

Physical Description:

Rectangular watercolor in a rectangular gold wood and glass frame. The painting shows the RIA prison camp as viewed from just above the North gate. The painting shows numerous prisoners at work and rest inside the camp while four guards are in the foreground at the top of the wall. The painting shows some fading and discoloration. Dimensions are for framed work; work itself is 13.25 in. x 17.50 in.

Markings:

"MAIN AVENUE MILITARY PRISON ROCK ISLAND." at the bottom of the painting, with "ILL" penciled in after this; "JOHN F. GISCH" in lower left corner; "NORTH GATE" penciled in under the gate; "Sept. 1864" in lower right; "Mrs. Cole/#3687 Green/16 x 20 and Dark Matt/ \$1.25" written on the back; There is another mark, though illegible, on the back.

Remarks:

The artist, John F. Gisch, was a Confederate prisoner of war at Rock Island Prison Barracks. He was a member of Company A, 24th Alabama Infantry Regiment. He was captured at the Battle of Missionary Ridge, which was one of the conflicts of the Siege of Chattanooga, TN. This siege consisted of the Battle of Orchard Knob on 23 Nov. 1863, the Battle of Lookout Mountain on 24 Nov 1863, and the Battle of Missionary Ridge on 25 Nov 1863. He arrived at the Rock Island Prison Barracks on 9 Dec 1863 and was assigned to Barrack 17. He was released from confinement on 17 June 1865.