

# DAVID ENOCH BEEM PAPERS, 1821-1923, 1954

---

Collection #'s:

M 0015

OMB 0060

---

## Table of Contents

[Collection Information](#)  
[Biographical Sketch](#)  
[Scope and Content Note](#)  
[Box and Folder List](#)  
[Cataloging](#)

Reprocessed

July 1996

Alexandra S. Gressitt

Updated 2 January 2002

Manuscript Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

---

## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 manuscript boxes; 1 oversize manuscript box (including two oversize folders stored in Flat File FF 11-a); 2 visual images
COLLECTION DATES:	1821-1923; 1954
PROVENANCE:	Gift of Levi Beem, The Continental Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1959
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: Turner, Ann, *Guide to Indiana Civil War Manuscripts* (1965), pp. 42-43

RELATED HOLDINGS: Beem, Levi Amasa, *My Indiana Heritage* (1962) [F 534 .S73 B4 1962]; 2 Artifacts R203 and R204 (Capt. David E. Beem ribbons) in SC 2253 William S. Mead Collection and see entries in card catalogue under United States Army, Indiana Infantry Regiment, 14th (1861-1864).

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1959.0002

NOTES: This collection was received in 1959. Internal evidence within the collection shows that it has been arranged several times. In 1985 it was recataloged by Sally Childs-Helton. During conversion to OCLC cataloging, this collection was reprocessed to include previously separated elements, such as visual images. A pamphlet: Beem, David E., *A History of Spencer Lodge No. 95, F. and A.M.* (1917) was removed from the collection and cataloged as a printed item.

---

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

David Enoch Beem was born in Spencer, Owen County, Indiana, on June 24, 1837, the sixth of twelve children of Levi and Sarah Johnson Beem. His father came to Indiana Territory from Kentucky in 1810, and settled in Owen County in 1817. Beem worked on the family farm until he was 19. He entered Indiana University at Bloomington in 1856, and graduated in 1860 with a degree in law. He was admitted to the Owen County Bar in the fall of 1860, formed a partnership with Samuel H. Buskirk of Bloomington, and opened an office in Spencer.

Beem's law career was interrupted by military service during the Civil War. He assisted in the organization of the first company raised in Owen County, and on April 19, 1861, enlisted as First Sergeant in Company H, 14th Indiana Volunteer Regiment. Beem was promoted to First Lieutenant in August, 1861, and to Captain in May, 1862. He fought at Rich Mountain, Cheat Mountain, Winchester, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. After three years of service, he left the military in June, 1864.

Returning home, Beem resumed the practice of law in Spencer in the firm of Rose and Beem, working in Owen, Green and Clay counties. While continuing to practice law, he also organized the First National Bank in Spencer and became its cashier and active manager. In June, 1870, Beem organized the banking firm of Beem, Peden Co. in Spencer, and was its managing member for 39 years. The firm of Rose and Beem dissolved, but he continued to practice law while managing the bank.

In 1873, Beem joined with others in the pork packing business in Spencer; the business failed, and Beem lost much of his money. In May, 1878, Beem formed the law firm of Beem and Hickham in Spencer, a partnership that lasted for 15 years. After its termination, he divided his time between banking and law practice.

Beem never held public office, but was active in the Republican party. He served as Chairman of the Owen County Republican Central Committee for three campaigns, and in 1880 was a delegate from the Fifth Congressional District to the Republican National Convention in Chicago. He also served on the Board of Trustees of Purdue University for 18 years.

Beem married Mahala ("Hala") Joslin on April 10, 1862. They had one daughter and two sons: Minnie M. Zaring, David Joslin Beem, and Levi Amasa Beem. Beem was a member of the Owen County Bar for more than 63 years, a Mason, and a member of the Methodist-Episcopal Church. He died after a long illness in Spencer on October 23, 1923.

Sources: Materials in collection.

Beem, David E. and Willis Hickam. Obituary of David E. Beem, Spencer, Indiana paper, Wednesday, October [?], 1923.

Beem, Levi Amasa. *My Indiana Heritage* (1962)

*History of Owen County*. Tales of the Pioneers Series, Vol. 1. Spencer, IN: Spencer Chamber of Commerce, 1962.

---

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers are composed of 192 letters from Beem to his fiancée/wife and other family and friends while he served in the Union Army in Virginia; Civil War documents relating to his service and the 14th Indiana Regiment; his essays and speeches, including those written at Indiana University (1855-1860) and an incomplete history of the 14th Indiana Regiment; and family letters, court records, deeds, receipts and other legal documents relating to Owen County (1821-1912). The collection includes letters of David Wallace and Elijah H. C. Cavins.

Box 1, Folders 1-11 contain Beem's Civil War letters, 1861-1864, addressed to his fiancée and later wife, Mahala ("Hala") Joslin Beem; four letters from Hala to Beem, two from Beem to his Father, one to his sister Belle, and one from a cousin, S. Jennette Cowen, to Beem. The letters give good descriptions of camp life, various battles and skirmishes, war incidents, and news about family and friends in the war. Beem also writes of his upcoming marriage and love for his fiancée/wife. Most of the letters were sent from various locations in Virginia: Cheat Mountain, Falmouth, Stevensburgh, Harper's Ferry, Huttonville, Fortress Monroe, Harrison's Landing, etc. Other letters were sent from Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania (Gettysburg), Maryland (New Cumberland, Annapolis), New York, and Indiana (Camp Vigo, Terre Haute).

Box 1, Folders 12-15 and Box 2, Folders 1-4 contain Beem's Civil War documents and military correspondence. The Civil War documents date from 1861-1864; almost all come from Company H of the 14th Indiana Regiment where Beem served as Captain. Included are muster rolls, returns (monthly company reports), lists and receipts of ordnance, clothing and equipment, reports of lost equipment and ordnance, medical and payroll orders, and inventories of personal effects. Also included are Beem's commissions, medical orders, and discharge papers. In Folder 15 there is a copy of the *Marsonian Literary Casket* of the 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 2nd Army Corp, Volume 1 #1, March 1864. The correspondence includes letters by Beem to Mrs. Emaline Lundy on the death of her husband, 1st Lt. Porter Lundy, September 1862; to T. C. Bailey concerning limited fuel supplies (1863) and letters from Jesse. S. Harrold (2nd Lt.) and F. T. Brown (1862), T. C. Bailey (1863) and Elijah H. C. Cavins (1864). There is also a letter to Governor O. P. Morton from Major William Houghton (Houghton's papers are in collection M 0147), Lt. Col. E. H. C. Cavins (Cavins papers are in collection M 0042) and Col. John Coons commending David Beem. Folder 4 includes materials relating to Beem's activities commemorating Indiana's participation in the Civil War; a copy of the *Roster of the Fourteenth Indiana Volunteers 25th Annual Reunion, 1909, Bloomfield, Indiana*; and a black and white photograph of Helen Hepburn, grand-daughter of David Beem, standing in front of the memorial statue to the 14th Indiana Volunteers in Gettysburg in 1954.

Box 2, Folders 5-9 contain three histories written by Beem. The *History - 14th Ind. Vol. Infantry* (Folder 5) is the history of the H company in particular, and the 14th Regiment in general. The work is incomplete due to a stroke suffered by Beem, and ends with the Battle of Gettysburg, July, 1863. *Gettysburg* (Folder 6) is a history of the battle, again centering on the involvement of the 14th Regiment. The *History of Owen County* (Folders 7-9) is also incomplete. It traces the county history from its beginning in 1809 to Beem's lifetime, and includes information on early families, land claims, townships, county organization, businesses, pioneer life, schools, libraries, and churches, with particular attention to the county courts and lawyers.

Box 2, Folders 10-18, (1855-1911, n.d.) holds Beem's writings and speeches, most written while a student at Indiana University. Topics include slavery, duelling, patriotism, morality, friendship, politics, the Civil War, Washington's Birthday, a eulogy for McKinley (Folder 15), and Sunday schools. A set of short essays entitled "Effusions" is included, along with the debate paper given at the contest between the Philomathean and Anthenian Societies at Indiana University.

Documents relating to Beem's his position on the Board of Trustees at Purdue University, and his delegateship to the Electoral College are in Folder 19 (1888-1903). In Folder 20 there is an undated engraving of David E. Beem. Folders 21- 27 contain various papers related to the family, 1821-1912, including indentures, accounts and receipts, promissory notes, Daniel Beem estate papers, division of the Levi Beem estate, land documents and appraisals, military appointments (for Levi Beem, 49th Regiment, Militia, 1835), tax bills, a partition fence agreement, warranty deeds, and a Chattel mortgage from C. M. Klaiber to the Beem Woodstock Company, 1912 and a poll book for Owen County, Washington Township from the election of April 2, 1849. Correspondence in these files includes three from family members, D. Beem, Sarah Beem, Mary E. Thrasher and Adaline Craig in Illinois to their uncle Levi Beem (1849-1851) and three from David Wallace to Levi Beem,(1849-1851).

---

## **BOX AND FOLDER LIST**

### **Box 1: Correspondence, 1861-1864; Military Documents, 1861-1864**

#### **Folders Contents**

- 1 Correspondence: July 1861
- 2 August - December 1861
- 3 January - February 1862
- 4 March - June 1862
- 5 July - September 1862
- 6 October - December 1862
- 7 January - March 1863
- 8 April - June 1863
- 9 July - September 1863
- 10 October - December 1863
- 11 1864
- 12 14th Indiana Volunteers Documents: 1861-1862 (see also OMB 0060, folder 1)
- 13 January - June 1863 (see also OMB 0060, folder 2)
- 14 July - December 1863 (see also OMB 0060, folder 3)
- 15 1864 (see also OMB 0060, folder 4)

### **Box 2: Military Documents, 1861-1864; Essays 1917, n.d.; Writings and Speeches, 1855-1911, n.d.; Certificates, 1888-1903; Visual Images; Family Documents, 1821-1912**

#### **Folders Contents**

- 1 (OMB) 14th Indiana Volunteers Documents: Muster Rolls, 1861-1864 (OMB 0060, folder 5 - see Flat File: FF 11-a)
- 2 14th Indiana Volunteers Documents: n.d. (see also OMB 0060, folder 6)

3	Blank Forms, n.d.
4	14th Indiana Volunteers, Gettysburg, and David E. Beem, 1885-1954 (see also OMB 0060, folder 7 and VC storage -- M 0015)
5	Essays: <i>History 14th Ind. Vol. Infantry</i> by David E. Beem, n.d.
6	<i>Gettysburg</i> by David E. Beem, n.d.
7-9	<i>History of Owen County</i> , by David E. Beem, 1917
10	Writings and Speeches: 1855-1856
11	1857
12	1858
13	1859
14	1860
15	1884, 1901, 1902, 1911
16-18	n.d.
19 (OMB)	Certificates, 1888, 1891, 1897, 1903 (OMB 0060, folder 8)
20 (VC)	David E. Beem, Visual Image, n.d. (graphic storage)
21	Family Documents: 1821-1825 (see also OMB 0060, folder 9)
22	1830-1839 (see also OMB 0060, folder 10)
23	1840-1849 (see also OMB 0060, folder 11)
24	1850-1858
25	1863-1869
26	1883-1889
27	Beem Woodstock Company, 1912

---

## 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.

END