

Collection #
SC 3497

**THEO I. ROBBINS
LETTER, 1884**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 1884

PROVENANCE: Donated by Jantha C. Rollings

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NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Battle of Lookout Mountain occurred on 24 November 1863, when Union General Ulysses S. Grant authorized General Joseph Hooker to move against the Confederate positions along Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga, Tennessee. Confederate General Braxton Bragg weakened the left of the Confederate line to strengthen forces along Missionary Ridge, allowing Union troops to force them to withdrawal from the mountain.

The Temperance movement in the United States grew out of reform movements starting in the 1830s and 1840s pushing for local, state, and national governments to prohibit the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcohol. The movement began to gain momentum by the late nineteenth century as increasing European immigration led to growth of the brewing industries. The growth prompted increased efforts from lobbyists to promote stronger local laws restricting the consumption of alcohol.

After the end of the Civil War, former Confederate states enacted a series of laws throughout 1865 and 1866 designed to assure white supremacy and replace social controls that had previously been connected to slavery. These black codes limited the economic, political, and social freedoms of newly freed slaves. While during the Reconstruction Era many of these codes were removed, when the era ended in 1877 they were reinstated as Jim Crow laws that enforced racial segregation. Many of these laws prevented black citizens from accessing their voting rights.

Sources:

"Battle of Lookout Mountain- November 24, 1863." *American Battlefield Trust*. Accessed August 28, 2018. <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/maps/battle-lookout-mountain-november-24-1863>

"Roots of Prohibition." *PBS*. Accessed August 28, 2018. <http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/prohibition/roots-of-prohibition/#top>

Urofsky, Melvin I. "Jim Crow Law." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Last modified August 20, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Jim-Crow-law>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of one letter written from Theo I. Robbins to his sister Mary Emma Robbins Heaton while he was traveling through the southern United States. The letter describes his travels from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Milledgeville, Georgia, and was written over the course of multiple days from 16 October 1884 through 19 October 1884. Robbins includes specific descriptions of Louisville, Kentucky; Chattanooga and Nashville, Tennessee; Atlanta and Augusta, Georgia. He discusses his opinions of the cities and areas he visited regarding topics such as the women living there, the state of education and the local economies, the Battle of Lookout Mountain during the Civil War, temperance movements, religious services, and local as well as Indiana politics. He also discusses Jim Crow laws enacted in Georgia to prevent black citizens from voting and his opinions on black Americans in general.

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Correspondence, Theo I. Robbins, 16 October 1884

CONTAINER

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