

Collection #
M 0154
OMB 0009

JAMES ARTHUR ILIFF PAPERS, 1845-1883

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

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 1 oversize manuscript box, 1 photograph folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1845-1883

PROVENANCE: Mrs. Benner Davenport, Indianapolis, Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1975.1201

NOTES:

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 NOTE

This collection, filling one manuscript box and one oversize box, consists primarily of military papers, with some correspondence, photographs, 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.

CONTENTS

BOX 1

CONTENTS

Correspondence, 1865

Correspondence, 1866

Correspondence, 1868

Correspondence, 1868

Correspondence, January-March, 1869

Correspondence, June-December, 1869

Quarterly Reports on Stores, 1869

Quarterly Reports on Stores, 1870

Re: William Willard, 1849-1864; Willard v. Trustees

Re. Institute for the Deaf and Dumb

Biographical, miscellaneous

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 1, Folder 10

Box 1, Folder 11

OMB 0009: Military Records, 1868-1869

CONTENTS

Muster-in, Muster-out Rolls, 1866

Military Records February-September 1868

Military Records October-December 1868

Military Records January-February 1869

Military Records March-June 1869

Military Records July-August 1869

Military Records September 1869

CONTAINER

OMB 0009, Folder 1

OMB 0009, Folder 2

OMB 0009, Folder 3

OMB 0009, Folder 4

OMB 0009, Folder 5

OMB 0009, Folder 6

OMB 0009, Folder 7

Military Records: October-December 1869

OMB 0009, Folder 8

Visual Materials

CONTENTS

Photographs: Iliff Family ca. 1888, James A. Iliff with
Lucinda

CONTAINER

Visual Collection:
Photographs, Folder 1