

Collection #  
SC 0083  
F 0577

**THOMAS H. BENTON  
CIVIL WAR LETTERS, 1862**

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Processed by

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder; 1 reel microfilm

COLLECTION DATES: January – October 1862

PROVENANCE: Loaned for copying by Argus Ogburn of Richmond, Indiana through the Indiana Civil War Centennial Commission, 1963.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: Microfilm

RELATED HOLDINGS: Venner, William Thomas. *Hoosiers' Honor: The Iron Brigade's 19<sup>th</sup> Indiana Regiment*. Shippensburg, PA: Burd Street Press, 1998. E506.5 19th .V46 1998

Gaff, Alan D. *On Many a Bloody Field: Four Years in the Iron Brigade*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996. E506.5 19th .G34 1996

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1963.0078

NOTES: No originals in collection

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Thomas H. Benton was born on October 7th, 1841 in Richmond, Indiana to Thomas Benton and Susan Rhodes Benton. He volunteered for the Union Army on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1861 at the age of nineteen and was enlisted as a Sergeant in Company B of the 19<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry Regiment. This regiment fought in many of the major battles of the Civil War as part of the Iron Brigade, which had the highest casualty rate of any brigade in the war. Benton was shot twice during the Battle of Gainesville, Virginia on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1862, part of the prelude to the Second Battle of Bull Run. He died of his wounds in a Washington, D.C. hospital on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1862.

Sources:

Materials in the Collection

Thomas H. Benton in *U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865*.  
Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2009.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains photocopies and microfilm of twenty letters, most of which were written by Thomas H. Benton while deployed in Virginia to his father back in Richmond, Indiana. There are also letters from Washington, D.C. written by others after he is wounded in late August 1862 informing his family of his whereabouts, his wounds, and his death. One letter from a family friend presumed he died on the battlefield, but Benton wrote another letter home from the hospital several days later. Another letter is addressed to Benton's mother from his father, who travelled to Washington to try and locate their son. The final letter is from an Army nurse to Benton's father describing the last days of his life.

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Letters, 1862

Microfilm Copy of Letters

### CONTAINER

Folder 1

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