

Collection #  
M 0302,  
OM 0407

## WORTHINGTON B. WILLIAMS FAMILY PAPERS, 1812–1926

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### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	3 document cases, 1 oversized folder, 1 photograph album, 1 folder of photographs, 2 cased images
COLLECTION DATES:	1812–1926
PROVENANCE:	Mrs. Value Williams, Greencastle, Indiana, December 1968
RESTRICTIONS:	None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1968.1205

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Worthington B. Williams, his father-in-law, Rev. Isaac Reed, and Williams's son Josiah C. Williams, are the main figures in this collection of family papers.

Worthington B. Williams (1815–91) was born in New York City and raised in Poughkeepsie. After attending college, he became a clerk for a short period of time. In 1836, he came to Putnam County, Indiana, and began farming on several hundred acres of land owned by his father, Josiah, near Putnamville. In 1837 he married Lydia A. L. Reed, the daughter of Rev. Isaac Reed. The Williamses had eleven children.

The Reverend Isaac Reed (1788–1858) was born in Granville, New York, and attended theology school in New York and Connecticut, 1814–17. In the fall of 1817 he moved to Kentucky. Initially Reed preached in central Kentucky and southern Indiana, and in October 1818 he was ordained a Presbyterian minister in Mercer County, Kentucky. In December 1819 he married Elinor Young. Reed served Presbyterian churches in Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio during his ministry. He authored *The Christian Traveler* (1828). Reed died in Illinois in 1858.

Josiah C. Williams (ca. 1839–1900) enlisted in the Union army in September 1861 and was named a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant in the 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana regiment. In November 1862 he was promoted to captain in company C of the 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana, where he served until he resigned in October 1864. He also served as provost marshal in Tullahoma, Tennessee. Williams farmed with his father and after the war he moved to Neosho, Missouri, along with another brother, Edwin, where the family owned property.

Sources:  
Information in collection.  
*Biographical and Historical Record of Putnam County, Indiana*, pp. 335–36. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1887. Reprinted Knightstown, Indiana: Eastern Indiana Publishing Co., 1967. General and Reference Collection: F532 .P9 B56 1967

Terrell, W. H. H.. *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana*. Vol. 2, pp. 263, 267. Indianapolis: A. H. Connor [etc.] State Printer, 1865–69. General and Reference Collection: E506.2.I39 T4 1865

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is divided into two series: The papers of Reverend Isaac Reed and his son, George, 1812–62, and the papers of Worthington and Josiah C. Williams and their family, 1835–1926.

Isaac Reed's papers center around his ministerial and educational work. Included are his diaries from New York, Kentucky, and Indiana, 1814–18 and 1850, and thirty-nine sermons spanning the period 1817–51 (but mostly not dated). The collection also contains Reed's correspondence from Kentucky, Indiana, and New York, primarily regarding his religious and educational work, 1812–54.

The collection also contains eighteen Civil War letters of Reed's son, George Whitfield Reed, a 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant in company I of the 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana Regiment. George Reed was killed at Cedar Mountain, Virginia, on 9 August 1862. The letters date from 29 August 1861 through 4 August 1862 and were written to Worthington B. Williams and other family members. Letters were written from Camp Morton, Indianapolis, Washington D. C., and with the 27<sup>th</sup> in Maryland and Virginia. Reed describes military actions at the battles of Ball's Bluff, Front Royal, and Winchester in Virginia. He notes in several letters that the regiment fought well but was badly commanded.

Worthington B. and Josiah C. Williams and family materials include business and personal correspondence, 1835–1926. The largest portion is the papers of Josiah C. Williams, 1851–97. The majority of his letters were written while attending school in Poughkeepsie, New York, and while serving in the Union army, 1861–65.

Josiah Williams' Civil War letters were written from Camp Morton, Indianapolis, and camps in Maryland, Washington D. C., and Virginia. Most of the letters are to his parents in Putnamville and to his grandfather, Josiah, in New York. They talk about where he is stationed, where he is going, and life in camp. Williams also mentions the death of George Whitfield Reed and selling his coat and pants for \$20 (13 October 1862).

There are also letters from Worthington Williams to his family in Putnamville from Washington, D. C., while visiting and caring for Josiah who had been injured in the Battle of Chancellorsville, May 1863. Josiah Williams' service as provost marshal in Tullahoma, Tennessee, November 1863–May 1864, includes records and documents, as well as military and family correspondence. Much of the military correspondence regards desertions and other criminal offences by members of the Union army in Tennessee. He later writes with the 27<sup>th</sup> from Georgia about the regiment's movement and engagements, May–September 1864, and his records and correspondence as a provost marshal in Atlanta, September–October 1864. Josiah Williams also writes home from Washington, D. C., as a member of the Indiana delegation to the Lincoln funeral. He describes meeting with President Andrew Johnson and viewing Lincoln's remains and the funeral procession, 21 and 27 April 1865. Also contained are three of Josiah C. Williams's diaries, 1861–64, and his notebook from 1864 containing an account of General Ruger's Atlanta Campaign and a history of the 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana Regiment.

Other Williams family letters include letters from Edwin Williams serving with the 115<sup>th</sup> Indiana Regiment at Camp Carrington, Indiana, and from Tennessee discussing the regiment's movements and activities, August 1863–February 1864, and from Shelbyville, Illinois, after his discharge from military service, 1865. There also are letters of Worthington Williams's daughter, Gertrude (Mrs. Edwin T. Williamson) to her brothers during the war 1863–64 and from Kansas, 1869. She also writes to Josiah while visiting Europe in 1886–87.

## SERIES CONTENTS

### Series 1: Reverend Isaac Reed Family Papers, 1812–1925

#### CONTENTS

“Short Biography of Rev. Isaac Reed,” n.d.

Isaac Reed Papers, 1812–57, 1925

#### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

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Isaac Reed Sermons, 1817–51 (1 of 4)	Box 1, Folder 4
Isaac Reed Sermons, n.d. (2 of 4)	Box 1, Folder 5
Isaac Reed Sermons, n.d. (3 of 4)	Box 1, Folder 6
Isaac Reed Sermons, n.d. (4 of 4)	Box 1, Folder 7
George W. Reed Letters, 1861–62	Box 1, Folder 8

## **Series 2: Worthington B., Josiah C. Williams and Family Papers, 1835–1926**

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Williams Family Correspondence, 1861	Box 1, Folder 10
Williams Family Correspondence, 1862	Box 1, Folder 11
27 <sup>th</sup> Indiana Regiment, Company I, Annotated List [1862]	Box 1, Folder 12
Williams Family Correspondence, June–July 1863	Box 2, Folder 1
Williams Family Correspondence, July–Dec. 1863	Box 2, Folder 2
Printed Forms, 1863 (Blank)	Box 2, Folder 3
Williams Family Correspondence, Jan.–Feb. 1864	Box 2, Folder 4
Williams Family Correspondence, March–April 1864	Box 2, Folder 5
Williams Family Correspondence, May–Aug. 1864	Box 2, Folder 6
Josiah C. Williams, Diaries (2), 1861–62	Box 2, Folder 7
Josiah C. Williams, Diary, 1864	Box 2, Folder 8
Josiah C. Williams, Notebook—Report of General Ruger, Atlanta Campaign, History of 27 <sup>th</sup> Indiana Reg., 1864	Box 2, Folder 9
Tintype Photographs of Josiah C. Williams and Sgt. Sam Beamer, Co. C, 27 <sup>th</sup> Indiana, ca. 1860s	Visual Collections: Cased Images
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Photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Worthington B. Williams, ca. 1880s	Visual Collections: Manuscript Photographs, Folder 1
Picture Album of Civil War Generals	Visual Collections: Photograph Albums, PAA
<i>Perrine's New Topographical Map of the Southern States</i> , 1863	Box 3, Folder 9

## 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://157.91.92.2/>
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 0302).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.