

WILLIAM TYER PAPERS, 1862-1863, 1881

Collection #
M 0400

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Processed by
Parker Hubbard Cohen
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 manuscript box
COLLECTION DATES:	1862-1863, 1881
PROVENANCE:	Gift of Jerry Marver, Indianapolis, IN, Feb. 27, 1984
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
RELATED HOLDINGS:	None
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1984.0205
NOTES:	

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Styer was born on November 25, 1832 in Delaware County, Ohio, the son of Joseph C. and Rachel Styer.

From the age of sixteen to twenty-four he taught school and then worked in Kokomo, Indiana with his brother Henry in the grocery business. He married Susannah Defenbaugh in 1857 and had two children, Charles A. and Carrie M. Styer.

On August 9, 1862, William Styer was commissioned as second lieutenant of Company D of the 89th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. Mustered on August 28, 1862 in Indianapolis, the regiment was sent to Memphis, Tennessee. In March 1863, Styer was placed in command of the Military Prison at Fort Pickering in Memphis. He resigned his commission of October 20, 1863 because of disability and returned home to Kokomo. Between 1863 and 1881, he sold maps and charts, groceries, grain, hardware, and books and also quarried stone. In 1881 he took charge of Spring Mills. Styer was an active Republican, city politician, and Methodist.

Sources: Material in the collection.

Blanchard, Charles, ed. *Counties of Howard and Tipton, Indiana*. Chicago: F.A. Battery Co., 1883, pp. 369-370
Civil War Muster Cards, Indiana State Archives.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Papers of William Styer consist of letters, letter fragments, a broadside, and a cameo portrait. The original order of the papers is unknown so they are filed chronologically in three series: 1) letters to Susannah Styer, 2) letters to William Styer, and 3) other correspondences. Most of the letters were written between August 1862 and September 1863 and are mostly correspondence between William Styer and his wife, Susannah. Correspondence from other family members is also found in the collection.

The letters relate William Styer's experiences during his service as second lieutenant of the 89th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers during the Civil War, August 1862 to September 1863. He describes living conditions, his feelings about the war, his duties, and corresponds about family issues. The papers also include an 1881 letter and broadside from the *Kokomo Tribune* concerning a theft from Spring Mills owned by William Styer. An undated cameo portrait of William Styer is also part of the papers.

Other correspondents in these papers include: S.E. Styer, Maria McReynolds, Martha Defenbaugh (sister of Susannah Styer), Charles Styer (brother of William Styer), Mary Bettes (sister of Susannah Styer), E.C. Blackney (cousin of William Styer).

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence to Susannah Styer, August-December 1862
2	Correspondence to Susannah Styer, January-March 1863
3	Correspondence to Susannah Styer, april-May 1863
4	Correspondence to Susannah Styer, June-September 1863, 1881
5	Correspondence to William Styer, 1862-1863
6	Other Correspondence, n.d.
7	Broadside, 1881

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](#)
2. Click on the "Local Catalog" icon.
3. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and **four** digits (e.g., M 0715, SC 2234).
4. When you find the collection, go to the "Holdings" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.

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