

Collection #  
M 0557

**JOSEPH M. RABB  
PAPERS, 1860–1925 (BULK 1860–1865)**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 1 manuscript box

**COLLECTION DATES:** Inclusive 1860-1925; Bulk 1862-1865.

**PROVENANCE:** Charles W. Gray, Cool, California, 4 September 1990

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

**REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:** Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

**ALTERNATE FORMATS:** Photocopies of transcripts

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** None

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 1990.0554, 1990.0562

**NOTES:**

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Joseph M. Rabb (1846-1925) was born in Fountain County, Indiana. He attended common school in Perryville. In 1862, he enlisted in Company "K" of the 71st Indiana Regiment (6th Cavalry) at the age of 16. He was taken prisoner at Richmond around August, 1862, but he was soon paroled and exchanged. Rabb returned to service in the Union Army and saw action in east Tennessee, Knoxville, Atlanta and Nashville attaining the rank of corporal. He returned home following his honorable discharge on June 17, 1865. In the fall of 1865, Rabb entered Indiana Asbury College (now DePauw University) but left after one semester for financial reasons. He then began studying law in the office of Williamsport attorney Joseph H. Brown, becoming a partner two years later. After Brown's death, Rabb joined in legal partnership with first Alvin High, then Charles B. McAdam, both of Williamsport. In the early 1880s he was elected as a member of the Republican Party to the 21st judicial court (Warren Circuit Court). He was reelected in 1888 and 1894. From 1907-1911 Rabb served on the Indiana Appellate Court. He died at Logansport, Indiana, in April, 1925.

### Sources:

*Biographical History of Tippecanoe, White, Jasper, Newton, Benton, Warren and Pulaski Counties*, 1899 (2 vols.), pp. 59-60.

Terrell, W.H.H., *Report of the Adjutant General, Indiana*, v. 6, pp. 157.

Family records and clippings supplied by Charles W. Gray.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of the collection consists of approximately 125 letters written by Rabb from 1862-1865 to his sister, Ella, and his mother while he was serving in the Union Army during the Civil War. The letters were written from Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia and contain information about military actions, troop movements, leadership, camp life, news about local men and friends serving in Company "K" of the 71st Indiana Regiment, advice, events at home and comments about current events such as the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. There is also a set of typed transcripts of the letters. The papers also include Rabb's furlough, September, 1862, his discharge papers, memorial tributes following his death in 1925 and a photocopy of his parole after his capture by the Confederates.

One photograph of Company "K's" barracks at Camp Nelson, Kentucky, 1863-1864 (stored M 0557, OVA) and one tintype (M 0557, loose tintypes) of three Union soldiers (one may be Rabb) are stored in visual collections.

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Transcripts of Letters, 1865

Company "K's" Barracks at Camp Nelson, Kentucky,  
1863-1864

Tintype of Three Union Soldiers

### CONTAINER

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Visual Collection: OVA  
Photograph, Folder 1

Visual Collection:  
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