

Collection #
SC 0010

**EDWARD B. ALLEN
PAPERS, 1854–1864**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 4 manuscript folders

COLLECTION
DATES: 1854–1864

PROVENANCE:

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS: DC006, “United States Volunteer Service”
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id/29](http://cdm16797.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/dc006/id/29)

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 0000.1259

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Edward B. Allen was a resident of Terre Haute, Vigo County, Indiana. A year after Terre Haute was reorganized from a town into a city, the Vigo County Council was formed in 1854 with Allen as one of its founding members. Allen was then appointed as the Vigo County Auditor in 1859. Allen later abandoned his office of Auditor to volunteer in the Union Army on 1 August 1862, joining the 71st Regiment of Indiana Volunteers as a Private in Company B. Despite only being formally commissioned as a private, Allen was elected as Captain by the members of his company on 16 August 1862. From that point, Allen acted, presented, and was recognized as a Captain by his authorities, the public, his fellow officers, and his units during his service despite never receiving a formal commission for the rank from the governor.

The 71st Regiment was immediately sent to the field in Kentucky where they participated in the Battle of Richmond on 30 August 1862. According to Allen, the regiment had only gotten the chance to drill once before the battle took place. In the aftermath of the battle, 215 men from the regiment were killed or wounded and another 347 were taken prisoner and paroled with only 275 men escaped. Allen describes the battle, the circumstances of it, and lists the casualties in a report found within the collection. The regiment and its paroled men returned to Terre Haute after the battle where they were reorganized into the 6th Indiana Cavalry Regiment in late September 1863. Allen resigned before this was finalized.

Allen was reappointed as the Auditor of Vigo County in October 1863 but again abandoned his office in May 1864 to join Company D of the 133rd Indiana Volunteers as a private, where he served until the end of the war. Additionally, In July 1864, Allen was appointed Clerk to the Court Martial under Clerk to the Court Martial under Captain John S. Tarkington.

Following the conclusion of the war, there was a legal dispute involving Allen and a newly elected Auditor because of Allen's abandonment of his office of Auditor of Vigo County without appointing a deputy to serve in his place for the duration of his absence.

Sources:

Materials in the Collection

Proffatt, John, and A. C. Freeman. *The American Decisions: Containing All the Cases of General Value and Authority Decided in the Courts of the Several States, from the Earliest Issue of the State Reports to the Year 1869*. Vol. 83. San Francisco: A.L. Bancroft and, 1878.

"Vigo County Timeline of History: Chronological Index." Vigo County Public Library. Accessed August 19, 2019. <http://www.vigo.lib.in.us/spc/timeline/chrono>.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers primarily consist of letters from a variety of people responding to requests from Edward B. Allen to speak either to troops or at local political meetings and rallies taking place in Terre Haute during the period of 1860–1864. The other documents contained in the collection include official appointments, a detailed report on the battle and casualties in of Richmond, Kentucky for the 71st Indiana Volunteer Regiment, a copy of the *Chattanooga Daily Rebel* for 21 June 1863, a *History of the 71st/6th Cavalry Regiments*, and a poetic letter from October 1861 to Allen from R. Hudson describing marching South with the Union Army to meet the Rebel forces in Missouri. Correspondents include A. H. Conner, Milton A. Crane, Charles Cruft, William Cumback, Charles D. Drake, John Hanna, R. Hudson, Henry S. Lane, Oliver P. Morton, Lazarus Noble, John Shuman, Caleb B. Smith, Abel D. Streight, William H. H. Terrell, David Turpie, John P. Usher, and Joseph A. Wright.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

24 August 1854

Folder 1

Official Document authorizing the creation of the Vigo County Council and the appointment of its founding members: James Hook, Tindall A. Madison, William B. Warren, and Edward B. Allen by Indiana State Council President Godlove S. Orth. 1p.

28 October 1859

Folder 1

Official Document appointing Edward B. Allen to the office of Auditor for Vigo County by Governor Ashbel P. Willard. 1p.

1 March 1860

Folder 1

Letter from Henry S. Lane to Edward B. Allen accepting an invitation from Allen to attend a ratification meeting at Terra Haute. 1p.

25 June 1860

Folder 1

Letter from John P. Usher to Edward B. Allen withdrawing his name from candidacy to becoming a representative of Vigo County. 1p.

26 August 1860

Folder 1

Letter from A. H. Conner to Thomas H. Nelson about a speaker coming to Terre Haute to speak on September 5th. 1p.

31 August 1860

Folder 1

Letter from A. H. Conner to Edward B. Allen about a speaker coming to Terre Haute to speak on September 5th. 1p.

14 September 1860

Folder 1

Letter from Henry S. Lane to Edward B. Allen declining an invitation to attend a Republican Rally on October 6th in Terre Haute because he is too busy with appointments. 1p.

20 September 1860

Folder 1

Letter from William Cumbback to Edward B. Allen declining an invitation. 1p.

24 September 1860 Letter from John Shuman declining a request. 1p.	Folder 1
18 October 1861 Letter from R. Hudson to Edward B. Allen from the headquarters of the Western Department on the Osage River in Missouri. Hudson writes that he wishes Allen were with him, the possibility of his own approaching death in battle, and poetically describes marching south in the Union Army to meet the Rebels. 1p.	Folder 1
25 December 1861 Letter from Colonel Charles Cruft to Edward B. Allen wishing him a Merry Christmas from Headquarters. He thanks Allen and other friends and apologizes for his hasty reply but invites him and others to come and see him. 1p.	Folder 1
10 May 1862 Envelope for a letter to B. W. Hanna. 1p.	Folder 2
10 May 1862 Envelope for a letter to Edward B. Allen. 1p.	Folder 2
8 July 1862 Letter from Adjutant General Lazarus Noble to Edward B. Allen responding to Allen's letter from the 7th with instructions for recruits regarding transportation to their regiments. 1p.	Folder 2
14 July 1862 Letter from Governor Oliver P. Morton to Edward B. Allen writing that Allen did not come see him before he left like he had wanted him to and then inquiring about someone Allen had brought with him when visiting the last winter. 1p.	Folder 2
10 May 1862 Letter from Adj. Gen. Lazarus Noble to Edward B. Allen with an enclosed letter from C. W. Brown to B. W. Hanna of Terre Haute that had been found suspicious during inspections. Noble had been directed to send this letter to Allen by Gov. Oliver P. Morton for investigation. 1p.	Folder 2

10 May 1862

Folder 2

Letter from C. W. Brown to B. W. Hanna found enclosed in the letter from Adj. Gen. Lazarus Noble to Edward B. Allen, underlining done by Noble to draw attention to the passage that is of concern. The underlined segment anticipates news from his friends about some things being done on his behalf and some things he asked to be picked up for him. 1p.

16 July 1862

Folder 2

A private letter from Senator Joseph A. Wright to Edward B. Allen about having no desire to run for any kind of office or for maintaining the one that he has and instead writes of settling down on an Indiana farm once he has been replaced. 1p.

8 September 1862

Folder 2

A report for the 71st Indiana Infantry Regiment on the circumstances, events, and casualties of the Battle of Richmond written by Edward B. Allen. 11p.

4 November 1862

Folder 3

Letter from Richard W. Thompson to Colonel Henry B. Carrington alerting him that Edward B. Allen would be talking to him. He provides details about Allen's situation and Allen's request for being discharged from the 71st Regiment so that he may return to his position as Auditor of Vigo County and hopes that Carrington will be able to assist him. 1p.

11 November 1862

Folder 3

Letter from John Hanna to Edward B. Allen regarding George P. Wilson and some land near Terre Haute. 1p.

30 January 1863

Folder 3

Letter from Caleb B. Smith to Edward B. Allen replying to a request from Allen for him to address a meeting and stating that he will be unable to leave town for a few weeks and thus will not be able to accept the request. 1p.

- 3 February 1863 Folder 3
Letter from Charles. D. Drake to Edward B. Allen responding to compliments made by Allen and regretfully turning down an invitation to speak at Terre Haute and possibly Indianapolis as well due to business. He recommends Allen look for speakers within Indiana rather than looking outside of his state for them. 3p.
- 21 March 1863 Folder 3
Letter from Henry S. Lane to Edward B. Allen declining an invitation to speak at a Union event on April 4th due to prior business engagements. 1p.
- 21 March 1863 Folder 3
Letter from Caleb B. Smith to Edward B. Allen declining an invitation to a Union event on April 4th as well as a meeting on the 19th. 1p.
- June 21 1863 Folder 4
A page from the Chattanooga Daily Rebel with updates on the war. 1p.
- 13 September 1863 Folder 4
Letter from Adj. Gen. Lazarus Noble to Edward B. Allen with orders to move the 71st Indiana Regiment to Camp Dick Thompson near Terre Haute to be furloughed and reorganized and requests a roll of all of those who were killed, wounded, missing, taken ransom and paroled, or escaped. 1p.
- 28 December 1863 Folder 4
Letter from William H. H. Terrell to Edward B. Allen requesting Allen's support of his candidacy. 1p.
- 28 October 1863
Official Document appointing Edward B. Allen to the office of Auditor for Vigo County by Governor Oliver P. Morton. 1p.
- 26 March 1864 Folder 4
Letter from Abel D. Streight to Edward B. Allen informing Allen that he will be speaking at Vincennes and so, if the train is on time, will also be able to speak in Terre Haute that evening. 1p.

- 25 July 1864 Folder 4
 Special Detail from Adjutant Milton A. Crane to Edward B. Allen appointing him to the position of Clerk to the Court Martial and instructing him to report to Captain John S. Tarkington immediately for duty. 1p.
- 22 February 1864 Folder 4
 Letter from David Turpie to Edward B. Allen writing of the death of W. K. Rochester. 1p.
- 15 December 1864 Folder 4
 “The President’s Thanks and Certificate of Honorable Service” to the Volunteers for One Hundred Days presented to Edward B. Allen. 1p.
- Unconditional Union Party Ticket of candidates for the positions of State Legislator, County Auditor, County Recorder, Appraiser of Real Estate, and County Commissioner. 1p. Folder 4
- Unconditional Union Party Ticket of candidates for the positions of Mayor, Marshal, Treasurer, Clerk, Assessor, Engineer, School Trustees, and Councilman. 1p. Folder 4
- A History of the 71st Regiment, 6th Indiana Calvary along with a list of officers. 2p. Folder 4