

Collection #
SC 0081

**WILLIAM H. BENNETT
CIVIL WAR LETTERS, 1862**

Collection Information	1
Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	3

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION
DATES: May 1862

PROVENANCE: Gift of Edward J. Bennett, Carmel, Indiana, October 1969

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 1969.1042

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William H. Bennett was born in New York in 1828. By 1860, he was living in Indianapolis with his wife Helen and two children Florence and Henry. In 1862, during the Civil War, he traveled as a civilian on the steamboat *Capitola* from Evansville, Indiana to Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee to transport sick Indiana soldiers back to Evansville. The *Capitola* also brought hospital supplies and food for the Union soldiers camped at Pittsburg Landing after the Battle of Shiloh. Bennett returned to Indianapolis and lived there until his death in 1899. He was buried in Crown Hill Cemetery.

Sources:

Materials in the Collection

“Wm H Bennett” in 1860 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009.

“William Henry Bennett (1828-1899)” Find A Grave.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/40043466>.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains four letters written by William H. Bennett to his wife Helen. Bennett wrote the letters while travelling on board the steamboat *Capitola* to pick up sick Indiana soldiers from Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee in May of 1862. The first two letters describe the landscape along the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers and the layout and architecture of the towns that the *Capitola* stopped at as it travelled. The boat stopped at Paducah, Kentucky and Fort Henry in Tennessee before arriving at Pittsburg Landing. Bennett's final two letters describe the condition of the soldiers at Pittsburg Landing, where sickness and lack of supplies were devastating the Union camp.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Letters, May 1862

CONTAINER

Folder 1