

Collection #
SC 3147

**JAMES ADDISON CRAVENS
PAPERS, 1846-1919**

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April 2016

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

**VOLUME OF
COLLECTION:** 2 manuscript folders

**COLLECTION
DATES:** 1846–1919

PROVENANCE: Rebecca Feldman, Bremen, IN

RESTRICTIONS: None

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HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION
NUMBER:** 2015.0133; 2023.0062

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James Addison Cravens (1818–1893) was born in Rockingham County, Virginia and moved to Hardinsburg, Indiana with his father in 1820. His military career began when he served in the Mexican-American War as major of the Second Indiana Volunteers (1846-47) and became a commissioned brigadier general in 1854. Cravens held multiple elected positions throughout his life. He was a member of the State House of Representatives (1848–49), State Senate (1850–53), United States House of Representatives for Indiana's 2nd district in the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth Congresses (1861-65), and delegate to two national conventions (1866 and 1868). Following public service, Cravens engaged in agricultural work. He and Susan G. Hardin married on September 21, 1843 and they had five children: Aaron Asbury (1844-1926), Benjamin H. (1848-1932), Virginia Ella (1850-1938), John Robert (1853–1940), and Ella Harriett (1861-1936).

Sources:

Ancestry.com. *U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

Biographical Directory of the American Congress. Retrieved April 7, 2016 from <http://bioguide.congress.gov/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains a diary and papers relating to James A. Cravens. Cravens kept the diary beginning on June 17th, 1846 when he rendezvoused with other Indiana volunteers in Fredericksburg before marching to New Albany, where all the regiments assembled. Cravens was elected as Major of the 2nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Cravens continues to document his journey leaving New Albany, taking a steamboat to New Orleans, and then on to Mexico. Once arrived in Saltillo, he discusses troop movements and details the events he experienced leading up to and taking place during the Battle of Buena Vista on February 23, 1847.

The rest of the collection is made up of letters to and from James A. Cravens, the majority of letters dating from 1855–1865. Two letters, dated 1906, are written by Junius E. Cravens and S.E. Jackson. Also contained in the collection are two handwritten notes; one authorizing Cravens to teach a district school in Washington County, dated January 1845; and the other appointing Cravens a District Trustee in Washington County, to serve from January to October 1845. Also included is a 1919 Department of Interior certificate with a photostat copy of a land grant dated 1820 made out to Levi Tyler for land in Jeffersonville, Indiana, signed by President James Monroe.

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James Addison Cravens diary, 1846-1847

James Addison Cravens papers, ca. 1857–1919

CONTAINER

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