

Collection #
SC 3191

**RHODA M. COFFIN
ESSAY, 1902**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 folder

COLLECTION
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NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Rhoda M. Coffin (1826–1909) was born in Greene County, Ohio, and grew up in a Quaker household. She and her husband, Charles F. Coffin, lived in Richmond, Wayne County, but traveled throughout Indiana preaching and reporting on the conditions of the Indiana State Prisons. They discovered that women prisoners were whipped, raped, and made to strip in public. Mrs. and Mr. Coffin were able to persuade the state legislature to fund a woman's prison with a girl's reformatory connected to it. Rhoda Coffin was named to the Woman's Board of Trustees, and along with two other women, oversaw the financial operations for the facilities.

Sources: ancestrylibrary.com

Information in Collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Coffin's essay, entitled "Some Account of the Origin and Conduct of the Woman's Prison and Girls' Reformatory at Indianapolis, Indiana," is an account of the conditions of the prisons and concludes that most women were treated terribly. She set out to make a woman's prison with women guards. She concludes that it became the best run prison in the state, and the reform school was the first of its kind.

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CONTAINER

Box 1 , Folder 1