

Collection #
M 0766

STEPHENSON-MCCAULEY FAMILY PAPERS, 1862–1952 (BULK 1862–1865)

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Processed by

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 manuscript box
COLLECTION DATES:	1862-1952 (bulk 1862-1865)
PROVENANCE:	John Goll, 440 W. 44 th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208, 31 July 2000

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2000.0955

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James H. Stephenson (b. ca. 1840) lived in Leesburg (Kosciusko County), Indiana. His parents, Samuel and Dorcas Stephenson, were farmers on land they purchased in the governmental land auctions of 1834. James enlisted on 18 August 1862 as a sergeant in the 74th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, Company K. He remained in service until he mustered out as a first lieutenant on 9 August 1865 in Washington, D.C. After the war James returned to his life as a farmer.

Jerry E. Stephenson (b. 1842), brother to James H. Stephenson, was born in Van Buren Township (Kosciusko County), Indiana. He remained on the family farm until 17 February 1864 when he enlisted as a private in the 74th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, Company I. Jerry remained in service until 9 August 1865 when he mustered out in Washington, D.C.

Jerry Stephenson married Mary M. Thomas on 25 February 1864 and the union bore five children. After the war Stephenson was involved in several business ventures including Stephenson & Son, a pharmaceuticals business; Zimmerman & Stephenson, which dealt with dry goods; and Berst & Stephenson, involving the steam elevator. From 1869-80, Jerry served as postmaster in Leesburg and became sheriff in 1884.

The 74th Indiana Volunteers organized in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and were mustered in at Indianapolis on 21 August 1862. They joined the second brigade, first division, of the Army of the Ohio on 5 September in Louisville, Kentucky, in pursuit of General Bragg. The regiment participated in the Chattanooga campaign in the assault of Missionary Ridge and marched with General Sherman's army in the campaign against Atlanta. The regiment mustered out in Washington, D.C., on 5 August 1865.

Jacob (b. ca. 1797) and Sarah Stinson were farmers in Washington Township (Kosciusko County), Indiana. They bore eight children. John Stinson enlisted in the 129th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, Company G, on 7 March 1864. He was discharged for disability on 9 June 1865.

Homer Capehart (1897–1979) was born in Algiers (Pike County), Indiana. He served in World War I in the 12th United States Infantry from 1917-19, where he was promoted to sergeant. In 1944 he was elected to the U.S. Senate and was reelected in 1950 and 1956. While serving as senator, Capehart was a member of the Committee on Banking and Currency (83rd Congress) and chaired a joint committee on Defense Production (83rd Congress). After his term in office, he returned to Indiana.

Walter Long (1881–ca. 1960) was born in Leesburg, Indiana. Long served as a mail carrier in Pierceton Township (Kosciusko County).

Nan McCauley (ca. 1835) lived in Leesburg (Kosciusko County), Indiana. She was the daughter of Samuel and Dorcas Stephenson and wife of John McCauley. Further biographical information on Nan McCauley could not be found.

Sources:
Information in collection.
Biographical and Historical Record of Kosciusko County, Indiana, Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1887 (F532.K8 B6 1887).
Census of Indiana, 1860.
Combination Atlas Map of Kosciusko County, Indiana, 1879, Portland, IN: Kosciusko County Historical Society, 1974 (rrfolio G1403.K8 K5 1879).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection includes 55 letters written primarily by James and Jerry Stephenson to their sister Nan McCauley in Leesburg, Indiana, while serving in the 74th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, during the Civil War.

James H. Stephenson's letters date from 23 August 1862 to 22 May 1865. Written in pencil and ink, the letters describe his regiment's movements and duties, camp life, and activities of fellow soldiers, especially a George Moon. Stephenson mentions receiving letters and supplies from his parents Samuel and Dorcas Stephenson as well as correspondences from family friends. A later letter Stephenson wrote (7 July 1872) mentions harvesting his corn while living on his brother William's land.

Jerry E. Stephenson's letters date from 31 October 1864 to 19 April 1865. Written in ink, the letters describe his regiment's movements and positions, as well as his deeply religious nature and dedication to his duty.

Further manuscript materials within the collection include correspondence between Nan McCauley and a relative, Eliza Stephenson, who had just left Warsaw, Indiana, for Council Bluff, Iowa. Written in ink, the letter details Eliza's new accommodations and homesickness. Other letters include correspondence of Jacob and Sarah Stinson, also residence of Kosciusko County, and their brothers and sisters including the Adams, Groves, McGuire, and Gillham families. Their letters discuss family events and visits.

Within the collection are single letters between Sam Scott (30th Regiment, Company B) and Michael Kelley (20th Battery) to their respective families concerning their regiment's movements and personal well being. Both Scott and Kelley lived in Kosciusko County. Also included in the collection is a single letter and envelope (7 February 1869) from W. Clover to his sister Ellie Clover in Pierceton, Indiana, discussing the health of their mother and his recent purchase of a stove.

Legal documents are also included within the collection. These consist of one military claim (August 1865) and correspondence from the law firms of John D. Widaman, Warsaw, Indiana, and Allan Rutherford, Washington, D.C., concerning a lawsuit filed by Sarah Johnston. The lawsuit concerns the discharge of Sarah's late husband, Dr. John H. Long, during the war. Long served in the 5th Cavalry, 90th Regiment, Company M, until 2 August 1862 when he was transferred to the 6th Cavalry as Hospital Steward.

The most recent materials, dated 10 December 1955, are a set of envelopes and a letter to Walter Long of Pierceton Township (Kosciusko County), Indiana, from U.S. Senator Homer Capehart wishing him a happy holiday. The relationship between Sam Scott, Michael Kelley, W. Clover, Dr. Long, Homer Capehart, and Walter Long to the Stephenson and McCauley families is unclear.

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Letters, Envelopes, Dec. 10, 1955

CONTAINER

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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://157.91.92.2/>
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, M 0766).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.