

Collection #
SC 3582
OM 0731

**DR. WILLIAM A. COLLINS
COLLECTION, 1861–1889**

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Processed by

Paul Brockman
June 2019

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

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

**VOLUME OF
COLLECTION:** 3 manuscript folders, 1 oversized folder

**COLLECTION
DATES:** 1861–1889

PROVENANCE: George A. “Buster” Finch, III, April, 2019

RESTRICTIONS: None

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**ALTERNATE
FORMATS:**

**RELATED
HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION
NUMBER:** 2019.0128

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dr. William Andrew Collins (1842–1883) was born in Carroll County, Kentucky, but soon moved to Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana, with his family. Collins had just graduated from Hanover College when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted as a Hospital Steward in the 6th Indiana Regiment in August 1861 and was promoted to full Assistant Surgeon the following year.

Collins was discharged in September 1864, after serving his three years' service. After the war, Collins returned to Madison where he practiced medicine until his death from a heart attack in May 1883.

Collins married twice during his lifetime. In January 1865, he married Hattie N. Barbour (1840–1871). They had one son who died in infancy. After her death, he married Sallie E. Lewis (1852–1935) in December 1875. They had one son, Frederick Lewis Collins (1877–1945).

Sources:

Ancestry, Library Edition, accessed 5 June 2019
Information in Collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains official materials pertaining to the Civil War service of Dr. William A. Collins. Included are enlistment and promotion documents and discharges, 1861–1864; a contract with a Union Army Surgeon, Col. R. C. Wood, 1865; and a certification of Collins' service to the Union during the war, 1889. Also included is Collins diary from 1864 which includes entries from April–September as well as cash accounts and some medically related writings. Also included is a biographical booklet on Collins' life entitled *The Boy Surgeon*, published in 1882 and written by Lieutenant A. J. Grayson. The booklet contains a detailed first-hand account of Collins' bravery during the war.

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