

Collection #
M 0287
BV 3288–3294
OM 0486
F 1304–1307

**JAMES C. VEATCH
PAPERS, 1843–1935**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 boxes, 7 bound volumes, 1 oversize folder, 4 reels microfilm

COLLECTION DATES: 1843–1935

PROVENANCE: Lawrence R. Guthrie, College Park Maryland, July 1957

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: SC 1499 James Clifford Veatch, [Speech], 1881

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1957.0712

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James Clifford Veatch was born 19 December 1819 in Spencer County, Indiana to Isaac and Lucinda Ramsey Veatch. His father was a farmer and Baptist clergyman. In 1823 the Veatch family moved to Kentucky, but returned to Spencer County two years later. Following the death of both parents, the children were split up in 1833, and Veatch went to live with relatives in Harrison County, Indiana. He later returned to Spencer County where he farmed until 1837. In 1838 he began teaching school in Luce Township and was elected Spencer County school office examiner which he held until 1848 and from 1854–1859. In 1839 he married Eliza Anderson with whom he had nine children

In 1840, Veatch was admitted to the bar and in 1841 he set up a legal practice. In that same year he was appointed constable of Ohio Township, township trustee, and was elected Spencer County auditor, an office he held until 1855. In 1843 he started the Rockport *Herald* newspaper and served as president of the Rockport and Gentryville Road Company.

Veatch continued his legal practice as a criminal defense lawyer from 1855 until 1860. In 1856 he ran for Congress on the Republican ticket but was narrowly defeated. He was an active member of the Republican Party and was a delegate to the 1860 party convention in Chicago. He was also served in the State Legislature but resigned his office in 1861 to enlist in the Union Army.

In August, 1861, Veatch was commissioned a colonel in the 25th Indiana Regiment. Following the Battle of Shiloh, he was promoted to brigadier general. He also participated in the Battle of Corinth and in Sherman's Campaign on Atlanta but illness forced him to take a leave from his military duties. After he recovered, he was reassigned to the Department of the Gulf, and participated in the Mobile Campaign. He was mustered out as a major general for his service in Mobile.

After the war, Veatch returned to his legal practice. In 1869 Governor Baker named him Adjutant General for Indiana; a position he held for one year when he became collector of internal revenue for the 1st District. In 1876 became collector for the 2nd district as well.

In 1884 Veatch retired to private life although he kept up his correspondence with his political and veteran friends. He died in Spencer in December 1895.

Sources:

Previous Collection Guide.

History of Warrick, Spencer and Perry Counties, Indiana. Evansville, IN: Unigraphic, 1965.

Sifakis, Steveart. *Who was Who in the Union, Vol. 1*. New York: Facts on File, 1988.

A Biographical Directory of the Indiana General Assembly, Vol. 1. Indianapolis: Select Committee on the Centennial History of the Indiana General Assembly, 1980–1984.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence centers on Veatch's business and politics after the Civil War. There is little material on his family or his involvement in the Civil War.

The pre-Civil War letters deal with political and business matters. The Civil War letters included correspondence between Veatch and other officers, orders, and diary logging events occurring during a portion of Veatch's command, January July 1864 (BV 3290).

The greatest portion of this collection comes from Veatch's political career, 1866-1884. Included are several hundred letters as well as letterbooks (BV 3291-3294) which contain copies of political and personal correspondence.

The collection also includes two scrapbooks (BV 3288-3289) that contain newspaper articles and other items of interest from the period. The papers also contain some genealogical records compiled by Veatch's family in 1935.

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