

Collection #
SC 0737
BV 2684-2685

THOMAS A. HENDRICKS PAPERS, 1855–1885

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 folders, 2 bound volumes

COLLECTION DATES: 1855-1885

PROVENANCE: Multiple sources

RESTRICTIONS: None

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

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDINGS AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: Because of his various official positions, Hendricks appears in a number of the IHS Library's manuscript collections. The most important are:

M 0008 Conrad Baker, M 0098 William H. English, M 0180 Henry S. Lane, M 0306 Worden Papers, SC 0775 William S. Holman

Hendricks is also the subject of a biography by John W. Holcombe (E 664 H49 H7 1886), and of numerous campaign biographies, including those by William Dorsheimer (920 D 7181) and Theodore P. Cook (324.092 C7711).

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 1938.0701, 1942.0104, 1942.0205, 1942.0405, 1950.1206, 1957.0106, 1957.0609, 1957.1205, 1958.0103, 1960.0304, 1963.0402, 1964.0503, 1964.0904, 1964.1104, 1966.0105, 1967.0404, 1973.0808, 1977.1007, 1977.1207, 1978.0209, 1978.0712, 1989.0280

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Thomas Andrews Hendricks (1819-1885) was born near Zanesville, Ohio, the son of John and Jane (Thomson) Hendricks. A year after his birth the family moved to Madison, Indiana, and two years after that settled in Shelby County. After attending local schools, Hendricks graduated from Hanover College in 1841. He attended a law school in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, where an uncle taught, and was admitted to the Indiana bar in 1843. Two years later he married Elizabeth Morgan; they had one son who died young.

In 1848 Hendricks was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives, and a year later to the state Senate. As a member of the state constitutional convention in 1850, he opposed allowing Negroes to come into the state. He served two terms (1851-1855) in the U. S. House of Representatives, and then was commissioner of the Land Office from 1855 to 1859.

Defeated when he ran for governor against Henry S. Lane in 1860, he served one term (1863-1869) in the U. S. Senate. There he opposed the draft, emancipation, and the issue of greenbacks. For various reasons he opposed the XIII, XIV, and XV Amendments. He supported President Johnson's plan of reconstruction, and opposed Johnson's impeachment.

Hendricks was elected Governor of Indiana in 1872. As one of the first Democrats to be elected to a northern governorship after the Civil War, he held an important place in the party. He was Tilden's running mate in the contested Presidential election of 1876. When Grover Cleveland was elected to his first term as President in 1884, Hendricks was his running mate. He died after nine months in office as Vice President.

Sources: Who Was Who, historical volume

Dictionary of American Biography

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, consisting of thirty-five documents and two scrapbooks, covers the years 1855-1885, and is arranged chronologically. It is an artificial collection to which additions will probably be made.

Most of the letters are written by Hendricks. Those from his period at the Land Office are often in the hand of a secretary.

Hendricks's correspondents include **Gideon Welles** (request by Hendricks that General John Love continue as an officer of the Gatling Gun Company which has moved to Hartford), and **John S. Tarkington** (commission as a justice of the peace, letter about a land warrant).

The longest series of letters is addressed to **Nahum Capen** (1804-1881) of Boston. Capen, a fellow Democrat, had been Boston postmaster (1847-1851), instituting street letter boxes and free mail delivery. He had written *Republic of the United States* (1848), and was working on *A History of Democracy in the United States*, which appeared in 1874. He would end his writing career with *Review of the Science of Phrenology* (1881). In his most interesting letters to Capen, Hendricks comments on the iniquity of the Radicals and the Reconstruction amendments, and discusses election prospects and how they will be affected by Federal bayonets and by the Tammany investigations.

In a letter to James R. Doolittle of 1-27-1877, Hendricks considers how the makeup of the Electoral Commission will be affected by the resignation of Justice David Davis and the choice of his successor on the Court.

Also included in the collection are two scrapbooks, mainly clippings of Hendricks's speeches and of his funeral, and two portraits, one a photograph and one an engraving.

FOLDER LISTING

Folder

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1 | 1855-1869 |
| 2 | 1870-1885 |

CALENDAR

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1855 Aug. 23 | TAH, General Land Office, to Benjamin Herr. Receipt of certificates. LS 1p |
| 1856 Mar. 17 | Andrew Jackson, Anderson, to TAH, Washington. Receipt for clock. ALS 1p |
| 1856 May 19 | TAH, General Land Office, to James W. Grimes, Governor of Iowa. Enclosing grant of land to State. LS 2p |
| 1857 July 7 | TAH, General Land Office, to Jno. A. Wilstach, Lafayette. Re lands in Iowa. LS 1p |
| 1858 June 28 | TAH, General Land Office, to J[acob] Thompson, Secretary of Interior. Request for two weeks leave of absence. ALS 2p |
| 1859 Mar. 16 | TAH, General Land Office, to Riggs Co. Enclosing land warrant. LS 1p |

1859 May 12 TAH, General Land Office, to I. A. B. Leonard. Re appointment in Land Office. LS 1p

1860 Mar. 1 TAH, Shelbyville, to Oscar Hord, Greensburg. Re advertisement in *Volksblatt*. ALS 1p

1864 Apr. 27 TAH, Washington, to J. S. Lyon. Re speech against [XIII] Amendment. ALS 1p

1866 May 23 John S. Tarkington, Indianapolis, to TAH, Washington. Re land warrant of Alfred Sloan. ALS 1p, with endorsement by TAH.

1866 Mar. 25 TAH, Washington, to Tarkington, Indianapolis. Re land warrant. ALS 2p

1867 Jan. 28 TAH, Washington, to Col. Gavin. Re opposition by Col. Lane to his appointment . ALS 3p

1868 Oct. 31 TAH, Washington, to Capt. Wm. Wines. Sorry I can't come to your city today. ALS 1p

1869 May 22 TAH, Indianapolis, to Nahum Capen, [Boston]. Thanks for book by Mr. Gillett. Many voters should see it before 1872. ALS 3p

1869 June 4 TAH, Indianapolis, to C. D. Walker, W. C. Powell, and T. H. Smith. Sorry I can't make speech before Virginia Dialectic Society. ALS 3p

1870 Apr. 12 TAH, Indianapolis, to F. C. Bethell. Re Adams and Crawford cases. ALS 1p

1870 Apr. 12 TAH, Indianapolis, to Nahum Capen. Though the XV Amendment was a revolutionary outrage, it has received an apparent sanction. It will lose the Republicans as many white votes as they gain in black votes. ALS 2p

1870 Apr. 30 TAH, Indianapolis, to Nahum Capen. It is important to drive the Radicals from power; if they continue at this rate, the XIII-XV Amendments will be all that is left of the Constitution. ALS 2p

1870 Oct. 1 TAH, Indianapolis, to Nahum Capen. Thanks for books and pictures. Election prospects. ALS 2p

1870 Oct. 20 TAH, Indianapolis, to Nahum Capen. Democratic success in Indiana election. Worried about possible Federal intrusion into New York election. ALS 2p

1870 Dec. 3 TAH, Indianapolis, to Nahum Capen. Results in Philadelphia and Georgia despite the force of Federal bayonets. ALS 2p

1871 June 3 TAH to Nahum Capen. Sorry I can't get to New England this summer. ALS 2p

1871 July 31 TAH to Nahum Capen. Doubt if I will get East this fall. ALS 2p

1872 Jan. 24 TAH to Nahum Capen. If there is a favorable change it will be because of dissatisfaction with the administration rather than because of Democratic strength. ALS 3p

1872 Mar. 25 TAH to Nahum Capen. Democrats are demoralized because of Tammany investigation. Wish Judge Davis could be elected. ALS 3p

1873 July 27 TAH, Indianapolis, to Gideon Welles. I understand the Gatling Gun Co. will be in your city. I recommend Gen. Love, former company president. ALS 3p

- 1874 Feb. 8 TAH to Nahum Capen. Reading advanced pages of your *History of Democracy* impresses me with its philosophical reflection and scholarly beauty. ALS 2p
- 1875 Sept. 24 Commission of John S. Tarkington as Justice of Peace (TAH's signature not in his hand). ADS 2p
- 1876 Feb. 5 TAH, Indianapolis, to L. Q. Washington. I agree I should make contact with Mr. [Watterson], but schedule makes it difficult to do so. ALS 2p
- 1876 Complimentary ticket (as Governor of Indiana) to Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia PFFI 1p
- 1877 Jan. 27 TAH to James R. Doolittle. I don't think Judge Davis will resign before March 4. He will favor Judge Drummond as his successor-- an ultra opponents of Democrats. I will drop a line to Sen. McDonald, who will have a good deal of influence. ALS 2p
- 1877 Oct. 29 TAH to Nahum Capen. Sorry I couldn't attend Episcopal convention in Boston and see you. ALS 1p
- 1878 Oct. 22 TAH to C. F. Cook. I will have to talk on a previously prepared subject-- Revolutions. I did not accept your invitation with a view to gain. ALS 1p
- 1883 June 14 TAH, Indianapolis, to Charles F. S. Neal. Your election by six trustees is not valid because a quorum was not present. ALS 1p
- 1885 July 11 Emily Thornton Charles to Vice Pres. TAH. States qualifications and need, and asks for job as librarian in some government department. ALS 3p Endorsed by TAH on 4th page, asking "some member of the present cabinet" to "prove a friend and patron."

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 0737).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.