

**Nathaniel Sisson Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2008**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2006085304>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008105>

Prepared by Donna Ellis

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2008  
Revised 2010 April

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Nathaniel Sisson Papers

**Span Dates:** 1838-1932

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1862-1920)

**ID No.:** MSS85304

**Creator:** Sisson, Nathaniel, 1845-1932

**Extent:** 1,100 items

**Extent:** 10 containers plus 4 oversize

**Extent:** 6 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2006085304>

**Summary:** Union soldier and businessman. Correspondence, financial records, medals, printed matter, and writings pertaining to Sisson's Civil War service, political activities, and business enterprises in Maryville, Missouri.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Sisson family.

Sisson, Nathaniel, 1845-1932.

### Organizations

Freemasons.

### Subjects

Agriculture.

Bridges--Design and construction.

Business enterprises--Maryland--Maryville.

Cabinetwork.

Genealogy.

Medicine.

Real estate business--Maryland--Maryville.

Reunions--United States.

Surveying.

Teaching.

Veterans--United States.

### Places

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

United States--Politics and government--1865-1933.

### Occupations

Businessmen.

Soldiers.

## Provenance

The papers of Nathaniel Sisson, Union soldier and businessman, were given to the Library of Congress by Lauris M. Eek in 2006.

## Transfers

A photograph and a hand-painted miniature have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Nathaniel Sisson Papers.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Nathaniel Sisson is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Nathaniel Sisson are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Nathaniel Sisson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1845, May 25	Born, Meigs County, Ohio
1862-1865	Bugler, Company A, Second West Virginia Voluntary Cavalry
1866	Teacher, Maryville, Mo.
1871	Civil engineer, C. Baker & Co., St. Joseph, Mo.
1874	Married Mary S. Hughes (died 1909)
1875-1930	Businessman, real estate companies, Maryville, Mo.
1882	Congressional nominee, Greenback-Labor Party
1892	Congressional nominee, Republican Party
1909	Chairman, Maryville Public Utilities Commission, Maryville, Mo.
1932, Sept. 17	Died, Maryville, Mo.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Nathaniel Sisson (1845-1932) span the years 1838-1932, with the bulk of the material dating from 1862 to 1920. The collection includes correspondence, financial records, medals, printed matter, and writings and is arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic followed by miscellany and oversize.

The earliest correspondence, 1862-1865, contains letters between Sisson and his family describing his Civil War experiences and their domestic activities. The post-Civil War correspondence is composed chiefly of letters received by Sisson from his family in Ohio and Iowa. Subjects include the medical profession, teaching, and farming. Sisson's business ventures and private life are occasionally mentioned.

After his war service, Sisson moved to Maryville, Missouri, where he experimented with several professions such as bridge building, cabinet making, surveying, and teaching before settling on the real estate business. A subject file contains primarily printed matter documenting Sisson's involvement in these areas. The file also includes material relating to Sisson's participation in genealogical research, military reunions, national politics, and the Freemasons.

A writings file contains Sisson's reminiscences of his Civil War experiences. It also includes essays, poetry, and speeches by Sisson and others. A miscellany file comprises military and political badges, road and bridge surveys, and newspaper clippings.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	1862-1869 (11 folders)
BOX 2	1870-1897 (13 folders)
BOX 3	1898-1927 (10 folders)
BOX 4	Subject file
BOX 4	American Telegraphone Co., 1916-1926 <i>See also Oversize</i> (4 folders)
BOX 4	Biographical and genealogical material, 1900-1932
BOX 4	Bridges and roads, 1868-1876 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 4	Businessmen and merchants, 1869-1896
BOX 4	Education, 1838, 1857-1868, 1891-1905
BOX 4	Masonic material, 1850, 1882, 1893-1897, 1920
BOX 5	Military, 1862-1868, 1874-1924 (5 folders)
BOX 6	Politics and political issues
BOX 6	1870-1884 (7 folders)
BOX 7	1890-1918 (3 folders)
BOX 7	World War I memorial, 1919
BOX 7	Writings file
BOX 7	Essays, 1866-1880 (2 folders)
BOX 7	Letters to the editor, 1884, 1908-1911, 1924
BOX 7	Miscellany, 1866-1884
BOX 7	Plays, undated
BOX 8	Poetry, 1901-1917
BOX 8	Speeches, 1906-1911 (3 folders)
BOX 8	Miscellany
BOX 8	Account book, 1874
BOX 8	Badges and ribbons
BOX 8	Military, 1895-1913, 1920-1924 (2 folders)
BOX 9	Miscellany, 1891-1904
BOX 9	Political, 1884, 1906-1912, 1920
BOX 9	Drawings, undated
BOX 9	Fraternal organizations, 1886-1889
BOX 9	List of names, undated
BOX 9	Memorabilia, 1862, 1881

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 10	Newspaper clippings, 1847, 1860-1869, 1879-1930 <i>See also Oversize</i> (4 folders)
BOX 10	Printed matter, 1881, 1908, 1926-1932
BOX 10	Public utilities commission, Maryville, Mo., 1908
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Subject file
BOX OV 1	American Telegraphone Co.
BOX OV 1	Printed matter, 1917-1924
BOX OV 2	Bridges and roads
BOX OV 2	Bridge elevations, undated
BOX OV 3	Miscellany
BOX OV 3	Newspaper clippings
BOX OV 3	Set I, 1847-1869, 1883-1884
BOX OV 4	Set II, 1905-1907, 1928