

Collection #
P 0869

**50TH INDIANA INFANTRY REGIMENT PHOTOGRAPHS
CA. 1861–1865**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 folders of photographs

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1861–1865

PROVENANCE: Gift from Virginia Easley of Pennsylvania, July 2023; the photo album had been bought by her brother at an auction in Ohio

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2023.0093

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

During the first year of the Civil War, the 50th Indiana Infantry regiment of Union volunteers was organized in Seymour in Jackson County. The unit mustered in on 12 September 1861, with Cyrus Livingston Dunham, former U.S. Congressman from Salem, Washington County, as Colonel. The unit left Seymour on 25 October, marching through Jackson, Lawrence, Orange, Washington, and Floyd counties to New Albany, making stops to enlist new recruits. The regiment left New Albany on 25 December for Bardstown, Kentucky, where it went into a camp of instruction and stayed there until February 1862.

The unit proceeded to Nashville, Tennessee, via Bowling Green, Kentucky. It was on guard duty along the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad until September 1862. It then moved to Munfordsville, Kentucky, until being paroled and sent to Indianapolis, where the unit stayed until 1 November. It arrived in Jackson, Tennessee on 10 November. On 31 December it engaged the enemy and captured five hundred prisoners.

In the spring of 1863, the regiment moved to Collierville, Tennessee, and then Memphis. In August the regiment was transferred to Arkansas, engaging the enemy at Little Rock. On 10 September, the unit moved to Lewisburg, Arkansas, where it remained on garrison duty until March 1864. On 2 March 1864, three hundred and fifty men of the regiment reenlisted as veterans.

The regiment joined Major General Frederick Steele's command, marching on the Camden Expedition through Arkansas, engaging in the following battles: Terre Noir on 2 April, Prairie D'Ane on 9–13 April, Red Mound and Camden on 17 April, and Saline River on 30 April. The regiment returned to Little Rock on 5 May and stayed there until late July, when it left for Indiana on veteran furlough, reaching Indianapolis on 6 August.

On 25 September 1864, the unit returned to Little Rock, where it remained on garrison duty for some months. On 31 December the non-veterans were mustered out and the veterans and recruits, numbering four hundred and fifty, consolidated into a battalion of five companies. On 5 January 1865, it marched with General Eugene A. Carr's expedition to Saline River, which it occupied for ten days.

In February 1865 the regiment left Arkansas on transports and on the 23rd of that month joined Major General Edward Canby's army near Mobile, Alabama. The unit participated in the siege of Spanish Fort from 27 March to 8 April and was present at the capture of Mobile on 12 April. It was also engaged in a skirmish at Whistler's Station on 13 April.

The regiment was then transferred to the Third Brigade, Second Division of the Sixteenth Army Corps, and on 26 May 1865 consolidated with the 52nd Indiana regiment. The transferred men continued to serve until 10 September 1865 when the 52nd regiment was mustered out at Montgomery, Alabama. The unit reached Indianapolis on 16 September 1865 and was present at a public reception given to returned troops on the Capitol grounds where they were addressed by Governor Oliver P. Morton and others.

By the end of the war, two hundred and eighteen men from the 50th Indiana Infantry regiment had died. Three officers and fifty-four enlisted men were killed or mortally wounded, and three officers and one hundred and fifty-eight enlisted men died from disease.

Sources:

Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana, vol. 2. Indianapolis: W.R. Holloway, State Printer, 1865. Reference Room: E 506.2 I39 T4 1865 v. 2

Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana, vol. 5. Indianapolis: Samuel M. Douglass, State Printer, 1866. Reference Room: E 506.2 I39 T4 1865 v. 5

“Union Indiana Volunteers: 50th Regiment, Indiana Infantry.” National Park Service: The Civil War [Battle Unit Details - The Civil War \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/battle-unit-details-the-civil-war) Accessed 14 November 2023.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of portraits of Civil War soldiers that were removed from a photograph album that was in poor condition. Sixteen of the thirty-two portraits have been identified as being of soldiers who served in the 50th Indiana Infantry. The other sixteen portraits include some well-known high-ranking officers, soldiers from other states, and some men not well-identified. All but two of the portraits are photographs in the carte-de-visite format; one is a photocopy of an illustration from a newspaper, and one is a reproduction of a photograph on paper.

The portraits are arranged so that those from the 50th Indiana Infantry appear in alphabetical order by last name in Folder 1. The others are arranged alphabetically in Folder 2. Numbers 1-32 written in brackets on the backs of the photos represent the original order in which they appeared in the album.

The portrait of Levi B. Davis has an inscription on the back: “Levi B. Davis / Sergt. Major 50th Regt. / Ind. Infy. Vols. / Enlisted a Private Sept. / 1st 1861. Presented to / his Friend Hamil[?] / July the 24th 1863.” The friend, Hamil, could not be identified, but perhaps the photograph album belonged to him.

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Members of the **50th Indiana** Infantry regiment of Union volunteers:

Albert Adams [(1830–1894); 1st Lieutenant with Co. D; later Quartermaster; lived in Bloomington; married Nancy J. Snider]

Joseph M. Anderson [(1839–1899); 1st Sergeant, 1st Lieutenant, Captain with Co. C; from Salem in Washington County; married Catherine Kistler]

Horace Newland Attkisson [(1828–1875); Captain with Co. C, promoted to Major; from Salem in Washington County; married Mary Ann Thomas]

Moses Cole [1st Lieutenant with Co. E; lived in Vevay in Switzerland County]

Levi B. Davis [born in Clear Spring, Jackson County, in 1832; lived in Medora; 1st Sergeant, Sergeant Major, 1st Lieutenant; served with Co. B, Co. A, and Co. F; died in Iowa in 1889; married Eliza Callahan in 1848; married Catherine Ann Henning in 1878]

Francis W. Johnson [name written on photo as Lt. F.W. Johnston; no Johnston was found in records, but Francis W. Johnson, born ca. 1831, who lived in Seymour, served with Co. K as 1st Lieutenant]

James H. Johnson [name written on photo as Lt. James H. Johnston; no Johnston was found in records, but James H. Johnson, who lived in Seymour, served in Co. K, transferred to Co. C, transferred again to 52nd Indiana regiment; served as 1st Sergeant, 2nd Lieutenant, and Captain]

Thomas H. Jones [1st Sergeant in Co. F; later served as Adjutant for regiment; born ca. 1841; lived in New Albany in Floyd County]

CONTAINER

Folder 1 of 2

Members of the **50th Indiana** Infantry regiment of Union volunteers (continued):

Folder 1 of 2

John F. Leonard [(possibly 1836–1872); Sergeant, 1st Lieutenant, Captain; served with Co. D; lived in Louisville, KY; may also have lived in Monroe County, IN; wife's name was Sarah]

Joseph L. Marsh [(1822–1906); 1st Lieutenant and Captain; served with Co. C; lived in Salem in Washington County; also lived in Harrison County; married Sarah J. Leslie in 1845]

Jacob McHenry [(ca. 1827– 29 May 1864); lived in New Washington in Clark County; 1st Lieutenant with Co. I; died of wounds as prisoner at Princeton, Arkansas; married Mary E. Davis in 1851]

David C. Rook [Corporal and Sergeant Major with Co. F; transferred to 52nd Indiana regiment; from Orange County]

Benjamin Franklin Scott [(born 1838 in Clear Spring, Jackson County; died 1906 in Medora); Private and Postmaster with Co. A; married Mary Cummins in 1887]

Arnold F. Singer [(born ca. 1842; died 1886); Corporal and Sergeant in Co. A; married Susan M. Rees in 1867; in 1880 he worked in Lafayette as a sewing machine agent (and yes, his name was Singer)]

James H. Watts [Sergeant and 1st Sergeant with Co. D and Co. E; transferred to 52nd Indiana regiment; from Lancaster (Jefferson County)]

Samuel Thornton Wells [(1821–1901); Captain, Major, Lieutenant Colonel; served with Co. A; from Vallonia in Jackson County; married Mary Catharine Durham in 1849; married Mazie V. Willson in 1865 in Illinois; died in Denver, Colorado]

Other Civil War soldiers, **not** identified as being with the 50th Indiana regiment:

Folder 2 of 2

[C. G. Bruggen?] [written on back is: Clyde, Sandusky Co., Ohio; photograph made in Louisville, KY]

E. M. Flenniken [possibly Elijah Marion Flenniken (born 1824 in Ohio; died 1896 in Missouri); served in the Signal Corps; written on back is: Ocoy(?), Ills; photo made in Louisville, KY]

[John H. Girt?] [Signal Corps]

Everton Thomas Lakin [(1836–1911); 30th Ohio Infantry, Co. B; transferred to Signal Corps; written on back is: Gilmore, Ohio; married Elizabeth Prudence Bernard]

John Alexander Logan [(1826–1886); Colonel and Major General of the 31st Illinois Infantry regiment, which he organized; known by his nickname “Black Jack;” commanded the XV Corps in Sherman’s Atlanta and Carolinas campaigns; Congressman and Senator from Illinois; author; founding member of the Grand Army of the Republic; designated Decoration Day (later known as Memorial Day) as a national holiday; born in Illinois; died in Washington, DC; married Mary Simmerson Cunningham in 1855]

[Captain Long?] [name is not very legible]

Frank McGraw [possibilities include soldiers with this name (or Francis McGraw) who served with 1) 2nd Michigan Infantry, Co. H; 2) 3rd Massachusetts Infantry, Co. D; 3) 40th Massachusetts Infantry, Co. A; 4) 99th Indiana Infantry, Co. I (organized in South Bend); and other soldiers with this name; this portrait was made in Fall River, Massachusetts]

L. Morgan [Signal Corps; written on back is: Lewistown, Ohio]

Peter Joseph Osterhaus [born in Prussia in 1823; Colonel of the 12th Missouri Infantry; commanded the First Brigade in the Pea Ridge campaign; Brigadier General with General Grant’s Army of the Mississippi; Major General in command of the XV Corps in Sherman’s March to the Sea; after the war he

served as U.S. Consul to Lyon, France; last surviving Major General to have served in the Union Army in the Civil War; died in 1917 in Germany]

Peter Joseph Osterhaus [a second portrait, reproduced on paper, is included, which shows him standing; “Missouri History Museum” is written below it; this was inserted inside the back cover of the photo album]

William Tecumseh Sherman [born in 1820 in Ohio; Colonel of the 13th U.S. Infantry; Brigadier General; Major General; commanded XV Corps, Army of the Tennessee; Military Division of the Mississippi, and Department of the Missouri; battles included First Bull Run, Shiloh, Vicksburg; campaigns included Chattanooga, Atlanta, Savannah (March to the Sea), and the Carolinas; after the war served as Commanding General of the U.S. Army; died in New York City in 1891; married Eleanor Boyle Ewing in 1850; photo made in Louisville, KY]

[H. J. Shynard?] [name is not very legible; photograph was made in Marion Ohio]

John F. Sigler [(1840–1879); born in McConnelsville, Ohio; served in Signal Corps; died in Kansas; his signature is on the back of the photo: “Yours Truly / J.F. Sigler / U.S.A. / McConnelsville / (Morgan Co) Ohio”]

[Captain Tiff?] [name is not very legible]

Henry “Harry” Lloyd White [(1834-1920); from Indiana, Pennsylvania; Captain, Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel with the 67th Pennsylvania Infantry; Brevet Brigadier General; after the war served as U.S. Congressman from Pennsylvania; photocopy of portrait clipped from a newspaper that was glued to the inside front cover of the photo album]

Henry Ziesing [born in Germany in 1828; died in Illinois in 1909; served as 1st Assistant Surgeon with the 53rd Illinois Infantry (writing on photo says 54th Ill. Infy); photo made in St. Louis, MO]