

Collection #
SC 2794

BENJAMIN F. HAVENS COLLECTION, 1861–1914

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 manuscript folders, 1 photograph folder, 5 artifacts
COLLECTION DATES:	1861–1914
PROVENANCE:	Historical Collectible Auctions, Graham, NC, June 2005

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2005.0248

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Benjamin Franklin Havens was born on 24 July, 1837, in Burlington—now known as Arlington—in Rush County, Indiana. His parents were Elizabeth Oliver and John Parker Havens, and he had eight brothers and four sisters. His early education was at a subscription school, and in 1858 he earned enough money to attend Indiana University's teaching school.

In 1862 Havens helped to raise part of Company F, 89th Indiana Volunteers regiment for the Union cause in the Civil War. It was mustered into service in Wabash in August, and ordered to camp Morton, in Indianapolis, equipped, and sent to Munfordville, Kentucky, to reinforce the garrison. In an engagement there, the 89th was stationed close to the 5th Ohio battery. The noise of the weapons damaged Havens' ear drum so much, he was deaf in his right ear. He retired from the army and returned home.

He married his wife in 1863. In 1865 he moved to Terre Haute where he worked in a law practice and in the fire insurance business. He was a member of the Indiana Legislature from 1874–78, and served as Mayor of Terre Haute from 1879–81. He worked as the Superintendent of Construction of the Government Building in Terre Haute from 1891–94, and was the Chief Officer as Executive Commissioner at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago from 1891 to 1894. When the Spanish-American War started, Havens was commissioned as an Assistant Paymaster in the army. He served in that capacity in Cuba and the U.S. until the war ended. He returned to Terre Haute where he tried to pick up his business again, but was not successful. When his health also began to fail, he moved to Thomasville, Georgia, to live with his daughter. He died in January 1914.

Sources:

Materials in collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of two manuscript folders. The first one contains a journal in which Havens wrote biographical information. It starts with handwritten notes of his youth, and includes typed reminiscences of his time in the army, how he met his wife, and his children. The second folder contains a newspaper clipping of a letter Havens wrote during his time in Cuba, a handwritten note of what was said at his funeral, and a Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States for his funeral. There are also five artifacts in the collection: an epaulet, shoulder strap, and belt buckle from his Spanish-American war uniform, a Grand Army of the Republic medal, and a silver napkin ring. The

visual folder has five photographs in it. Two of the images are albumen prints of Havens: one a portrait of him in his Spanish-American War uniform, the other a portrait of him later in life. There is also an albumen print of a portrait of his wife, and two tintypes of his children.

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Biographical notebook, 1909

Papers, 1912–14

Five artifacts: Epaulet, shoulder strap, belt buckle,
G.A.R. medal, silver napkin ring

Photographs, n.d.

CONTAINER

Folder 1

Folder 2

Artifacts: 2005.0248

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Folder 1

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 2794).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.