



**State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
Tennessee State Library and Archives**

**Confederate Commissary General,  
Provisional Army of Tennessee (Knoxville),  
Ledger, 1861-1862;  
Journal of Eliza Rhea Anderson Fain, 1872-1875**

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**COLLECTION SUMMARY**

**Creator:**

Fain, Richard Gammon, 1811-1878  
Fain, Eliza Rhea Anderson, 1816-1892

**Inclusive Dates:**

1861-1862; 1872-1875

**Scope & Content:**

One-volume item contains two documents. The first is a Confederate States Commissary Department ledger kept at Knoxville, Tennessee, between October 1861 and June 1862. Major Richard Gammon Fain, Commissary General, Provisional Army of Tennessee, and other commissary employees made the entries. The second is a journal kept by Fain's wife, Eliza, from 1872 to 1875; her entries are interspersed among the ledger entries. Each document will be described separately.

The ledger is important to the study of the Civil War, particularly for those interested in the financial history of the Confederate effort. It also sheds light on the types of services and supplies needed by and available to the Confederate Army during the early years of the war.

Eliza Fain's journal provides information important to the study of Reconstruction-era Tennessee. She writes upon topics that may offer insight into social and religious history. Particular focus is given to the religious history and culture of the Presbyterian Church in Tennessee, family relationships, and life during the Reconstruction period.

Entries for the Commissary Department ledger are chronological and begin on October 14, 1861. They conclude on page 69 during June 1862. Richard Gammon Fain served as Commissary General during that the period.

Different handwriting styles are included among the ledger entries. The ledger entries track the flow of deposits to and withdrawals from the Commissary Department. References to checks being drawn on the "Branch Bank of Tennessee Knoxville" and the "Union Bank of Knoxville" are frequent. Several entries record "Cash to Confederate States" in various amounts. Entries mention purchases of various foodstuffs (bacon, flour, rice, vinegar, cornmeal, coffee, sugar, bread, cattle, etc.) and other items such as candles, postage, and soap from various individuals probably in the greater Knoxville area. There are occasional references to purchases of services such as "subsistence furnished 8 men guarding wagon train from Knoxville to Post Oak Springs" on September 6, 1861 (6), and "\$250 cash to Capt. G. W. McKenzie to provide subsistence for company while guarding bridge at Charleston" on September 7, 1861. Payments are also made to surgeons at the General Hospital at Knoxville.

On December 24, 1861, reference is made to Major A. E. Jackson, Quartermaster for Requisition, furnishing \$13,700 for payment to commissary staff on October 25. (19) A later entry on that page identifies the same amount being paid in the form of a cash voucher from the Quartermaster Department "to Major A. E. Jackson to replace the funds furnished by him to the different commissaries, see above by an order from Gen. F. K. Zollicoffer." Jackson served on Zollicoffer's staff. Page 19 also contains entries for payments made to local residents for the boarding of sick soldiers, the boarding and guarding of prisoners, and for a "special expedition" to Scott County.

A portion of the sheet containing pages 65 and 66 is missing. The ledger entries conclude on page 69.

The journal, written by Eliza Rhea Anderson Fain, wife of the Commissary General, opens on February 21, 1872, and closes on December 31, 1875. Mrs. Fain lived in Rogersville, Tennessee, while writing this journal. The entries are not in chronological order. Eliza appears to use all available space for her comments, often making short entries between the ledger's commissary notes. Some of her thoughts are scattered across several pages. The entries spanning multiple pages are often written in pencil, though most of the journal is written in ink. Toward the end of the volume, the entries are lengthier.

A devout Presbyterian, Mrs. Fain often quotes scripture and writes of her faith and thoughts on religion. She describes church life and includes prayers within the text of many of her entries. Eliza frequently writes on the Sabbath and documents the activities that took place at that day's church meeting; she occasionally includes excerpts from the sermon.

Eliza writes of regular visits with friends and family, concerns for her children, her travels in East Tennessee, and her husband's trips to Middle Tennessee. She documents traditional life events including children attending school, deaths of family members and friends, church and family activities, and holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

In the front of the volume, Mrs. Fain provides an informal table of contents of important entries and their corresponding page numbers.

On pages 5-6 and 15-21 Eliza records her thoughts on the Jewish faith saying, "God has favored us so highly – no other nation of earth has ever had higher privileges and greater manifestations – except the Jews – than we – but as in the Jewish history when they forsook the law of God – God gave them up – so we have forsaken our God and His judgements have fallen upon us and today we are a broken people. Sectional strifes and heart burnings Thou God of Heaven grant that we may be drawn by thy Holy Spirit to bear witness for the truth as it is in Jesus" (5-6).

Frequently found throughout the journal are newspaper clippings adhered to the pages. On pages 38-39 are clippings on topics such as "Thoughts for Young Men. As presented in a Sermon by Rev. T. V. Moore, D. D. at the First Presbyterian Church. Foundation of Intellectual and Moral Greatness—Elements of Success—Stability of Character." This is followed by newspaper articles on the "Death of Rev. Dr. T. V. Moore," pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, including clergy tributes and details of the funeral. Clippings on the life and death of Gen. Robert E. Lee (40, 41, 107), the "Late Gen. T. J. Jackson" (88-89), and obituaries for Mrs. Nancy Lynn (84-85), Mrs. Mary Ann Walker (215), and Eliza R. Powell (247), among others, are found throughout the journal.

For the entry dated August 15, 1870 (71), she writes, "This book has been given to me by my beloved husband to use as a journal, not as used when it was first opened [illegible], oblivion would be written if it could be done by many over the scenes of the last 8 years – but it cannot – a record is made for our beloved South which no one can blot from existence, but the great supreme ruler of the universe. And we who believed then that our cause, was the cause of truth justice and humanity have now changed our views. We believed our struggle was for liberty we think so still. Not only civil but religious. Our God was not pleased to give to us what we then desired, but I do believe if Christians are faithful we shall yet see the stately stepplings of the "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" [illegible] hand over hand we have a mighty work before us, may the great head of the church be our mighty refuge."

Readers will also find entries on a "congregational meeting for calling Rev. J. P. Gammon as minister at her local church" (131-132) and the meeting of the synod at Pulaski (161-164).

Eliza makes only brief references to African Americans. In May 1871, she comments on the death of former servant Polly who still lived on the family's farm in Rogersville. Eliza also remarks on the "troublesome" young Polly's transfer to another East Tennessee family (191-192).

An important topic that appears frequently in this journal is Eliza's belief that her sons Sam Fain and Powell Fain have a problem with alcohol. Her concern for her sons is evident. Several entries address their condition upon returning home from a trip to the city. On November 16, 1875, she writes, "Heart torn, crushed, and bleeding this morning. Last night my dear son Powel came home with the marks of the destroyer upon him..." (224). In another entry, she expresses disappointment in the lack of attention paid to her by one of her sons (285). Page 287 is covered with clippings about children's disobedience and ingratitude toward parents.

Eliza has sewn locks of hair to one page that are accompanied by the entry, "Wednesday, Dec. 29, 1871 This hair cut from Lillie Powel, Ellie Fain, Lillie Fain, and Winnie Powell, sewn in my book today by my own hands. These dear little children have been with us since Monday evening – They have had a pleasant time – and this will tell them in after years when they spent part of the Christmas holidays of 1871. I trust they may live to do good and be the devoted followers of their dear Savior" (219).

A genealogy of the Fain family is written on a loose document between pages 298 and 299.

**Physical Description/Extent:**

1 microfilm reel, 35 mm

**Accession/Record Group Number:**

Mf. 2037

**Language:**

English

**Permanent Location:**

Mf. 2037 (Available on microfilm only)

**Repository:**

Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0312

## **Administrative/Biographical History**

Colonel Richard Gammon Fain was born on March 6, 1811, in Rogersville (Hawkins County), Tennessee. In 1832, he graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, as a Brevet Lieutenant, First Artillery. He married his stepsister Eliza Rhea Anderson on December 17, 1833.

Fain's early military service came in the campaign against the Indians in the Northwest and during the Cherokee Removal in 1836. After leaving the army, he returned to civilian life as a merchant, bank officer, Clerk and Master of the Hawkins County Chancery Court, and president of the Rogersville & Jefferson Railroad. He served as postmaster at Rogersville from 1839 to 1841.

He joined the Confederate cause in 1861 as a major and Commissary General of the Provisional Army of Tennessee. After the Provisional Army of Tennessee was absorbed into the Confederate Army, Fain served as Assistant Commissary of Subsistence under General Felix K. Zollicoffer in Knoxville. In May 1862, he became the organizing colonel of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Tennessee Infantry, until he resigned in November 1863. He returned to civilian life after his war service, receiving a pardon from President Andrew Johnson in October 1865. He died on September 11, 1878, at Mossy Creek (Jefferson County) and is buried in the cemetery at Rogersville Presbyterian Church.

Eliza Rhea Anderson Fain was born on August 1, 1816, in Blountville (Sullivan County), Tennessee. Educated at the Knoxville Female Academy, she was a member of the Blountville Presbyterian Church. In 1833, at the age of 17, she married her stepbrother, Richard, eighteen months after her mother Elizabeth Rhea Anderson married Nicholas Fain. Eliza and Richard Fain were strong supporters of the Confederacy. They had thirteen children; all but one reached adulthood. Eliza kept a diary beginning in 1835 until she died on January 19, 1892, in Rogersville, Tennessee. She is buried in the cemetery at Rogersville Presbyterian Church.

Biographical information adapted from *Sanctified Trial: The Diary of Eliza Rhea Anderson Fain, a Confederate Woman in East Tennessee* edited by John N. Fain (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2004); *Tennesseans in the Civil War*, Part 2 (Nashville: Civil War Centennial Commission, 1964-1965); and *63<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Tennessee Infantry (Fain's) (74<sup>th</sup> Infantry)*, Civil War Soldiers and Sailors database, <http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm> (accessed July 30, 2013)

## **Organization/Arrangement of Materials**

Commissary ledger entries chronological; journal entries are random.

## Conditions of Access and Use

### Restrictions on Access:

None

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## Index Terms

### Personal/Family Names:

Fain, Richard Gammon, 1811-1878  
Fain, Eliza Rhea Anderson, 1816-1892

### Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:

Confederate States of America. Army -- Procurement  
Confederate States of America. Army -- Equipment --  
History -- 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Confederate States of America. Army -- Military life  
Confederate States of America. Army -- Medical care  
Rogersville Presbyterian Church (Rogersville, Tenn.) -- History

### Subjects:

Jews -- United States -- Attitudes  
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877) -- Sources  
Religion -- History -- Sources  
Women -- History -- Tennessee -- Sources

### Geographic Names:

Knoxville (Tenn.) -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865  
Rogersville (Tenn.) -- History -- 19<sup>th</sup> century

### Document Types:

Ledgers (account books)  
Journals

## **Acquisition and Appraisal**

### **Provenance and Acquisition:**

Ledger was loaned for microfilming on March 26, 2013, as part of the Looking Back: The Civil War in Tennessee digitization project in Morristown, Tennessee.

## **Processing and Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation:**

Confederate Commissary General, Provisional Army of Tennessee (Knoxville), Ledger, 1861-1862; Journal of Eliza Rhea Anderson Fain, 1872-1875; Tennessee State Library and Archives.

### **Processing Information:**

Processing completed by Kelly Wilkerson in October 2013.

### **Existence and Location of Originals:**

Original is at the Longstreet Headquarters Museum in Morristown, Tennessee.

### **Related Archival Materials:**

John N. Fain Collection, McClung Historical Collection, East Tennessee History Center.

### **Electronic Location and Access:**

<http://www.tn.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/mf2037.pdf>

## DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

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### CONTAINER LIST

<b>Contents/Item Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Volume</b>
Ledger & Journal	1861-1862; 1872-1875	1