EDWARD B. ALLEN
PAPERS, 1854–1864

Collection Information
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Processed by

Shawn Dailey
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
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**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

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<th>4 manuscript folders</th>
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<td>1854–1864</td>
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<td>PROVENANCE:</td>
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<td>ALTERNATE FORMATS:</td>
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<td>DC006, “United States Volunteer Service”</td>
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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 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.

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 the battle 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.
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24 August 1854

28 October 1859

1 March 1860
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
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
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
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
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
Letter from William Cumback 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.
10 May 1862
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
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
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
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

30 January 1863
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  
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  
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  
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  
A page from the Chattanooga Daily Rebel with  
updates on the war. 1p.

13 September 1863  
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  
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  
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
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.

Folder 4

22 February 1864

Folder 4

15 December 1864
“The President’s Thanks and Certificate of Honorable Service” to the Volunteers for One Hundred Days presented to Edward B. Allen. 1p.

Folder 4

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