

JAMES ARTHUR ILIFF PAPERS, 1845-1883

Collection #
M 0154
OMB 0009

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Processed by
Charles Latham
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	.66 c.f. (1 manuscript box; 1 oversize box)
COLLECTION DATES:	1845-1883
PROVENANCE:	Mrs. Benner Davenport, Indianapolis, Indiana
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
RELATED HOLDINGS:	
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1975.1201
NOTES:	None

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James Arthur Iliff (1845-1908) was born in Newton, New Jersey, the son of Richard W. Iliff, a painter, and Mary M. Drake. He moved with his parents to Indianapolis about 1850. In 1864 he enlisted in the Union army. He served first as sergeant-major, then in 1865 was commissioned lieutenant, in the 109th Colored Infantry. He was mustered out in February 1866. During a brief interval of civilian life, he married Cynthia Adele Willard, daughter of William and Clara Young Willard, and this union was soon blessed with issue. In 1867 Iliff again joined the army, serving in Texas at Fort Bliss among other places. Military duty in Texas at this time largely consisted of maintaining the peace against Indians and cattle rustlers. After a little more than three years of service, Iliff returned to civilian life, partly because of eye trouble, partly because frontier service was hard on a wife and two small children. He returned to Indianapolis, and engaged in the hat business.

William Willard (1809-1888), Iliff's father-in-law, was born in Rockingham, Vermont, a "deaf-mute." Having attended school in Hartford, Connecticut, he taught at a school for the deaf in Columbus, Ohio, where he married Clara Young, also a teacher and deaf. He moved to Indianapolis in 1843, and campaigned for a school of the deaf. Such a school was begun in 1844, and a handsome building to house it was built on East Washington Street in 1850. Willard remained on the school's staff. In 1862 he was involved in a suit against the school's trustees when his salary was set below that of hearing teachers.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling one manuscript box and one oversize box, consists primarily of military papers, with some correspondence and minutes. It is arranged chronologically.

In Box 1, Folders 1-8 contain papers of the military career of James Iliff, 1865-1870. One interesting series (Folders 1-2) shows Iliff struggling with army red tape as he tries to get mustered out and paid as a sergeant major after being promoted to lieutenant. Folder 9-11 are photocopies of papers re: William Willard and his work at the School for the Deaf, and genealogical material about the Iliff and Willard families.

In Oversize Box 2 (OMB 0009) are papers from Iliff's second stint as an officer, covering the years 1868-1869. There are several records of courts-martial, as well as more routine matters such as accounting for the loss of a tent.

BOX AND FOLDER INVENTORY

Box 1

Folder Contents

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Correspondence 1865 |
| 2 | Correspondence 1866 |
| 3 | Correspondence 1868 |
| 4 | Ordnance stores 1868 |
| 5 | Correspondence January-March 1869 |
| 6 | June-December 1869 |
| 7 | Quarterly reports on stores 1869 |
| 8 | Quarterly reports on stores 1870 |

- 9 Re: William Willard 1849-1864;Willard v. Trustees
- 10 Re: Institute for the Deaf and Dumb
- 11 Biographical, miscellaneous

Box 2 (OMB 0009) Military records 1868-1869
Folder Contents

- 1 Muster-in, Muster-out Rolls, 1866
- 2 Military Records February-September 1868
- 3 Military Records October-December 1868
- 4 Military Records January-February 1869
- 5 Military Records March-June 1869
- 6 Military Records July-August 1869
- 7 Military Records September 1869
- 8 Military Records: October-December 1869

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](#)
2. Click on the "Local Catalog" icon.
3. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and **four** digits (e.g., M 0715, SC 2234).
4. When you find the collection, go to the "Holdings" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.

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