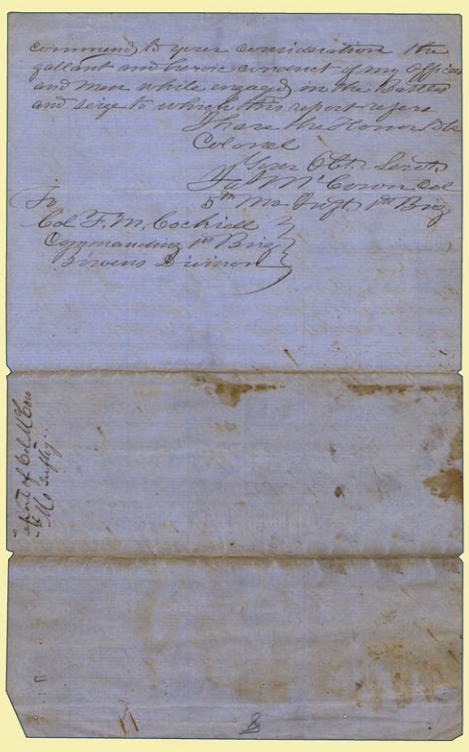
On this panel, we present a few of the Archives' Confederate documents.

Library of Congress



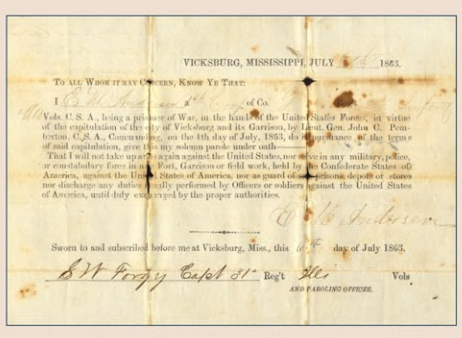


Colonel James McCowen, Report of the 5th Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry in the Battle of Vicksburg.
Missouri State Archives

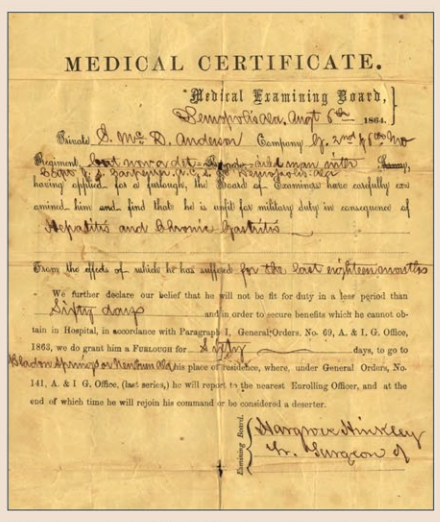


"I was the night of [May] 19th ordered to occupy a position immediately on the right of the 36th Mississippi Regiment, which position was almost wholly unfortified with breast works or any natural defense. I procured what spades and picks I could procure and put my men to work digging and throwing up breast works, and in a few days had my men tolerably well protected and continued to occupy that position some two weeks. And on the 22nd May received the enemy's charge on my left flank and my men and officers contributed greatly to the successful repulse of the enemy by their well directed fire."

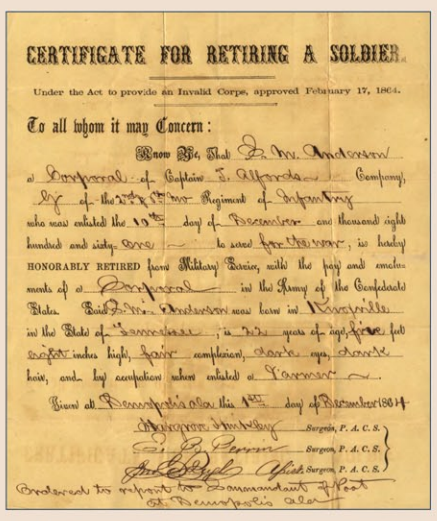
ONE SOLDIER'S PAPER TRAIL



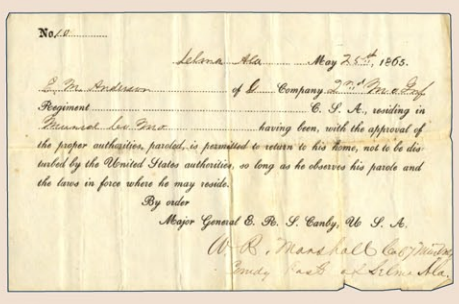
1. Union military officials issued this parole to Ephraim McDowell Anderson after the Confederate surrender at Vicksburg, 6 July 1863.
Missouri State Archives



2. Anderson had suffered from hepatitis and chronic gastritis for more than a year before he received a medical furlough in August 1864.
Missouri State Archives



3. After his medical furlough, Anderson was assigned to light duty as part of the Invalid Corps in December 1864.
Missouri State Archives



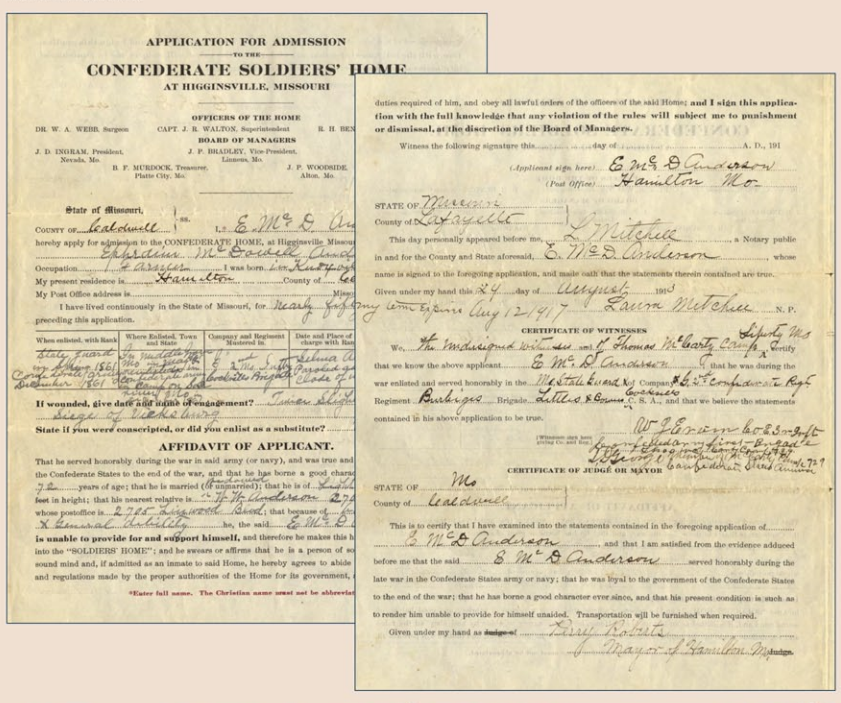
4. These military passes (*above and below*) allowed Anderson to return home to Missouri after the end of the war in May 1865.
Missouri State Archives

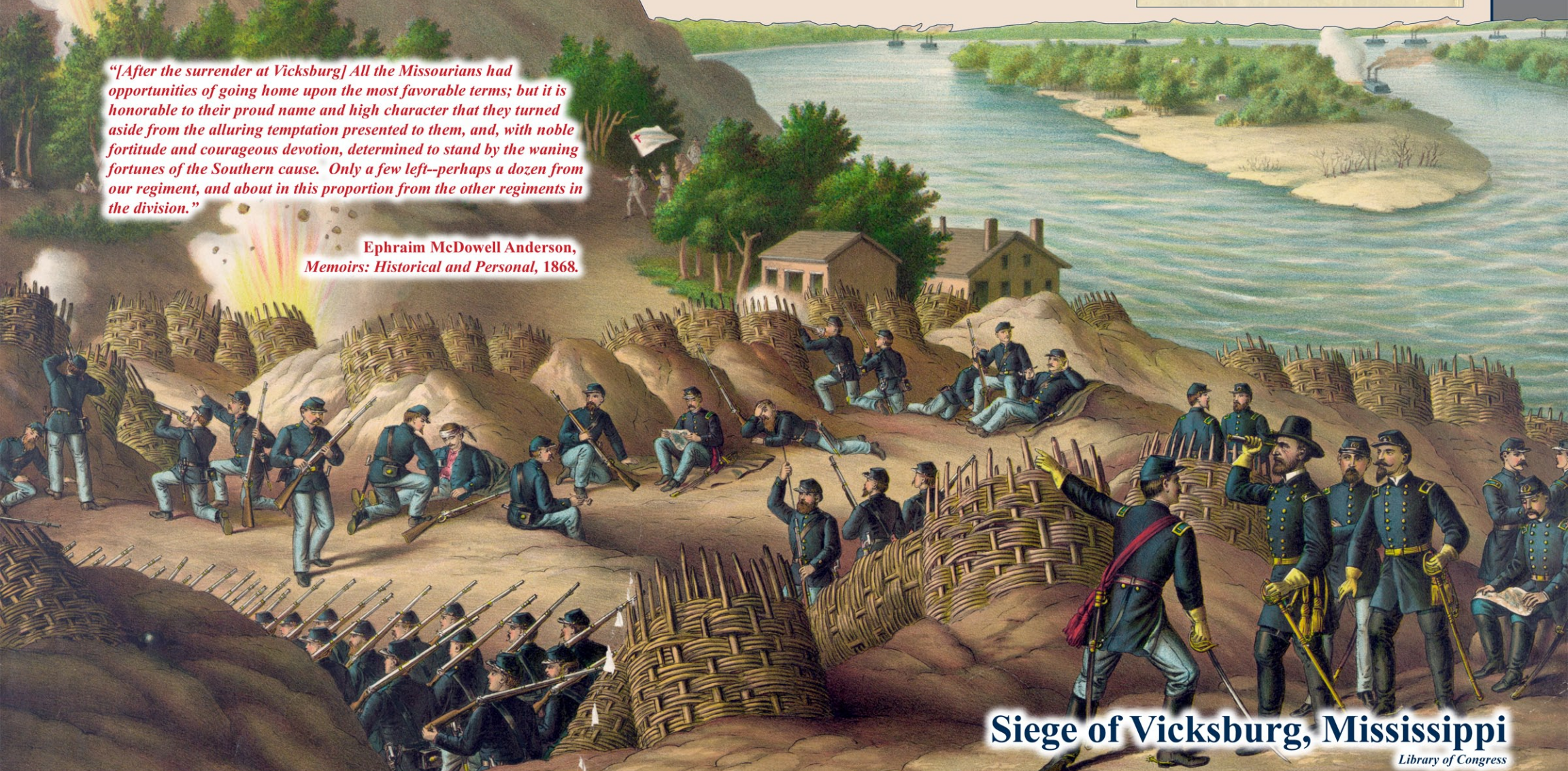
A native of Tennessee, Ephraim McDowell Anderson was just 19 years old when he enlisted in the Missouri State Guard in Monroe County, Missouri in the spring of 1861. In December of that year he enlisted in the Confederate Army, serving in Company G of the 2nd Missouri Infantry.

McDowell's regiment participated in the Confederates' unsuccessful attempt to defend the city of Vicksburg, Mississippi from Union attack in the summer of 1863. In that conflict, he received two minor wounds and was captured, along with the rest of his unit, after the Confederate surrender on July 4.

After Vicksburg, Anderson was paroled, and in September 1863 he rejoined his unit, then called the 2nd and 6th Consolidated Regiments. During the following year, he suffered from chronic illness, and in August 1864 he received a medical furlough. After the war, Anderson settled in Caldwell County, Missouri. In 1868, he published an account of his wartime experiences in a book, *Memoirs: Historical and Personal*.

5. In August 1913, Ephraim McDowell Anderson, then age 72, entered the Confederate Soldiers' Home in Higginsville, Missouri. He died there in January 1916.
Missouri State Archives





"[After the surrender at Vicksburg] All the Missourians had opportunities of going home upon the most favorable terms; but it is honorable to their proud name and high character that they turned aside from the alluring temptation presented to them, and, with noble fortitude and courageous devotion, determined to stand by the waning fortunes of the Southern cause. Only a few left--perhaps a dozen from our regiment, and about in this proportion from the other regiments in the division."

Ephraim McDowell Anderson,
***Memoirs: Historical and Personal*, 1868.**

Siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi
Library of Congress

1861 - 1865