

Collection #
M 0806,
OM 0411

**JULIUS R. FREDERICK
PAPERS, CA. 1874–1978 (BULK 1881–1904)**

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Processed by
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	Manuscript Materials: 1 manuscript box, 1 oversize manuscript folder Visual Materials: 1 photograph box, 1 box OVA photographs Printed Materials: 3 books Artifacts: 8 artifacts.
COLLECTION DATES:	Ca. 1874–1978 (bulk 1881–1904)
PROVENANCE:	Christy B. Krieg and Lisa Krieg, Indianapolis, Indiana, 26 May

2003

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2003.0208

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Julius R. Frederick was born in either Germany or Ohio (two sources listed below are at variance on the matter) in 1852. In either case, both his parents were from Germany. He grew up near St. Mary's, Ohio, and joined the U.S. Army around 1876. He was stationed at various posts in Missouri and spent five years under Colonel Nelson Miles fighting in the Indian Wars. In 1881 he volunteered for the International Polar Expedition to Lady Franklin Bay, commonly referred to as the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition or the Greely Expedition. Lieutenant A.W. Greely of the 5th U.S. Cavalry led the expedition to perform investigations about the nature of the magnetic pole, to establish a permanent international polar station at Discovery Harbour in Greenland, and to attempt to reach the Farthest North. Private Julius Frederick of Company L, 2nd Cavalry, joined the expedition as the regular cook. At a height of five feet two inches, he was known as "Shorty" Frederick among expedition members. Among the twenty-five men there were an astronomer, a photographer, soldiers, and meteorologists.

The expedition departed in July 1881 bound for Greenland. Over the next three years its members engaged in exploration and scientific observation. The members of the team interacted with the native Eskimos, explored the coast of Greenland, and attempted to reach the farthest point north. Relief vessels were supposed to arrive in September 1883 to refresh the team's supplies, but the ships never arrived. Supplies soon dwindled down to nothing and the members of the team began dying of disease, starvation, and thirst. On 6 April 1884 a much-weakened Frederick went with the group's photographer Sergeant George W. Rice southward to Baird Inlet to recover frozen beef for their starving comrades. Rice died in Frederick's arms hours after they had reached their goal (an engraving of this scene appears in A.W. Greely's *Three Years of Arctic Service* [1886], vol. 2, facing p. 286). Frederick buried him and then, although near death himself, managed to bring back as much of the beef as possible. In reward for his courage and bravery in the face of death, Lt. Greely field-promoted Frederick to the rank of sergeant. Julius Frederick was the first man to hear the bells of the ship *Thetis* as it arrived 22 June 1884 to rescue the surviving members of the expedition. Out of the twenty-five men who ventured out with the expedition in 1881, only six survived.

The survivors A.W. Greely, Maurice Connell, Francis Long, David Brainard, Henry Biederbick, and Julius Frederick returned to the United States and remained lifelong friends, supporting each other in times of need. The men fought for years to obtain just compensation for their duties. They also worked with several congressmen in their attempts to receive military pensions, and Congress finally passed several bills in their favor. Greely remained in the U.S. Army, where he was appointed head of the signal corps; Brainard went to work for the War Department; and Biederbick became the Secretary of the Arctic Club.

Julius Frederick came to Indianapolis, eventually to work for the U.S. Weather Bureau. His name appears in the city's Polk directories first in 1886, as a Julius R. Frederick working at a saloon at 665 Virginia Avenue and living at 36 Shelby St. The next year Frederick appears as a confectioner, living and working at 53 N. Pennsylvania St. From 1888 to 1891, Frederick is shown residing at 336 S. Alabama St. During these years, his occupation is listed as engineer in 1888 and clerk in 1891 (no occupation is shown for the two middle years). Finally, in 1893 he is listed as an assistant observer for the Weather Bureau, living at "104 (W P)," or Woodruff Place. (His address in the 1900 census is given as 104 Middle Drive, Woodruff Place.)

Frederick married Laura Keckler in or around 1885 and had two daughters, naming them Thetis (born in 1886) and Sabine (born in 1889) after the ship that rescued him and the cape where he was stranded for two years, respectively. Frederick's life in Indianapolis seems to have been happy and productive. He worked in the Majestic Building in the Weather Bureau office. He remained in touch with his comrades. He was friends with P.E. McDonnell of Chicago's McDonnell Odometer Company, who tried to interest Frederick in a plan to build an airship in order to reach the North Pole before Admiral Peary. The Indianapolis press was very interested in Frederick's life and experiences and wrote several articles about him, including his meeting with the famous Arctic explorer Fridtjof Nansen, and the newspapers kept readers apprised of Congressional action to give him and his fellow survivors due compensation for their services. According to the answers he gave on a Weather Bureau survey, he was temperate, did not smoke, and did not know how to operate a typewriter. He did own and operate a bicycle. Frederick was a member of the Marion Club in Indianapolis as well as the Army and Navy League, and his friends inducted him into the Arctic Club shortly before his death.

Health problems had plagued Frederick ever since his service in the Arctic and the doctors eventually diagnosed him with stomach cancer. In spring of 1903 he was injured while trying to calm a runaway horse. His health deteriorated rapidly in 1903 until he was confined to his bed in autumn. His comrades wrote him letters of encouragement, wishing him health and declaring their unwavering loyalty to him. They praised Frederick for his courage and good nature and seemed optimistic about his recovery. Julius R. Frederick died in Indianapolis on 6 January 1904.

Sources:

Materials in collection.

"Sergeant Frederick, Arctic Explorer, Dead." *Indianapolis News*, 7 January 1904, p. 5 [photocopy and transcription in Box 1, Folder 29]. The obituary gives Frederick's birthplace as Germany.

1900 Federal Census for Marion County, Indiana. Roll 391, Book 1, p. 108B. The census gives Frederick's birthplace as Ohio.

Greely, A.W., Lt. *Three Years of Arctic Service*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1886. 2 vols. General Collection: G670 1881 .G6 1886

Greely Expedition, 1881: Directory. <http://www.Arcticwebsite.com/greely1881expedition.html> (accessed 12 December 2003)

Guttridge, Leonard F. *Ghosts of Cape Sabine: The Harrowing True Story of the Greely Expedition*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2000.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains documentation and artifacts relating to Julius R. Frederick's participation in the Greely expedition of 1881–84, including diary entries written by Frederick, a Winchester repeating rifle he used during the expedition, and a razor and a knife and fork. The materials also document his life in Indiana, attempts to get Congress to pay the Lady Franklin Bay survivors pensions, Frederick's illness and death in 1903 and 1904, and the sale and transfer of the collection to Peter Krieg in 1978. There are a variety of photographs, including a photograph that is likely Frederick holding his rifle in the Arctic (as well as many other pictures of Frederick), an autographed picture of a reception held in his honor upon his return from the Arctic, and photographs of his daughters Thetis and Sabine as babies, children, and adults. There are also pictures of his house in Woodruff Place in Indianapolis, a photograph possibly of himself dressed in polar-exploration gear, a photograph of the six surviving members of the Lady Franklin

Bay Expedition, photographs of A.W. Greely’s family, and several other unidentified family photographs.

The collection also contains miscellaneous items relating to Frederick’s life in Indianapolis including his license to own and operate a bicycle, receipts from his payment of Marion Club Dues and the Marion Club Constitution, and receipts from the purchase of lumber and shingles for his house. There are also drafts of Frederick’s personal letters and Weather Bureau correspondence, and a survey that he filled out.

The collection includes letters written to Julius Frederick and his wife during Frederick’s last year of life. Henry Biederbick, David Brainard, and A.W. Greely wrote letters wishing his swift recovery and giving him encouragement. There are also letters from P.E. McDonnell concerning an airship venture to reach the North Pole before Peary. A letter from Brainard (9 January 1904) consoles Mrs. Frederick on the death of her husband.

There are also numerous copies of Congressional bills relating to the fight for compensation for the survivors of the Greely expedition, as well as letters to and from congressman Overbeck about this legislative process.

Several well-worn books are part of the collection. *Three Years of Arctic Service* (2 vols.) by A.W. Greely contains an account of the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition, with pictures and engravings, including an engraving recreating the scene where Frederick holds the dying Sgt. Rice in his arms. There are two copies of the promotional literature from Charles Scribner’s Sons about *Three Years of Arctic Service*. *The White World* contains chapters by Lady Franklin Bay survivors David Brainard and Henry Biederbick. Copies of two books, *The White World* and *The Great Frozen Sea*, are inscribed to Julius by Brainard and Greely, respectively.

The materials in the collection were donated to the Indiana Historical Society in 2003 by Christy and Lisa Krieg, daughters of Peter Krieg (1937-2002), who had purchased them in 1978 from Ruth Epply, granddaughter of Julius and Laura Frederick, daughter of Sabine Frederick Epply. Peter Krieg was himself an adventurer, a balloonist and outdoors enthusiast, who drowned in West Virginia during a canoeing trip that began in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was to end in Madison, Indiana, in June 2002. The collection contains a few items relating to the purchase of the collection, including an affidavit from Ruth Epply certifying that the rifle Peter Krieg purchased as part of the collection was her grandfather’s, and information from the Chequer Board Antique Shop about the purchase of the rifle. Secondary sources on the expedition dating from the period after Julius Frederick’s death, like the *American Heritage* and *National Geographic* issues, may have been collected by either Epply or Krieg.

The collection came with no discernible original order, and was placed into several series by the processor. There is some thematic overlap between the first and second series, “Arctic Exploration, ca. 1874–86” and “Indianapolis, 1896–1904,” since Frederick was concerned with the Greely Expedition long after he returned from it. Letters from comrades on the expedition, clippings about polar exploration, and one of several books (this one with an inscription from 1903) are all to be found in the second series. What divides the two series is not subject matter but chronology, as there is a gap of about a decade (1886 unidentified photographs, and series 4 contains collection documentation from the period after Frederick’s death in 1904.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Arctic Exploration, ca. 1874–86

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Menus and program, Fort Conger, Christmas 1881	Box 1, Folder 1
Julius Frederick journal of expedition, 1881–82	Box 1, Folder 2
Julius Frederick, “News from the North Pole,” 18 July 1882	Box 1, Folder 3

Julius Frederick journal of expedition, “Midwinter” and “The Arctic Midnight,” no date	Box 1, Folder 4
Letter [mechanically produced copy], A.W. Greely to Charles Scribner Sons, 3 June 1886	OM 0411, Folder 1
Photographs: Two men in the Arctic region, no date; Three men dressed in polar exploration gear, no date; “Survivors of the Greely Arctic Exploring Expedition,” 1884	Visual Collections: Photographs, Box 1, Folder 1
Straight-edge razor labeled “J.R. Frederick,” ca. 1880	Artifacts: R2465
Razor strop with box cover, ca. 1880	Artifacts: R2463–64
1873 Winchester 4440 caliber rapid-repeating rifle, serial number 3339 or 5339, manufactured ca. 1874	Artifacts: R2470
Bullet in case [not type for rifle above], ca. 1880	Artifacts: R2469
Whetstone, ca. 1880	Artifacts: R2466
Fork and knife, ca. 1880	Artifacts: R2467–68
Greely, A.W., Lt. <i>Three Years of Arctic Service</i> , volumes 1 and 2 (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1886). Volume I signed “J R Frederick.” on front flyleaf.	Printed Collections: G670 1881 .G6 1886
“Three Years of Arctic Service: An Account of the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition of 1881–84 and the Attainment of the Farthest North,” 1886. [Prospectus for book; sewn with no covers]. 2 copies	Box 1, Folder 5
Markham, Albert Hastings, Capt., <i>The Great Frozen Sea</i> (London: Kegan Paul, Trench & Co., 1884). Inscribed: “Mr Julius R. Frederick from his friend and former Commander A.W. Greely[,] U.S. Army[,] Oct. 2, 1885.”	Printed Collections: G670 1875 .M37 1884
“Sketch of the Life of Lieutenant Greely,” no date, no publication information, 4 pp.	Box 1, Folder 6
Melville, George W., Chief Engineer, <i>Report in Connection with the Jeannette Expedition</i> (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1882). Signed “Julius R. Frederick” on cover.	Box 1, Folder 7
Engraving removed from unknown magazine, “Rescue of the Greely Survivors,” no date	OM 0411, Folder 1
Engraving removed from unknown magazine, “Panorama of the Greely Expedition,” no date	OM 0411, Folder 1

Series 2: Indianapolis, 1896–1904

CONTENTS

Correspondence, David Brainard to Julius Frederick,
8 Feb. 1898; September–November 1903

Correspondence, David Brainard to Laura Keckler
Frederick, Aug. 1903–June 1904

Letter, Laura Keckler Frederick to David Brainard,
20 Jan. 1904

Correspondence, P. E. McDonnell to Julius
Frederick, 11–28 Sept. 1903

Correspondence, P. E. McDonnell–Laura Keckler
Frederick, Oct. 1903–March 1904

Correspondence, A. W. Greely to Julius Frederick,
Nov. 1903

Correspondence, A. W. Greely to Laura Keckler
Frederick, Oct.–Dec. 1903

Letter, Henrietta N. Greely to Julius Frederick, 28
Aug. [1903?]

Correspondence, Henry Biederbick to Julius
Frederick, Aug.–Dec. 1903

Correspondence, Henry Biederbick to Laura Keckler
Frederick, Oct.–Dec. 1903

Miscellaneous correspondence, outgoing, 1900–03

Miscellaneous correspondence, incoming, 1902–03

Julius Frederick, drafts of letters, 1903 and undated
(1 of 2)

Julius Frederick, drafts of letters, 1903 and undated
(2 of 2)

Weather Bureau [correspondence, leave request,
regulations, etc.], 1901–03

Congressional materials [correspondence, copies of
Congressional Acts relating to payment and pensions
for men on the expedition]

Draft of a letter requesting Congress to enact a law
to pay the men of the expedition, no date

Correspondence, incoming and outgoing letters to
Julius Frederick regarding payment of his pension,

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 1, Folder 10

Box 1, Folder 11

Box 1, Folder 12

Box 1, Folder 13

Box 1, Folder 14

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Box 1, Folder 19

Box 1, Folder 20

Box 1, Folder 21

Box 1, Folder 22

Box 1, Folder 23

OM 0411, Folder 1

OM 0411, Folder 1

1898–1903

Kersting, Rudolf, ed., *The White World* (New York: Lewis, Scribner & Co., 1902). Inscribed: “To J.R. Frederick, my dear old friend and comrade of many marches and many camps, in many places—with affectionate regard. D.L. Brainard. Nov. 16th 1903.”

Newspaper clippings

Marion Club, 1896–1903

U. S. Army and Navy League

Home life [bicycle license, loan application, gas bill, lumber invoice, etc.], 1900–03

Miscellaneous items [letter fragment, addresses, business card, etc.]

Photographs, Julius Frederick, no dates

Photographs, Thetis and Sabine Frederick, no dates

Photograph, Frederick home, no date

Photograph, Rose, Adola, John, Gertrude, and others, no date

Photograph, Interior of Dieker House Parlor, 1884

Series 3: Unidentified Photographs

CONTENTS

Portraits of children (1 of 2)

Portraits of children (2 of 2)

Individual portraits (1 of 4)

Printed Collections:
G608.W54 1902

Box 1, Folder 24

Box 1, Folder 25

Box 1, Folder 26

Box 1, Folder 27

Box 1, Folder 28

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Box 1, Folder
2

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Box 1, Folder
3

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Box 1, Folder
4

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Box 1, Folder
5

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Box 1, Folder
6

CONTAINER

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Box 1, Folder
7

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Box 1, Folder
8

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Box 1, Folder
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Individual portraits (2 of 4)	Visual Collections: Photographs, Box 1, Folder 10
Individual portraits (3 of 4)	Visual Collections: Photographs, Box 1, Folder 11
Individual portraits (4 of 4)	Visual Collections: Photographs, Box 1, Folder 12
Informal individual pictures	Visual Collections: Photographs, Box 1, Folder 13
Group portraits	Visual Collections: Photographs, Box 1, Folder 14
Informal group pictures (1 of 4)	Visual Collections: Photographs, Box 1, Folder 15
Informal group pictures (2 of 4)	Visual Collections: Photographs, Box 1, Folder 16
Informal group pictures (3 of 4)	Visual Collections: Photographs, Box 1, Folder 17
Informal group pictures (4 of 4)	Visual Collections: Photographs, Box 1, Folder 18
[Family with carriages in front of a barn], no date.	Visual Collections: OVA photographs, Folder 1
[Women and children in front of a house], no date.	Visual Collections: OVA photographs, Folder 2
[Three men and a boy near a house], no date.	Visual Collections: OVA photographs, Folder 3
[Main House], no date.	Visual Collections: OVA photographs, Folder 4
[Portrait of an unidentified woman], no date.	Visual Collections: OVA photographs, Folder 5

Series 4: Secondary Sources and Collection Documentation, 1904–1978

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

“Sergeant Frederick, Arctic Explorer, Dead.” <i>Indianapolis News</i> , 7 January 1904, p. 5 [photocopy and transcription made by processor]	Box 1, Folder 29
Wheeler, Mabel. “Return of Admiral Byrd to United States from Conquest of Antarctic Recalls Indianapolis Man’s Tragic Part in North Pole Expedition,” <i>Indianapolis News</i> , 21 June 1930.	OM 0411, Folder 1
Todd, A. L. “Ordeal in the Arctic,” <i>American Heritage</i> , June 1960, vol XI, no. 4 (New York: American Heritage Publishing Co., 1960).	Box 1, Folder 30
Irwin, Colin. “Trekking the Frozen Northwest Passage,” <i>National Geographic Magazine</i> , vol 145, no.3 (Washington D.C.: National Geographic Society), March 1974.	Box 1, Folder 31
Collection documentation including bill of sale and affidavit of authenticity for the Winchester repeating rifle, 1978	Box 1, Folder 32

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 0806).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.