

Collection #
SC2807,
BV3560

COL. BERNARD F. MULLEN FAMILY MATERIALS, 1834–1893

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	4 folders, one bound volume
COLLECTION DATES:	1834–93
PROVENANCE:	Estate of Bro. Andrew Mullen, Fort Recovery, OH, October 2005

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: E506.5 35th .M84 1968 (pam Q): *Col. Bernard F. Mullen, Commander of the Indiana 35th Volunteer, 1st Irish Regiment*; E506.5 35th .G75 1992: *1st Irish, 35th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1861–1865*; F0081: Wilson-Wright Papers

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2006.0001

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Bernard F. Mullen was born on 4 March 1825 in Manayunk, Pennsylvania (now part of Philadelphia). He moved to Ripley County, Indiana as a teenager and eventually enrolled in the Versailles Medical Seminary. During his tenure there, Mullen and some classmates were caught grave robbing in an attempt to perform an autopsy. As a result of this debacle, Mullen decided to volunteer in the United States Army. In 1846 and 1847 he served as an assistant surgeon and steward to the 3rd Indiana Volunteer Regiment, the 2nd Ohio Volunteer Regiment, and the 5th Indiana Volunteer regiment during the Mexican War.

After his service in the Mexican War, Mullen moved to Madison, Indiana, where he was married on 9 April 1849 to Mary F. Mancourt. He practiced medicine in Madison and later in Napoleon, Indiana. The couple had five children: Frederick H., Bernard F., Alexander, Mary, and Hugh D.

Around 1853 Mullen joined the Ripley County State Militia. In 1861 he organized the 2nd Irish Volunteer Regiment, 61st Indiana Volunteers and continued to recruit. In 1862 the 61st Indiana Volunteers consolidated with the 35th Indiana, 1st Irish Regiment and Mullen was commissioned as a Lieutenant Colonel into Field & Staff, 35th Regiment, Indiana Infantry on 22 May 1862. He was promoted to Colonel on 7 August 1862.

The 35th Indiana traveled to Tennessee and became attached to the Army of the Cumberland. There was tension between Col. John C. Walker and Mullen, as Walker attempted to prevent Mullen from assuming command. Mullen was tried as incompetent to command, then exonerated. Walker was ordered to the rear and apparently resigned his command. Walker was discharged on 6 August 1862.

While in command of the 35th Indiana, Mullen's soldiers saw action at Perryville, Kentucky; Dobbin's Ferry (Lavergne), Tennessee; and Stone's River, Tennessee, where Mullen was injured. He took a leave of absence from his regiment and was involved in recruiting soldiers and defending Madison, Indiana, from Morgan's Raiders in July 1863. He returned to his regiment in October 1863 and participated in the Chattanooga-Ringgold Campaign at Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Ringgold Gap. The regiment re-enlisted at Shell Mound (Shellmound), Tennessee in December 1863 and went on furlough in January and February 1864. Due to ill health, Mullen did not return to the regiment and his resignation was accepted in 29 May 1864.

Mullen continued to practice medicine in Madison until 1871 and then moved to Terre Haute. He was involved in politics and apparently was very active in the Fenian Brotherhood. Mullen died of consumption (tuberculosis) on 3 February 1879 while visiting Indianapolis.

The letters in this collection are written by Mullen to his nephew, Hugh D. Gallagher of Osgood, Indiana. Gallagher mustered into "I" Company, 13th Infantry, Indiana on 19 June 1861 as a 1st Sergeant. He apparently became a prisoner of war at some point (perhaps in Libby Prison) and was released in 1862. On 12 December 1862 he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant and was promoted again on 25 April 1863 to 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant of the 35th Indiana Infantry, commissioned into Field & Staff. Subsequently, Gallagher was promoted on 5 August 1864 to Major, and to Lieutenant Colonel on 1 February 1865. He mustered out on 30 September 1865.

Sources:

Information in the collection.

Mullen, Andrew. 1968. *Col. Bernard F. Mullen, Commander of the 35th Indiana Volunteers, 1st Irish Regiment, Civil War*. Indiana Historical Society pamphlet Q collection: E506.5 35th .M84 1968.

American Civil War Research Database. Available at: <http://www.civilwardata.com>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of Civil War letters written by Col. Bernard F. Mullen to his nephew Hugh D. Gallagher, a poem written by Mullen about the death of his sister Annie, and a commonplace book passed down through the Mullen and Gallagher families.

The commonplace book is the earliest item in the collection dating from 1834–93. It contains original poems written by John Mullin [*sic*] of Mount Joy, Pennsylvania, and H. D. Gallagher on topics such as religion, death, slander, and days in Manayunk. Also within the album are engravings printed by Illman Bros. that appeared in Peterson's Magazine. These prints depict children, women, animals, and pastoral and historical scenes. In 1862 James Mullen presented the album to Annie Gallagher. Other names in the album are G.A. Barclay [Bailey?] of Mount Joy, Hugh M. Keen of Greensburg, Indiana, and Anna Keen. There are a few typed transcripts of some of the poems from the commonplace book.

Bernard F. Mullen's Civil War letters span the period 20 November 1863 to 20 February 1865. There are two circulars written by Mullen; one provides instructions to troops on how to conduct themselves during retreats, charges, and rallies, and the other passes on congratulations from Generals Hooker and Granger for the regiment's conduct in recent battles. A 30 November 1863 report describes the regiment's part in the battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, including the capture of enemy artillery, the planting of the regimental flag, losses the regiment sustained, and commendations for various soldiers' performances in the battles. Written from Indianapolis and Madison, Indiana, Mullen's other letters address regimental business, deserters, his continued illness and resignation (including a surgeon's certificate of disability), the Chicago Fenian Fair, reports he has heard on action at Fort Pillow, and conflict among Indiana citizens unhappy with their share of the soldier quotas. Mainly, his letters reveal tension within the regiment due to various schemes and slanderous actions among the officers. Mullen calls them "caucus-loving, petition-signing, mischief-making gentlemen." Names mentioned within Mullen's letters include Lieutenant [William?] Whiteman, Quarter Master Martin Igoe, Major John B. Dufficy, Col. Augustus Gabriel Tassin, and Chaplain Peter P. Cooney.

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Loose items removed from commonplace book (two folders)	BV 3560

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, SC 2807).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.