

Collection #
M 0841

**WILLIAM S. (WILLIAM STANLEY) MEAD
COLLECTION, 1862–1934**

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Processed by

Emily Comstock
31 May 2005

Revised by Dorothy A. Nicholson
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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

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Manuscript Materials: 2 document cases
Visual Materials: 1 box of photographs, 1 OVA graphics box,
1 OVB photograph
Artifacts: 143 artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: 1862–1934

PROVENANCE: Mrs. Stanley Hammond, 1987

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: David Enoch Beem Papers (M 0015);
The Grand Army Blue-Book, E462.1.A27 A2 1889

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1987.0489

NOTES: The collection formerly numbered SC 2253 has been reprocessed and merged with this larger collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Stanley Mead was born on 16 April 1846 in Washington, Daviess County, Indiana. At the age of fifteen, he and his two cousins Levi S. and Alfred D. Mead enlisted on 12 September 1861 in Company E of the Sixth Regiment of the Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was soon appointed Corporal and named Regimental Color Guard.

He and his cousins participated in numerous battles, including Shiloh, Stone River, Liberty Gap, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Buzzard Roost, Resaca, Pickett's Mill, and finally New Hope Church in Georgia. That was where on 27 May 1864, Levi was killed, Alfred was severely wounded, and William S. Mead was wounded and captured by Confederate soldiers. He was transported to Andersonville Prison, where he was confined for six months. He was returned to the Union Army during a prisoner exchange at Fort Comfort, Virginia on Thanksgiving Day in November 1864. Mead was discharged from military service on 5 February 1865.

He married his first wife, Emma Jane Cosby, on 11 February 1866. She died 3 October 1867. They had one child named Anna Emma. On 28 December 1871, Mead married Amma R. Beem. They had five children together: Harry S., Cyrus D., Jessie B., William L., and Mary Mead.

William Mead spent the remainder of his years in Spencer, Owen County, Indiana. He held various occupations as railroad auditor, bank cashier, manufacturer, and cemetery superintendent. He was also involved in local affairs as a member of the Owen County Board of Children's Guardians, President of the Indiana Association of Cemetery Officials, alternate Indiana delegate to the 1900 Republican National Convention, Free Mason of the Spencer Lodge, No. 95, and member of the G.A.R. Gettysburg Post No. 93. He passed away on 28 December 1934, which would have been his 63rd wedding anniversary.

Sources: Materials in the collection.

Briant, Charles C. *History of the Sixth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry of Both the Three Months' and Three Years' Services*. Indianapolis: W. B. Burford, 1891. E506.4 C5 fiche nos. 164–169.

Doll, William H. *History of the Sixth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War, April 25, 1861, to September 22, 1864*. Columbus, IN: Republic Job, 1903. E506.4 C5 fiche nos. 170–171.

Grayson, Andrew J. *History of the Sixth Indiana Regiment in the Three Months Campaign in Western Virginia*. Madison, IN: Courier, 1875. E506.4 C5 fiche no. 172.

Kestenbaum, Lawrence. *The Political Graveyard Index*. 10 Mar. 2005
<<http://politicalgraveyard.com/index.html>>.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of documents pertaining to Civil War veteran, William S. Mead. Series 1 addresses personal aspects of Mead's life with summaries of Mead's military and civil careers, correspondence from Mead, and letters written to him, including two letters expressing gratitude from the White House. Also included is paperwork regarding his military pension, with supplementary information about his service and personal life, and drafts of several speeches Mead wrote, particularly those he gave at functions commemorating Civil War soldiers. Images include a large tintype of cousins, Alfred D., Levi S., and William S. Mead, and an enlarged albumen photograph of the tintype, and cartes de visite of five Union generals, and Captain David Enoch Beem of the 14th Indiana.

The second series pertains to military organizations and associated events. There are rosters, programs, and other memorabilia distributed at Grand Army of the Republic Encampments from 1888 through 1934. There are papers concerning reunions of the 6th Indiana Regiment Volunteer Infantry covering the years between 1889 and 1906. Also included are materials regarding reunions and membership in the Army of the Cumberland, from 1889 to 1911. A logbook of the Rousseau Brigade Association from 1890 through 1897 also acts as a scrapbook with newspaper articles and documents relevant to the group. The final folder of the series has printed items associated with military funeral services.

Series 3: Contains incomplete documents that enumerate soldier enlistment and casualties. A majority of materials are linked with commemorations of specific battle sites, such as Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Shiloh. Of particular significance is a detailed map of the Battle of Chattanooga and Lookout Mountain drawn by Mead. One folder holds papers connected with the Andersonville National Cemetery, with topics on the Indiana Monument, and the memorial to Captain Henry Wirz, commander of the prison who was condemned to death as a result of the mistreatment of prisoners. The remainder of the series is composed of wartime music for that period.

In the fourth series, there are miscellaneous printed materials beginning with newspaper clippings, the most prominent being a letter to the editor written by Mead commenting on the erection of the Wirz monument at Andersonville. Publications connected with Indiana are also incorporated into this collection, including an issue of *The Indianian*, a portion of one article having been composed by Mead. The remainder of the series includes regulation handbooks of the National Association of Ex-Union Prisoners of War, the Transportation Department, funeral ceremonies for Master Masons, and assorted ephemera with items like travel souvenirs and Mead's personal stationery.

Artifacts constitute the final series, much of which was Mead's military decoration. In addition to a Stetson hat and Civil War cap, there are many buttons, badges, and ribbons, most of which pertain to the G.A.R., the 6th Indiana Regiment, the 4th Army Corps., and the Spencer Lodge. Other materials of interest include a knife, spirit level, coupon book, and two small American flags.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: William S. Mead Papers and Photographs, 1862–1934

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Military and Civil Record, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 1
Correspondence from Mead, 1889–1934	Box 1, Folder 2
Correspondence, 1865–1904	Box 1, Folder 3
Correspondence, 1906	Box 1, Folder 4
Correspondence, 1910–1934, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 5
Diaries, 1862–1865	Box 1, Folder 6
Pension Paperwork, 1887–1917	Box 1, Folder 7
Speech Drafts, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 8
Alfred, Levi, and William S. Mead group portrait [tintype]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1
Alfred, Levi, and William S. Mead group portrait [albumen copy photograph of tintype with names and events describing their military service]	OVB Photographs: Folder 1
David Enoch Beem [carte de visite, ca. 1865] [Co. H. 14th Indiana Infantry, and first Commander of Gettysburg Post No. 93, G.A.R.]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2
Civil War Generals cartes de visite: Maj. Genl. Don Carlos Buell Brig. Genl. R.W. Johnson Maj. Genl. A. Mc. D. McCook Maj. Genl. W.S. Rosecrans Maj. Genl. L.H. Rousseau	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 3
W. Stanley Mead cartes de visite [ca. 1865]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 4

Series 2: Veterans Organizations, 1888–1934

CONTENTS

	CONTAINER
Grand Army of the Republic Encampment, 1888–1909	Box 1, Folder 9
Grand Army of the Republic Encampment, 1912–1921	Box 1, Folder 10
Grand Army of the Republic Encampment, 1928–1932	Box 1, Folder 11
Grand Army of the Republic Encampment, 1934, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 12
6 th Indiana Regiment Reunions, 1889–1906	Box 1, Folder 13
Army of the Cumberland, 1889–1911	Box 2, Folder 1
Rousseau Brigade Association, 1890–1897	Box 2, Folder 2
Military Funeral Services, 1914, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 3

Series 3: Post Civil War Materials, 1883–1933, n.d.

CONTENTS

	CONTAINER
Soldier Enlistment and Casualties, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 4
William S. Mead cards with images of him at enlistment in 1861 at age 15 and on verso older image of him as a member of Gettysburg Post 93, G.A.R.	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 5
Battle of Gettysburg Panorama, ca. 1883–1933	Box 2, Folder 5
<i>Gettysburg: The Pictures and the Story</i> , 1913	Visual Collections: OVA Graphics, Box 1, Folder 1
Battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga, 1895, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 6
Battlefields, 1885, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 7
Certificate: Battle of Shiloh Survivor, 1922	Visual Collections: OVA Graphics, Box 1, Folder 2
William S. Mead visiting several battle sites after the war in his G.A.R. uniform	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 6

Andersonville National Cemetery, 1890–1908	Box 2, Folder 8
Andersonville National Cemetery and town of Andersonville, 1907	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 7
<i>Camp of 14th Indiana, Stevensburg, Va. 1862.</i> [print, 1900]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 8
<i>The Domestic Blockade</i> [carte de visite with illustration of mother and children playing war] [two photos of steam engines and crew] [photo of men camping in the woods]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 9
Civil War Music, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 9
<i>Soldiers' Hymn-Book</i> , n.d.	Box 2, Folder 10

Series 4: Printed Materials, 1872–1934

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Newsclippings, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 11
Indiana Publications, 1889–1900	Box 2, Folder 12
Regulation Handbooks, 1873–1889, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 13
Ephemera, 1872–1934, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 14

Series 5: Artifacts

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Uniform Buttons	Artifacts: Box 30, R 799–R807, R809–R850, R863
Military Ephemera and Tools	Artifacts: Box 30, R808, R851–R862
Badges	Artifacts: Box 31, R864–R885

Badges and Ribbons

Artifacts: Box 34,
R918–R932

Ribbons

Artifacts: Box 4,
R188–224

Identification tag

Artifacts: Box 31,
R886

Civil War cap and cap cover

Artifacts: Box 40,
R970–R971

Grand Army of the Republic Stetson hat and box

Artifacts: Box 42,
R979

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, M 0841).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.