

Collection #
M 1194

ADEN G. CAVINS
LETTERS, 1860–1865

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

Processed by

Paul Brockman
August, 2015

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: 1 manuscript box

COLLECTION DATES: 1860–1865

PROVENANCE: Noel/McKamey/Small/Brown families, May, 2015

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Elijah H. C. Cavins (M 0042)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2015.0153

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Aden Gainey Cavins (1827–1906) was born in Lawrence County, Indiana, but soon moved to Bloomfield, Greene County, Indiana where he was raised and spent the largest part of his life. Cavins attended Asbury University (now DePauw) and graduated from Law School at Indiana University in 1850. He practiced law in Bloomfield until 1858, at which time he moved to Nebraska City, Nebraska where he continued his law practice and served in the state legislature. Cavins returned to Bloomfield in 1861 and enlisted in Company E of the 59th Indiana Regiment as a Captain. He was "discharged for promotion" in October, 1862, and joined 97th Indiana Regiment as a major. Two months later, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel. Cavins participated in numerous engagements with both regiments seeing action at Pittsburg Landing, Corinth, Mississippi, Jackson, Mississippi, Vicksburg, Knoxville, Tennessee, Kennesaw Mountain and Atlanta, Georgia. He was mustered out as a colonel in June, 1865.

Cavins returned to Bloomfield after the war and continued to practice law while being active in Republican Party politics. He married Julia Taylor in 1851 and they had two sons. After Julia's death in 1854, he later married Matilda Livingston and they produced eight children.

Sources:

American Civil War Research Database, accessed 12 August 2015

Ancestry Library Edition, accessed 15 August 2015.

Greene County Historical Society web site: greenecountyhistoricasociety.org/richland.php
accessed 15 August 2015.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of approximately ninety-five letters exchanged mainly between Aden G. Cavins and his wife, Matilda during the Civil War. Cavins' sons, William, Charlie, Eddie, and Hugh added notes in several of the letters sent by Matilda. Letters were exchanged between the couple from February, 1862–June, 1865. Matilda writes from Bloomfield and Greencastle, Indiana, while some of locations Aden writes from include Corinth and Vicksburg, Mississippi, Memphis, and aboard a steamer being transported to Georgia.

Aden writes about the regiment's movements and engagements, relates stories of fellow soldiers, and complains of his inability to receive a furlough and return home for a visit. Matilda writes about the events at home and the worries of continuing to manage a home. The boys primarily write about what they are doing in school.

The correspondence also contains one letter to Aden Cavins from his brother Elijah H.C. Cavins serving with the 14th Indiana dated 25 March 1863. Elijah Cavins had just returned from furlough and relays news from home.

Also included are three letters the couple exchanged while they were living in Nebraska in 1860.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Letters to Matilda (wife,) 25 Dec., 1860: Feb.–March, 1862

Letters to Matilda (wife,) May–June, 1862

Letters to Matilda (wife,) Nov.–Dec., 1862

Letters to Matilda (wife,) July, 1863–July, 1864

Letters from wife and son, Jan., 1860; April–Dec., 1862

Letters from wife and son, Jan.–Dec., 1863

Letters from wife and son, Jan.–Dec., 1864

Letters from wife and son, Feb.–June, 1865 and n.d.

Letter from Elijah Cavins to Aden Cavins, 25 March 1863

Invitation, 12 January 1865

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 1, Folder 10