JAMES N. CHAMBERLAIN
PAPERS, 1864–1889

Collection Information
Biographical Sketch
Scope and Content Note
Contents
Cataloging Information

Processed by
Paul Brockman
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1854–1889 inclusive; bulk 1864–1865

PROVENANCE: Cowan's Auctions, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio, July 2010

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2010.0201

NOTES:
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James Chamberlain (1822–1898) was born in Cayuga County, New York. After teaching school briefly in Richland, Ohio, he entered Western Reserve Medical College in Cleveland and graduated from there in 1849. He moved from Ohio to DeKalb County, Indiana in 1853 residing first in Auburn and later in Waterloo. From 1860–1862 he served as DeKalb County sheriff. Chamberlain enlisted in the Union Army in April, 1865, and was commissioned a surgeon with the 152nd Indiana Regiment. He was mustered out with his regiment after the war.

Chamberlain was twice married. In 1849 he wedded Catherine Brink and they had four children. Catherine Chamberlain died in March, 1861, and in 1862 he married Sarah Thomas.

Sources:


SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The largest and most important part of the collection consists of 10 letters written by Chamberlain to his wife, Sarah, and children while serving as a surgeon with the 152nd Indiana Regiment in West Virginia, June to August, 1865. Subjects include the demobilizing of the Union Army after the war in regards to protecting supplies, mustering out process and the caring for wounded soldiers. Although the 152nd did not see action, Chamberlain did attend to diseases among the troops such as one who died from typhoid fever. In his letter of June 25th, he relates that some of the regiment was sent into the local town (Berryville) to act as pickets for the returning Confederate soldiers were causing disturbances.

Among the other items in the collection is a July 7, 1865 letter to Sarah Chamberlain from the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company stating that since her husband is in the army, his life insurance policy will be terminated unless she pays an additional premium and a January 8, 1889 letter to James Chamberlain from his daughter Ella who is married to an attorney and doing well.
CONTENTS

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

Papers, 1864–1889

Folder 1
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:
   http://opac.indianahistory.org/
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 2872).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.