

McLean County Museum of History

John McNulta Collection

Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1861 - 1900
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also: John McNulta Time Capsule Collection.

Brief History

General John McNulta answered the call to enlist as a Private in the Union Army, Company A of the First Illinois Cavalry. This was the first regiment of cavalry from the state of Illinois. He was promoted to the rank of captain the same day by the original captain, John Rousch. In July 1861, McNulta's band of recruits, known as "Loomis Dragoons" (Dragoons meaning mounted infantry), were sent to Alton, Illinois by rail to be under the command of Colonel Ulysses S. Grant. There they joined the other six companies in the 1st Cavalry. This meeting between Grant and McNulta was the beginning of a life-long friendship.

After the 1st Cavalry mustered out of service on July 17, 1862, McNulta sought to join a new regiment and continue fighting in the war. On August 20th he joined the ranks of the newly formed 94th Illinois Volunteer Infantry under commanding officer, his friend, Colonel William W. Orme. While he did muster in as a private, he was almost immediately elected to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and for much of the remainder of the war, McNulta was in command of the Second Brigade, Second Division, 13th Army Corps.

After the war, McNulta went back to the study of law and was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of Illinois in 1866. In 1868, McNulta was elected on the Republican ticket to serve four years as an Illinois State Senator. In 1870, McNulta started his successful campaign for United States House of Representatives and was elected in 1872. He was the first McLean County citizen to be elected to the House of Representatives of the U.S. In 1874, he ran for a second term in the House of Representatives, but was defeated by Democrat Adlai E. Stevenson I.

While on business for the National Bank of Illinois on February 22, 1900, McNulta died suddenly at the age of sixty-two, in his room at the Hamilton House in Washington D.C. His good friend and former law partner Lawrence Weldon was with him when he died. The cause of death was ruled to be angina pectoris, chest pain which comes from a lack of supply of blood to the heart. W. B. Lawrence, a friend of McNulta's, wrote the following in memorial of McNulta's life: "The State and Nation has lost a loyal, patriotic and devoted citizen, who was always courageous in his convictions, and who, as a soldier and statesman, served his country well."

Scope

The collection includes a photocopy of the Appointment to Captain document from the Illinois State Militia, autographs dated 1881, various correspondence, memorials dedicated to John McNulta, including photocopy of plaque inside Illinois Memorial at Vicksburg National Military Park naming soldiers of the McLean County 94th Infantry who fought at Vicksburg, and drawing of marker showing 94th Infantry Unit position at Vicksburg. Obituaries from newspapers around the country mourning General John McNulta, and his cipher book used during the war.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Appointment

- 1.1 Appointment of John McNulta to the rank of Captain of Company "A," "Loomis Dragoons," 1st Cavalry Regiment, Illinois Volunteers, October 24, 1861 (copy).

Folder 2: Autograph

- 2.1 Autograph: John McNulta, Bloomington, Illinois, Sept. 8th, 1881.
- 2.2 Autograph: John McNulta, Sept. 8th, 1881.

Folder 3: Correspondence

- 3.1 Parole of Honor signed by McNulta issued by the Missouri State Guard of the Confederate States of America naming Capt. John McNulta as the undersigned to "not take up arms against the State of Missouri or the Confederate States of America during said war." September 26, 1861.
- 3.2 Note under House of Representatives letterhead, Washington, D. C., to H. Capen (?), Esq., signed by J. McNulta, about church pew, December 16, 1873.
- 3.3 Letter to General McNulta from indecipherable signature, Collector, City Hall, Brooklyn, New York, about McNulta's the erroneous obituary in Chicago Tribune, December 9, 1877.
- 3.4 Handwritten note from Headquarters Army of the United States, Washington, D.C., to McNulta about use of rail car to St. Louis, May 25, 1887.
- 3.5 Envelope to handwritten note above, to Colonel John McNulta, Receiver Wabash R. R., Rialto Building, Chicago, Illinois from Headquarters Army of the United States, postmarked Washington, D. C., May 26, 1887.
- 3.6 Handwritten letter to McNulta apparently from same author as #4 above, about trip to St. Louis, October 3, 1887.
- 3.7 Handwritten note from E. H. Harriman, New York City, to the General, December 15, 1889.
- 3.8 Form No.285, The Western Union Telegraph Company to General McNulta from George Gould, January 31, 1894.
- 3.9 Typewritten letter from the Office of Russel Sage, Chicago, Illinois to Hon. John McNulta, on business matter, April 30, 1895.
- 3.10 Three typed one-page notes to General John McNulta from William McKinley of Canton, Ohio, with envelopes, February 24, March 5, and March 16, 1896.
- 3.11 Handwritten note United States Senate letterhead to "Dear General," from C. W. Fairbanks, asking a personal favor, July 16, 1897.
- 3.12 Typewritten note from Charles G. Dawes, Chairman of the Board, City National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago to Miss Laura McNulta in Boston acknowledging a Seasons Greeting card, February 1949.
- 3.13 Torn portion of handwritten pencil note to General McNulta from unknown source, nd.
- 3.14 Nine empty envelopes addressed to General McNulta or Honorable McNulta, may have contained letters in this collection, various dates.

Folder 4: McNulta Memorials

- 4.1 Memorial on the death of General John McNulta, by Comrade W. B. Lawrence; adopted by 94th Illinois Volunteer Reunion Association, August 24, 1900.
- 4.2 Address by N. C. Lindley in honor of General John McNulta, February 26, 1900.
- 4.3 Typewritten prayer by unknown author, nd.
- 4.4 Photocopy of the plaque in the Illinois Memorial at the Vicksburg National Military Park naming the soldiers of the 94th Infantry, including McNulta, who fought at Vicksburg during the Civil War, nd.
- 4.5 Drawing of marker of the 94th Infantry Unit position monument is located outside of Vicksburg National Military Park on former park property in the City of Vicksburg, on the lawn in front of Pemberton Plaza at Pemberton Blvd. This unit was attached to Brig. Gen. William W. Orme's 2nd Brigade of Maj. Gen. Francis J. Herron's unattached Division, Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee and was commanded by Col. John McNulta, nd.

Folder 5: Obituary and Funeral Clippings

- 5.1 "General McNulta is Dead", *Chicago Record*, February 22 or 23, 1900.
- 5.2 "Died at 6:10 p.m.," *Daily Pantagraph*, February 23, 1900.
- 5.3 "Gen. John McNulta Dead," *The New York Times*, February 23, 1900.
- 5.4 "Gen. John McNulta Dead," *Daily Pantagraph*, February 23, 1900.
- 5.5 "General John McNulta," *Chicago Times-Herald*, February 27, 1900.
- 5.6 "Gen. M'Nulta's Funeral," *Chicago Times-Herald*, nd.
- 5.7 "Gen. M'Nulta's Funeral," unknown newspaper, nd.

Folder 6: The Field and Stream Treasury of Trout Fishing

- 6.1 "The Trout and the Indian" by General John McNulta, *Field and Stream Treasury of Trout Fishing*, May, 1900.

Folder 7: Gen. John McNulta's Cipher Book

Folder 9: Anecdote

- 9.1 "The Old Pioneer, A Bath in 'Shave-Tail,'" *Iroquois County Times*, October 20, unknown year.