ELIJAH H. C. CAVINS
PAPERS, 1829–1904

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

Processed by
Paul Brockman
25 June 2001

Revised 8 November 2001

Manuscripts and Archives 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 boxes, 2 oversize folders, 3 photograph albums, 3 photograph folders, 8 OVA photograph folders, 1 OVB photograph folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1829–1904

PROVENANCE: Mr. & Mrs. Walter Brassert, 265 E. South St., Bloomfield, Indiana, May 1978

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: David Enoch Beem (M 0015); Aden G. Cavins (M 1194)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1978.0508

NOTES:
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Elijah H. C. Cavins (1832–1910) lived most of his life near Bloomfield in Greene County, Indiana, where he was a prominent lawyer and politician. When the Civil War broke out, Cavins abandoned his law practice to organize a company for the 14th Indiana Volunteer Regiment, the regiment with which he was to serve for all but a few months of his three-year enlistment. He fought at the battles of Winchester, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and numerous smaller engagements, and eventually rose to the rank of colonel. When his enlistment expired in June 1864, Governor Morton appointed him to the position Adjutant General for the Southern Division of the state.

After the war, Cavins returned to his law practice in Bloomfield, but he retained his interest in the Civil War. He was active in the affairs of the Grand Army of the Republic, served on the Indiana Battlefield Commissions for Antietam and Gettysburg and compiled records of the 14th Indiana, and wrote articles and speeches on military and political affairs.

Sources:
Original collection guide.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The main portion of the collection contains Cavins' correspondence, the largest part of which are the 151 letters written by Col. Cavins to his wife and other family members during the Civil War, 1861–64. In these letters Cavins discussed the regiment's activities, the soldiers' camp life, morale, the abilities of commanding officers, the effects of the war on Virginia, and the reactions to dissent at home. Also included is Cavins' diary for 1864 and official reports of the 14th Indiana and its actions at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. There are transcripts and an index to Cavins' Civil War letters.

Papers relating to Cavins' interest in veterans and historical materials relating to the 14th Indiana and the Civil War include accounts written by other members of his regiment on their battlefield action. Other items include Cavins' appointment to the Gettysburg Memorial Commission and relating correspondence, 1885–95, and the Constitution, Minutes & By-Laws of the Veteran Company of the Indiana Legion, 1863–65. Also included are general papers and documents of the Cavins, 1829–1904.

Photographs in the collection include group portraits of the 14th Indiana Regiment at reunions. Albums contain portraits of Civil War generals and soldiers, and family photographs.
### SERIES CONTENTS

#### Series 1: Civil War Letters and Documents, 1861–65

**CONTENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>CONTAINER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letters to Family, 1861</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters to Family, Jan.–May 1862</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters to Family, June–Dec. 1862</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters to Family, Jan.–May 1863</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters to Family, June–Sept. 1863</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters to Family, Oct. 1863–Nov. 1864</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters Written by Cavins’ Family &amp; Friends, 1861–65</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diary, 1864; Military Correspondence, Letters, Orders &amp; Reports, 1862–64</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter Book</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muster rolls and Morning Reports, 1861–64</td>
<td>OM 0011, Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poem by Cook with 14th Indiana, n.d.; copy of Letter from Confederate Diplomat to Russian Grand Admiral, April 1862</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Series 2: Veterans Organizations & Regimental Histories, 1863–1900

**CONTENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>CONTAINER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partial Histories of Companies B, d &amp; E sent to Cavins, n.d.</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writings on Military Matters, Drafts of Articles &amp; Speech, 1864, n.d.</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appointment to Gettysburg Memorial Commission &amp; Correspondence, 1885–95</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes on Military Matters, n.d.</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft of Speech for GAR Reunion, 1900</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Indiana Legion, Veterans Company, Constitution, Minutes & By-Laws, 1863–65

Box 2, Folder 10

Scrapbook of Newspaper Clippings Regarding the Civil War, n.d.

Box 2, Folder 11

Three Photograph Albums of Civil War Generals

Visual Collections: Albums

**Series 3: Family Papers & Documents**

**CONTENTS**

Correspondence, 1886–1910

Box 1, Folder 9

Notebook on Law; Draft of Speech for 1880 Election

Box 2, Folder 3

Deeds & Appointments

Box 2, Folder 5

Wills, Cemetery Papers, Family Histories

Box 2, Folder 6

Family Financial Papers, 1865–1904

Box 2, Folder 7

General Materials, n.d.

Box 2, Folder 8

Newspaper Clippings

Box 2, Folder 9

History of Cumberland Presbyterian Church, n.d.

Box 2, Folder 12

Documents and Appointments, 1829–50

OM 0011, Folder 1

Cavins Family Photographs

Visual Collections: Photograph, Folders 1-4

Cavins Family Photographs

Visual Collections: OVA Photographs, Folders 1-8

Cavins Family Photographs

Visual Collections: OVB Photographs, Folder 1

**Series 4: Transcripts of Correspondence**

**CONTENTS**

Transcripts, Correspondence, Index

Box 3, Folder 1

Transcripts, Correspondence, June–Dec. 1861

Box 3, Folder 2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transcripts, Correspondence, Jan.–May 1862</th>
<th>Box 3, Folder 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transcripts, Correspondence, June–Dec. 1862</td>
<td>Box 3, Folder 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcripts, Correspondence, Jan. 1863–May 1863</td>
<td>Box 3, Folder 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcripts, Correspondence, June–Sept. 1863</td>
<td>Box 3, Folder 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcripts, Correspondence, 1863–64</td>
<td>Box 3, Folder 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>