

**Collection #
SC 3053**

**GENERAL JAMES C. VEATCH
LETTER, 1892**

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

Kate Scott
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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: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1892

PROVENANCE: Historical Collectible Auctions, Graham, North Carolina

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: James C. Veatch Papers, 1843–1935. Manuscript Collection: M 0287, BV 3288–BV 3294, OM 0486, F 1304–F1307; Veitch, William A. *James Clifford Veatch: Scholar, Solicitor, Statesman, and Soldier*. [Redmond, Oregon?]: W. A. Veitch, 1980. Pamphlet Collection: E467.1.V43 V45 1980

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2004.0143

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James Clifford Veatch (1819–1895) was born in either Harrison or Spencer County, Indiana to Lucinda Ramsey Veatch and Isaac Veatch, who was a farmer and a Baptist clergyman. He spent the first part of his childhood in Spencer County and in Meade County, Kentucky. After the deaths of both of his parents, he resided with relatives in Harrison County.

As an adult he returned to Spencer County, and began teaching school in Luce Township in 1838. He was almost immediately elected Spencer County School Office Examiner, an office he would hold until 1848 and again during the years 1854–59. In 1839 he married Eliza Anderson, with whom he would have nine children.

In 1841 Veatch set up a legal practice and continued his career in public service: he was appointed constable and trustee of Ohio Township, and was elected Spencer County Auditor, an office he would hold until 1855. In 1843 he founded the *Rockport Herald* newspaper and served as president of the Rockport and Gentryville Road Company. He ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1856, and in 1860 was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Chicago. The same year he began a term in the Indiana House of Representatives, but resigned in order to enlist in the Union Army.

Veatch entered military service in August 1861 as a colonel with Company C, 25th Indiana Infantry. He took part in actions at Shiloh, Vicksburg, and Atlanta, among others. He mustered out as Major General in August 1865, and returned to practicing law. In 1869 Governor Baker appointed him Adjutant General of Indiana. The following year he became collector of internal revenue for Indiana's First District, a position that was expanded in 1876 to also include the Second District. Veatch retired in 1884 and died in Spencer County in 1895.

Benjamin W. Austin, born in New York in 1855, was a merchant who amassed a collection of thousands of autographs, photographs, and letters from famous individuals, many of which are available at libraries and universities today. He sent requests to well-known people under his own name and the names of the “Northwestern Literary and Historical Society” of Sioux City, Iowa and the “Trinity Historical Society” of Dallas, Texas. One of his places of residence was Oak Cliff, Texas, an area annexed by Dallas in 1903.

Sources:

Collection Guide, James C. Veatch Papers, 1843–1935. Manuscript Collection: M 0287, BV 3288–BV 3294, OM 0486, F 1304–F1307

Collection Materials

The Critic 20.522 (20 February 1892), 116.

Iowa Census Records

United States Census Records

United States Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861–65

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This short collection consists of a single letter, dated 13 October 1892, from Major General James C. Veatch of Rockport, Indiana to Ben W. Austin of Oak Cliff, Texas. In it, Veatch apologizes for the delay in his response and explains that he had been trying to find a photograph to send to Austin, but did not come across any. However, he says that he has ordered some and will send one along when they are ready. He follows this with a brief description of his military career, and signs the letter “James C Veatch.”

The letter is almost certainly one of the thousands of responses Austin received in his quest for letters, signatures, and photographs of famous individuals, and provides firsthand information for researchers interested in either Veatch or Austin.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Letter from Major General James C. Veatch to Ben
(Benjamin) W. Austin, 13 October 1892

CONTAINER

Folder 1 of 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 (in this case, SC 3053).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.