

Collection #  
M 1255

**WILLIAM WATLINGTON  
CIVIL WAR RECOLLECTIONS AND DOCUMENTS,  
1901-1930**

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Processed by

Morgan Lee Wilson  
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: One box

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1901-1930

PROVENANCE: Daryl Walker for the Estate of William Watlington Dow;  
Pittsboro, NC.; March 2015

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE  
FORMATS:

RELATED  
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2015.0090

NOTES:

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

William Watlington was born Feb. 6, 1842 to William and Hannah (Hewson) Watlington. He enlisted with the Union's 3rd Calvary in Indiana as a Private on June 11, 1863 and joined them in Fairfax, Virginia where they were a part of the Army of the Potomac. He was promoted to Full Corporal and mustered out on August 7, 1865 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Watlington married Ida Van Zant. He went on to become a manager in a finance office and died Nov. 23, 1930. He had one daughter, Belle (Dow).

Sources:

*Ancestry, Library Edition*, Accessed October 5, 2016.

Information in Collection.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection includes 7 notebooks of Civil War recollections from William Watlington written approximately 60 years later. It also includes a photocopied handwritten family tree and speeches that Watlington made to The Grange, formally known as the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, in early 1900. This organization was founded in 1867 and advocates for rural America and agriculture. There are also stories. Speeches and stories include: "Reminiscence of the Underground R.R.", a story on economical methods in farm work and management, a sketch of the character of Washington, "The Farmer's Education", a sketch of the army life of Washington (with a second chapter on Washington in the Revolution), "Topic- Should anything but dollars and cents be counter as income on the farm?", an explanation of the causes of the Civil War, and "The Importance of Learning to Talk".

Watlington dedicates his recollections to Mrs. Mary E. Larrick in respect of her grandmother Mrs. Harriet Haines, who saved him from being captured by Confederate soldiers. The first journal starts in 1863 when Watlington enlists. It goes through Morgan's Raid on Indiana, Bull Run, Gettysburg, and Killpatrick's Raid to Richmond in February 1864. The second journal covers Grant's campaign and Sheridan's famous raid. The third follows Watlington through the Shenandoah, the Battle of Opequon, and the Battle of Cedar Creek. The fourth follows the campaign from the fall of '64 to spring of '65 and the fifth to the Battle of Appomattox Court House and Lee's surrender.

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