

Collection #
SC 0067

**HERVEY BATES, JR.
LETTERS, 1853-1863**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1853-1863

PROVENANCE: Gift of Robert C. Martindale, Tangier, Morocco, May 1967

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Bates House, 1908, W.H. Bass Photo Company
<https://indianahistorylibrary.on.worldcat.org/oclc/870235656>

Bates House, 1890, W.H. Bass Photo Company
<https://indianahistorylibrary.on.worldcat.org/oclc/870233642>

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1967.0000.007

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Hervey Bates Jr. (1834-1929) was an Indianapolis hotel owner, businessman, and Major in the 132nd Indiana Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. His father, Hervey Bates Sr., was an early Indianapolis settler, the first sheriff of Marion County, and the first President of the Indianapolis branch of the State Bank of Indiana. Bates Jr., after serving in the Union Army as a Major for four months in 1864, followed his father into the business world, becoming President of the American Hominy Company and working in the banking and railroad industries. In 1876, Bates Jr. took over his father's ownership of Bates House, one of the largest and most famous hotels in the city. Around that time, Bates Jr. and his wife Charlotte built a French Chateau-style home at the intersection of 13th and Delaware Streets that became a local landmark until it was torn down in the 1960s. Bates Jr. retired to California, where he died in 1929 at the age of ninety-five.

Sources:

Materials in the Collection

“Hervey Bates, Age 95, Dies in California.” *The Indianapolis News*. 26 January 1929. Page 37. https://www.newspapers.com/clip/20766549/hervey_bates_full_obit/

Browne, Tiffany Benedict. “Preservation Denied: 1305 North Delaware Street.” *Historic Indianapolis*. 31 May 2011. <https://historicindianapolis.com/preservation-denied-and-died-1305-north-delaware-street/>

“Hervey Bates, Jr.” Historical Data Systems, Inc. via www.civilwardata.com

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is composed of two letters written to Hervey Bates Jr. The first letter was written in 1853 by his father, Hervey Bates Sr., while Bates Jr. was serving a tour in a local militia unit. In the letter, Bates Sr. expresses surprise that Bates Jr. is handling the manual labor and harsh conditions of the tour so well after spending so much time indoors at college. The second letter was written in 1863 by Indianapolis real estate agent Frank Smith, informing Bates Jr. of an offer from a Mr. Noel to buy his Delaware Street property. The collection also contains correspondence between Caroline Dunn, an Indiana Historical Society librarian, and Robert C. Martindale, a relative by marriage of the Bates family who donated the Bates Jr. letters to IHS via his friend Eli Lilly. This correspondence provides background information on Bates Jr. and a summary of the letters' contents.

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Letters, 19 Aug. 1853 and 23 Apr. 1863

CONTAINER

Folder 1