

**Collection #
BV 5574**

**WILLIAM S MARSHALL
CIVIL WAR MEMOIR, CA. 1900**

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Processed by

Matt S Holdzkorn
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 bound volume
COLLECTION DATES:	Circa 1900 (covers 1861-1865, including some contemporary letters, prints, and currency pasted or laid in.)
PROVENANCE:	Tracie Clawson, Lacey, Wash.
RESTRICTIONS:	Use of original is highly restricted due to condition. Patrons are asked to use digital copy.
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REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	Digital copy available. A partial transcription is also available in digital collection.
RELATED HOLDINGS:	Streight Family Collection, P0332; Lovina Streight Research Files, M1099
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2022.0021
NOTES:	

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William S. Marshall was the firstborn child of Hiram and Sarah Jane [DeMotte] Marshall. He was born August 29, 1837, in Parke County Indiana. Shortly thereafter the family settled in Greencastle, Putnam County. Three more children followed.

By 1860, William was teaching at the Indiana Institution for the Deaf & Dumb in Indianapolis. After Fort Sumter, he assumed that the South would be “speedily subdued.” As the war went on, he decided to join the Union cause. On the 14th of December 1861 he was mustered into the 51st Indiana Infantry, Company E, as a 1st Sergeant. He took on Adjutant duties on 29 November 1862, at which time he was transferred to Field & Staff.

In the last days of April 1863, Marshall and the 51st Indiana were part of Streight’s Raid, a campaign meant to destroy portions of the Western & Atlantic Railroad in Tennessee and Alabama. While marching near Cedar Bluff, Alabama, Streight’s forces were overtaken from behind by those of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest. After several skirmishes and pursuit by the Confederate cavalry, Marshall and about 1,500 other Union men were taken prisoner near Gaylesville, Alabama and taken to nearby Rome, Georgia.

Thereafter, Marshall was held captive in several places as a prisoner of war, including Libby Prison and Camp Sorghum. He made multiple attempts at escape but was recaptured. Finally, on his third attempt and with concealment aid from a Black family, he encountered a Union foraging party. He was rescued on 22 February 1865 and granted an honorable discharge from the army on 21 March 1865.

After the war, Marshall resumed his position at the Indiana Institution for the Deaf & Dumb. Over the ensuing decades, he taught at similar schools in Iowa and Missouri. In 1882 he married a fellow teacher of the deaf, Ellena Provines. By the turn of the century William and Ellena Marshall were living and working in Pasadena, California. William died there in 1909.

Sources:

Ancestry.com

Civilwardata.com

“Daughter of Pioneer Methodist Preacher,” *Indianapolis News*, 17 February 1904

Materials in the collection

“William S. Marshall” (obituary), *Daily Progress* (Pomona, California), 24 July 1909

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of the Civil War memoir of William S. Marshall. Marshall wrote it sometime after his service, probably with the aid of diaries he had kept at the time. In some places he includes portions of letters he wrote or received during his service. He also quotes from published accounts of the events therein, including newspaper articles and published memoirs. In some cases, he points out inaccuracies within published accounts. The result is a very detailed and compelling narrative that covers the time from his decision to muster in until his discharge. It describes military movements of the 51st Indiana up until Marshall's capture during Streight's Raid. It includes Marshall's description of the battlefield at Shiloh, but he was evidently not involved in the fighting there. Marshall illustrated the volume with Confederate currency and small prints, which are pasted in, and a couple of sketches of his own.

As an officer and prisoner of war, Marshall described the conditions in each of the places he was held, including Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia, Camp Oglethorpe at Macon, Georgia, a military prison in Charleston, South Carolina, and Camp Sorghum at Columbia, South Carolina.

The condition of the original volume is very poor. It was partially burned before being rescued from a house fire sometime in the 1980s. As a result, the text is incomplete, particularly towards the end, where the outside lower corner of each page is missing. **Use of the physical volume is highly restricted.** This item should be considered a digital-only resource, and a preservation scan is available in our digital collections.

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William S. Marshall Civil War Memoir

CONTAINER

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